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Salem English Lutheran Church

January-Early February 2020



## The Glow of the Manger and a New Year to Share

Merry Christmas! As the season winds down for the world, but has just begun for the church, I pray you are able to find a quiet space to worship the Christ Child. Salem had a wonderful start to the Christmas season as we gathered for Christmas Eve worship. The tree was aglow, the candles were lit, and the poinsettias were plenty (bringing close many loved ones who were with us in Spirit). I wish I had a picture of how beautiful our sanctuary looked, but we were so busy

pulling chairs in from classrooms to make sure everyone had a place to sit, that I forgot to take one. We all kept saying it was a great problem to have as we just kept making room so everyone had a place. Thank you to all who made Christmas Eve so special! It was a wonderful worship to begin this holiest of seasons.

And now, well, as we continue to celebrate Christmas, we will also turn our eyes toward the New Year. It's that time when we look back and review the year behind us and look forward to year ahead. Everywhere you look you can find a list..."Top Ten Movies", "Top News Stories", "Worst Dressed/Best Dressed"...you name it and people have put it in a list to review the year.

What the lists that review really do for us is prepare us for the year that is ahead. As we bid adieu to what has been, we inevitably must turn to what is to come. And that is when it starts...the tradition of new year's resolutions.

I will admit, I am not big on new year's resolutions. While 60% of us make them, only about 8% of us keep them. Those are not good odds. In fact, it seems more like we are setting ourselves up for failure than anything else. They are hard to keep because we usually set the bar too high or we lack clarity on what it really is we are resolving to do and how to measure it. But it also is difficult because the language of "resolution" is harsh and demanding. It often psychologically implies an all or nothing "must" mentality that just doesn't work over time.

Instead, I like the idea of joining Melinda Gates and many others who practice a far more effective, gentle method of creating positive change. **Identify a word of the year.** Yes, a single word that reminds you how you can fully support yourself in creating

a positive life change and achieving goals.

This year I have chosen the word **SHARE**. There are a myriad of reasons I am going with SHARE for my word in my personal life. The most important is that I want to make sure to **share** time with my boys before they get too old.

I also am choosing the word **SHARE** for Salem.

This coming year I want us to work toward living the word **SHARE**. I want



us to find ways to **share** why we love this church with those who don't know us yet. I want us to **share** the gospel in places we maybe haven't been before. I want us to **share** in ministry with other congregations in our synod. I want to **share** leadership in new ways. I want to **share** more of worship planning and worship leading (we have a great start with our "communion helper" and "reader" cards!). I want to **share** the pulpit, to bring in different voices. I want us to **share** ideas and I want us to **share** prayers.

The bottom line is that in 2020 I want Salem to **SHARE** all of the amazing things we are with each other and with the community that surrounds us. I want us to **SHARE** God, and the work God does with everyone we can reach.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Here is to the end of a great year of walking together in faith and to the year that is about to begin. May God continue to bless us in wonderful and surprising ways and may we **SHARE** our blessings with the world!

Blessings!

Pastor Rhonda

### Important Dates for your Calendar!

- ♦ Sunday January 12: Worship Planning Meeting at 11:45 am
- ♦ Saturday January 18: Chili Cook-Off at 4 pm
- ♦ Sunday January 26: Joint SpringHouse Worship at 10:30 am  
Joint SpringHouse Annual Meeting at 11:30 am  
Annual Meeting Potluck at 12 pm  
Salem Annual Meeting at 12:30 pm



# Salem News

## EcoFaith Network Power-Up: Determining our Collective Path Forward

We are looking for several people to join Pastor Rhonda as we join the EcoFaith Network for this first-time event that invites members of congregations across the Minneapolis Area Synod to engage in conversation around creation care, identify common environmental issues to galvanize around, and move forward with collective, concrete action.

The featured speaker will be **Ruth Ivory Moore**, the ELCA's director of environment and corporate social responsibility.

Saturday February 8, 10 am-2 pm

St. Luke's Lutheran Church-Bloomington

If you are interested in being part of this first of its kind event in our synod, contact pastor Rhonda or Laurie Z in the office and be part of the action. For more information check out the Minneapolis Synod EcoFaith Network Facebook Page.



## Worship Planning Meeting

If you have a heart for worship and are willing to help plan, please join us on **Sunday January 12 at 11:45 am** for our quarterly worship planning meeting. (If you cannot stay for the late morning meeting, Pastor Rhonda will host some informal conversation before first service at 8 am that will help inform our later meeting.) We will be looking at the upcoming season of Lent which begins the second week of March. We need people with ideas about music, sanctuary decorations, themes, prayer, children, traditions, and all things worship. We will work together to shape our Lenten worship experience – and we would love to have YOU be part of the process!



## Thank You from the Buzzells!

Rae, Frank and Bettie Buzzell would like to thank the Salem family for their generous donations to the Ethiopian youth soccer teams. They are thinking of Salem as they travel in Ethiopia and deliver a huge bag of equipment to deserving kids. We can't wait to hear about their trip when they return!



## Annual Meeting Day Lunch

On Sunday January 26, Annual Meeting Day, we'll share a noon potluck lunch. A main dish will be provided, please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Volunteers are needed to set up at 9:15 on Sunday, and to clean up afterward. All help is greatly appreciated!



## Save the Date

Join us for our Third Annual **FAT Tuesday (Mardi Gras) Celebration**. We will gather on Tuesday February 25, 2020 to eat, drink, and join in fellowship. Following the tradition of purging all the things that are rich, excessive, or decadent before the season of Lent begins, we will be making waffles! Watch for more information to come in the weeks ahead. For now, just know we will gather on February 25 at 6 pm and **EVERYONE** is welcome!



## More News

### Third Annual Chili Cook-Off

It's time! Mark your calendars and get out those crockpots. Find your recipes...start testing your ingredients and thinking of ways to make YOUR chili the BEST! We will have prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place!



For those of you who specialize in eating chili—and not necessarily making chili—YOU are invited to mark your calendars too! We will need lots of taste buds to test and judge!



Saturday, January 18

4 pm

This will be a fun fellowship event for everyone! (Invite your friends—all are welcome!)

There is no charge for the cook-off, but for those who would like an opportunity to give, we will collect a free-will offering that will benefit the Simpson Shelter and their ministry with the hungry.

If you will be crafting a chili for us to taste—let us know by signing up in the sanctuary or emailing the office at [office@discoversalem.org](mailto:office@discoversalem.org).

Here are last years winners: Emma, Rae, and Regina. Who is willing to challenge their Chili crowns?



### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meetings for Salem Lutheran and SpringHouse Ministry Center will be held on Sunday, January 26 after the 10:30 worship service. A mailing and much more information will come soon, but please plan to be around that day for a combined SpringHouse worship service, a meal together, and the annual meetings.



If you have questions, speak with congregational President Barbara Livdahl .or Vice President Paul Wharton.

### Not Just an Annual Meeting!

As you may know, Salem annual meetings are not just boring old meetings. We do have some business to attend to, but we also take seriously this time to be in community with each other, to see how Salem is using its many and various gifts in the community and the world.

We also like to have some fun! Yes,

fun at our annual meeting. This year, come ready to do the business of the church and to play in our second annual—Annual



Meeting Bingo game! (There will be prizes!)

Mark your calendars to be here for this very important congregational day.

- ◆ Joint Worship at 10:30 am (NO 8:30 am worship this day)
- ◆ Brief SpringHouse Annual Meeting immediately following worship
- ◆ Lunch – which will transition into...
- ◆ Salem Annual Meeting in the Garden Sanctuary.

**Childcare will be provided for all of the above**

Can't wait to see you all there!



## SpringHouse News



### Adult Faith Formation

Join us as we launch into a new year of adult faith formation on Sunday, January 5. Come, grab some coffee and treats and sit down with Pastor Dan and Pastor Rhonda to talk about what topics we want to cover in the months ahead.



We would love to hear your ideas for Bible studies, topical studies, theological series, and any other ideas you may have for the time we have together during adult faith formation. Come be part of the conversation!

Then watch for details about our new series that will begin in January based on our conversations on January 5!

### From the Building Coordinator

Did you know that the SpringHouse calendar is online? This is a great communication tool, and an excellent way to quickly check if there is space in the building for your meeting or event. Find it at this link: <https://calendar.churchart.com/calendar/73956030>

However, rentals that are still pending will not show up in the calendar, so if you need to reserve a room, please contact Deb Murphy in advance (at least 24 hours, preferably more) at [SHcoordinator@fccmpls.org](mailto:SHcoordinator@fccmpls.org). We can all help our building run smoothly by planning ahead!



## SpringHouse Ministry Center

### Seeking Artists

Are you an artist? Would you like to show your work to your SpringHouse community? Do you know an artist looking for an opportunity to hang their art? We are seeking artists interested in hanging a show in the SpringHouse office. Please contact Karn at Lyndale UCC ([admin@lyndaleucc.org](mailto:admin@lyndaleucc.org) or 612-825-3019) for more information.



### Another way to Support Families in Sanctuary!

Our decision to become a Sanctuary-Supporting/ Immigrant Welcoming Church has led us to network with other faith communities in South Minneapolis who are providing sanctuary at this time..One need is to help with the cost of food.. Specifically, we can support families living in sanctuary by donating \$50.00 gift cards for Cub Foods and Aldi.. SO - YOU - MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR THREE SPRINGHOUSE CHURCHES - ARE INVITED TO BUY gift cards and place them in the offering plates on Sunday.. The gift cards will be delivered to South Minneapolis Sanctuary Coalition by Pastor Rebecca Voelkel of Lyndale UCC. Thanks for considering this request..



# Reaching Out ...

## Grief Groups Meeting at SpringHouse

From January through April 2020, First Christian will be hosting the Downtown Coalition for Grief Support at SpringHouse on Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 am. All are welcome to attend.



When we lose a loved one, grief can turn our daily routine inside out. While everyone responds to death in different ways, one thing remains constant: the ongoing support of family, friends and those who understand loss helps us heal. Founded in 1997, the Downtown Coalition for Grief Support is a non-profit group that offers support for metro adults who are dealing with the death of a family member, friend, or partner. The group is managed entirely by volunteers and trained facilitators from nine sponsoring Minneapolis congregations. The weekly meetings are free and open to the public, regardless of religious affiliation.

### Session schedule

9:30-10:30 Refreshments and check-in

10-10:30 Educational presentation

10:30-11:30 Discussion groups

The speakers educate on grief and healing, offer suggestions for coping, and share first-hand experiences in dealing with loss. The small group discussions give everyone a chance to express their feelings, remember loved ones, and talk about their journey.

### Speakers for January and February:

January 4 Beryl Schewe  
 January 11 Renee Garpestad  
 January 18 Dawn Miller  
 January 25 Ted Bowman  
 February 1 Brenda Demotte  
 February 8 Jean Fagerstrom  
 February 15 Beryl Schewe  
 February 22 Rox Sadovsky  
 February 29 Brenda Demotte

More information at: <http://www.mplsgriefsupport.com/>

## Seasons of Giving

For the months of January and February we will be partnering with LSS. We hope to welcome someone



**Lutheran  
Social Service**  
of Minnesota

from LSS for worship on one of our Sundays and we will explore the many great things this fantastic organization is doing.

One of the projects we will participate in is LifeHaven Welcome Baskets. LifeHaven, located in St. Paul, provides housing and support to 16- and 17-year-old mothers and expecting mothers and their children experiencing homelessness. Mothers and children often arrive at LifeHaven with few or no belongings. Welcome Baskets are an important way of helping them feel comfortable in their new home while providing essential supplies they will need as they transition out of survival mode and into stability.

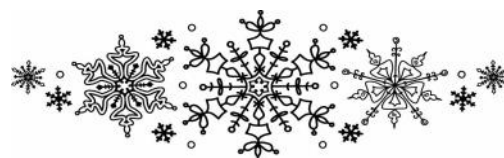
Each basket contains 25-30 items. Stop in the sanctuary and pick up the items you would like purchase and bring them back to fill the basket. Let's see how many baskets we can make!

For more details about LifeHaven and the welcome baskets go to: [www.lssmn.org/get-involved/donate/wish-lists/lifehaven](http://www.lssmn.org/get-involved/donate/wish-lists/lifehaven)



## Simpson Shelter Meal

Our next opportunity to serve the evening meal at Simpson Shelter will be Tuesday, January 7. We gather at Simpson United Methodist Church, 28th St. and First Ave., to prepare and serve the meal at 7 pm. Please sign up on the info table or with Mary ([mandmvanderford@gmail.com](mailto:mandmvanderford@gmail.com))





# Sunday School and Children's Ministry

## Godly Play Sunday School

Throughout the fall, Sunday School spent time learning all about prophets. We heard stories about Jonah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel. Prophets are people who receive messages from God and bring them to the people. We talked about ways we can talk to God, and our September Intergenerational Sunday was all about prayer. We moved on to learning about Advent. Each week we have learned about a different group's journey before the birth of Baby Jesus, including Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds, and the Magi. We also made our very own Advent candles each week!



## Christmas Pageant

Thank you to everyone who joined our joint worship service to watch our Christmas pageant. The kids and youth (and adults, of course) worked very hard to make it a success.



## Youth News

### Sunday Morning Youth Group

Youth group continues to meet every Sunday 9:15-10:20 am in the Micah room. All high school and middle school youth welcome! Don't miss this great opportunity for fun, friends, and faith!



# Calendar

## Week of December 29

Sun	12/29	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	12/29	9:15 am	Informal Sunday School and Youth
	12/29	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	12/29	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
Tue	12/31	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at SpringHouse

## Week of January 5

Sun	1/5	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	1/5	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	1/5	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	1/5	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
Tue	1/7	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at SpringHouse

## Week of January 12

Sun	1/12	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	1/12	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	1/12	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	1/12	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
	1/12	11:45 am	Worship Planning Meeting
Tue	1/14	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at SpringHouse
Wed	1/16	6:30 pm	Salem Council
Sat	1/18	4:00 pm	3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off

## Week of January 19

Sun	1/19	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	1/19	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	1/19	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	1/19	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
Mon	1/20	6:45 pm	Building & Grounds
Tue	1/22	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at SpringHouse

## January/February Birthdays

Wish these Salem members and friends a happy birthday! If you're new to Salem and would like your birthday listed, please contact Laurie in the office.

Karen Pieper – 1/5

Ian Evans – 1/11

Mary Johnson – 1/28

Paul West – 1/31

Chris Wick – 2/6

Axel Jorstad – 2/8

Frank Marynak – 2/15

Ingrid Jorstad – 2/17

LaVonne Sjogren – 2/17

Austin Tollerson – 2/18

Solveig Tollerson – 2/22

Mary Patterson – 2/28



## Week of January 26

Sun	No Traditional Worship		
	1/26	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	1/26	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	1/26	10:30 am	Combined SpringHouse Worship
	1/26	11:30 am	SpringHouse Annual Meeting
	1/26	12:00 pm	SpringHouse Lunch
	1/26	12:30 pm	Salem Annual Meeting
Tue	1/28	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at SpringHouse

## Week of February 2

Sun	2/2	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	2/2	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	2/2	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	2/2	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
Tue	2/4	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at SpringHouse

## Week of February 9

Sun	2/9	8:30 am	Traditional Worship
	2/9	9:15 am	Sunday School and Youth
	2/9	9:30 am	Adult Ed
	2/9	10:30 am	Jazz Worship
Tue	2/11	8:15 am	Lectionary Bible Study at SpringHouse

**Spirit-led.  
Welcoming.  
Bold. Rooted.**

## Altar Flowers

Salem offers the opportunity to provide occasional floral arrangements for worship, created by member Myra Urness Rusten. If you would like to honor a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion with an arrangement to beautify worship, and then take home to enjoy, you can sign up at church or contact the office (612-872-4650 or [office@discoversalem.org](mailto:office@discoversalem.org)). Arrangements are \$40 each. Checks may be written to Salem.





Salem English  
Lutheran Church

610 West 28th Street

Minneapolis, MN 55408

**Salem English Lutheran Church**

*is a Reconciling in Christ*

*(R.L.C.) Congregation*

**We are a Spirit-led, welcoming, and bold**

**Christian community rooted in the neighborhood,  
striving to live faithfully in God's world.**

**612-872-4650**

**Christ tended to attract**

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**an assorted crowd**

Pastor: Rhonda Hlavinka  
Youth Minister: Lara Moll  
Office: Laurie Zaepfel  
Jazz Music: Tom Pieper  
Traditional Music: Kent Goodroad  
Building Coordinator: Deb Murphy  
Building Manager: Rick Bowman  
revrhonda@discoversalem.org  
springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org  
office@discoversalem.org  
spiritj@msn.com  
kgoodroad@gmail.com  
deb.murphy@fccmpls.org  
rjamesb49@gmail.com