

Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced sm
tattooed plain rich poor short tall average fat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender slow quick employed freelance not working
retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter homeless ambitious content devout seeking
old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog innocent guilty aggressive passive no
confrontational peacemaker challenger explorer Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid pa
grandparent nice cranky queer pierced virgin tattooed plain rich poor short tall average fat thin heterosexual bisexual transgende
quick employed freelance not working retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter ha
ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog in

Salem English Lutheran Church

Late Spring-Early Summer 2020



Things I've Learned from a Global Pandemic

I will tell you up front, this Scene has been a hard one to put together because there is just so much we don't know...about a virus in our midst, about where we can and will be able to go or gather, about what the future holds in general, and about how we as a community will look tomorrow, next week, next month, and even next year. There is so much we don't know. That is the **first** thing I have learned from a global pandemic...there is just so much we don't know.

The **second** thing I have learned is that when a crisis hits we are very good at counting our blessings and have a harder time talking about the things we grieve and are angry about. Which, I admit, in general is great! I do want us to be cautious about not giving our laments a space to breathe. Both are necessary, Biblical, and part of who we are as Christians and as humans.

Third on my list, but probably the first thing I actually learned, is that I am not as tech savvy as I might have liked to think I was. The good news is that the **fourth** thing on my list is that this dog can be taught new tricks! Yay!

Fifth, I have learned...again...that my congregation is very patient, understanding, and kind. I have been afforded grace upon grace in the process of learning new tricks and leading from a completely new place.

I have learned that I touch my face way more than I should! (That's number **six**.) Lucky for me a mask helps me do it less...and that's number **seven**.

Eight? We don't know how busy we are and how much we don't see our families until we are with them all the time. I have had moments with the 12 and 15 year old boys that call me mom, that would never have happened without a "stay at home" order.

I also did not realize how much I would miss seeing each of you on a weekly basis...until I couldn't see each of you on a weekly basis. I miss you—that's number **nine**.

I am struck by the universality of this experience. (That's number **ten**.) I am not alone...none of us are alone. We are all punting because none of us know what we are doing. We are all tired, grieving, angry, hyper-aware, sad, flustered...but most of all we are all...each and every one of us...just scared. That's number **eleven**—fear is powerful and exhausting and makes everything hard. But I go back to number 10 to find solace in the fact that I may be scared—but I am not alone.

Which is what brings me to number **twelve**. While I know that I am not alone and while I find comfort in the fact that the whole globe is going through this, it is a much greater accompaniment that truly gives me hope. You see, in the midst of this whole

thing, even when we aren't looking because we are too scared to open our eyes...**right smack dab in the middle of all of it...is the Holy Spirit sent to accompany us.** In the good times, in the bad times, and even the seemingly impossible times, the Holy Spirit is alive and well and living in and around and through each and every one of us.

This is the promise we are given as the body of Christ. This is the promise we cling to as beloved of God. This is OUR promise...and I have never known a time in my own life and in the lives of those I love that we have needed it more. And as I slowly open my eyes, I am touched by the wings of the Holy Spirit in the faces I see in a Zoom worship room, in the smile from a stranger behind a mask, in the voice of someone on the phone, in my children's trusting eyes and strong hugs, in the work my husband does to make a lost child feel included, in the love of my dogs who sit at my feet, in the sound of youth group on ZOOM, in the faces of Ingrid, Axel, Xavier, or Solveig, in kids' Zoom, in colleagues as we work together to do new and creative things, in music our musicians so beautifully offer up, in people going out of the way to love their neighbors all over the world, artists (for me, especially the Indigo Girls) sharing their gifts freely online just to make people "feel better", in healthcare workers on the front lines, in scientists working so very hard, in leaders who have an impossible job and yet continue to lead, in patients who recover and walk out of hospitals, in new babies being born and in not so new babies graduating...and in a myriad of other big and little things that seem to shine into my days in mysterious and random ways as if the Holy Spirit is saying..."Hey Rhonda, look at me! I'm here—you are not alone! Trust, hope, believe, and most importantly...remember to breathe and to love...for I am with you."

Yes, there are lots of things we have learned in a global pandemic, but I believe the greatest of these is maybe less learning and more just a reminder—that we are not alone, that God is with us and in that presence, no matter the situation, there is hope. Wash Your Hands and Be Well!

Pastor Rhonda

Salem News

Resurrection Fund Grant from the Synod.



We are pleased to announce that Salem has received a \$2000 technology grant from the Minneapolis Synod's Resurrection Fund!

The Resurrection Fund provides Ministry Imagination Grants to

congregations and individuals for help with "new, enhanced or expanded ministry initiatives". In light of the pandemic, the synod decided to make special COVID-19 related grants available to congregations.

Salem put together a grant proposal that would give us the technology we need to make our online worship opportunities much easier for most people to access. We are so grateful to the Resurrection Fund and the Minneapolis synod for giving us this chance to up our online game and be more accessible to our members and our neighbors. We are excited to get some new things up and running...so keep your eyes and ears open for more ways to access and participate in worship soon!

Calling All Readers!

We had finally figured out a great way to get volunteers to serve in worship using orange cards which were available at the entrance of the sanctuary. Unfortunately, worshipping online doesn't allow you to pick up the reading at the door. So – we are going to try something different. Using the "Sign-Up Genius" website, you can now sign up to read on Sunday mornings. Simply follow the link found in the e-blast to grab a Sunday. *If you do not get the e-blast and want to read, simply call the office or pastor Rhonda and leave a message and they will get back to you to get you signed up!



Please keep the following people in your prayers...

- ♦ Those in need of healing, especially Reva Swanson, Paul and Dona Varns, Mary Patterson and her brother Charles, Bob Shorten and his son Rick, Paul Wharton's dad Charles and his wife Opal, Kent Goodroad's father-in-law Peter.

Summer Worship Series #1: O.T. Wisdom and Poetry – Living the Good Life



Join us for a 4-week summer sermon series that highlights three Biblical books -- Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon...books that are given little attention in the lectionaries.

Proverbs may not appear scintillating reading to some. Ecclesiastes might seem like a bit of a "downer". And Song of Solomon can seem, at first, erotic poetry that might be more suited to a steamy novel. Nevertheless, these three books are part of Scripture, and they all provide the careful reader "training in the daily life of faith and evocative images to stir the human heart to devotion".

So, join us starting in June for this great 4-week summer preaching series!

Summer Worship Series #2: Potluck Preaching – A Story to Tell

Here is your chance to hear the sermon you always wanted to hear! Someone once said, "If it's in the Bible, it'll preach". Pastor Rhonda thinks she is up for the challenge, but needs you to participate to make it happen! Potluck preaching is



when YOU, the congregation, gets to submit texts "you've always wanted to hear but haven't" or just texts you think will "give the preacher a challenge". Then, each week one of your suggestions will be drawn out of a hat and it will become the preaching text for the following week. To get your suggestions in the hat, follow the "Sign-Up Genius" link in the e-blast OR call the office or pastor Rhonda and leave a message. Ready? Go find those texts and submit them...this series will begin in July!

- ♦ All those who struggle with addiction and mental illness
- ♦ Our homebound members and friends.
- ♦ All those who grieve.
- ♦ Victims of terror and violence everywhere.
- ♦ Our country in a challenging time.

More News

Let's Fellowship—Join us for Game Night!

Grab your supper and join us for game night on ZOOM. School is out, summer has started, but gathering is still difficult. Let's get together, share a meal, catch up, and play some games. Kahoot, Trivia, Pictionary, maybe even some Bingo...you will have to join us to find out all the fun we have planned!



Thursday, June 18 at 7 pm

Watch the eblast for a Zoom link closer to Game Night so you are sure to join us! If you are unable to connect via ZOOM, contact Pastor Rhonda and we will try to get you connected.

Stewardship Stuff

Again we need to start by saying how grateful we are that Salem has such generous and consistent givers! In the midst of a global crisis, we are still responding in faith each and every week. In fact, just when we thought giving might be down, your special giving for Easter started showing up in the mail. Thank you for your faithfulness!



Council Treasurer's Report from May 13, 2020 (for full minutes/financials, see the e-blast or contact the office)

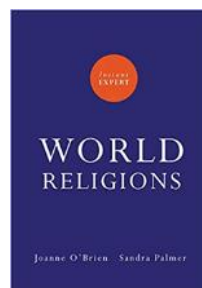
Both income and expenses have been somewhat lower than budget and, overall, year-to-date net income is on track with budget. The endowment fund is down about \$2000 from the beginning of 2019 as a result of the downturn in the stock market. SpringHouse is experiencing a substantial decrease in rental income. Funds from prior year surpluses will likely be used to cover the expected shortfall.



Sunday Afternoon Book Studies!

Join us for virtual book studies Sunday afternoons! This summer, we want to make sure to keep connected and growing in faith. We hope to fill this time with conversations, questions and fellowship. *As our "safer at home" situation evolves, we will look to change with it, but to begin, we will meet via ZOOM.*

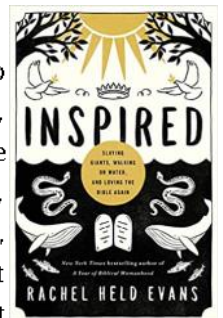
"Instant Expert: World Religions" - 4 Sundays at 4 pm beginning on Sunday June 14



"Instant Expert: World Religions" offers a simple and inviting introduction to the histories, stories, beliefs, rituals, literature, festivals, people and places of eleven significant and influential faiths. Readers will gain greater understanding of the major practices and features of each religion, building an important awareness of varying belief systems around the world."

"Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans— Beginning Sunday afternoons July 12 at 4 pm

"Drawing on the best in recent scholarship and using her well honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and even a short screenplay. Undaunted by the Bible's most difficult passages, Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries."



How do YOU get signed up to be part of these amazing group conversations? For those who are receiving this via email, **the eblast will have an electronic sign-up.** For those who do not have email, **simply call the office**

or Pastor Rhonda and leave a message and we will get back to you. Details about how to get your copy of either or both books will be available when you sign up.

Reaching Out to Each Other and Beyond...

One Great Community of Christ

by Emma Schmidtke

I find it ironic that, during these times when we are physically distant from each other, we depend upon our communities more than ever. While we like to believe in the ultimate power of our individual actions, much of what we’ve heard in the past few months has shown us that the spread of COVID-19 can only be slowed by working together. Those of us who can stay home choose to, in order to protect the essential workers who must go out. In grocery stores and pharmacies, we wear face masks and stand six feet apart, in order to reduce our chances of infecting someone else. If a community is a group of people collectively acting for the common good, then this pandemic has entered us into a community with our entire state, country, and world.

But living in a community can be challenging, especially in times of crisis. We become frustrated with the other customers while we’re in crowded grocery store, with our loud neighbors while we try to work from home, with our own family members while we’re cooped up together day in and day out. In this way, the Narrative Lectionary’s selections from 1 Corinthians for the month of May have uncanny relevance for our lives today. In his letter, Paul speaks to a community in crisis, facing persecution from outside forces while also experiencing internal division due to different loyalties and backgrounds. He provides them with a framework on how to hold together in times of struggle and how to uplift each other up in their shared love for Christ.

As we continue on through 1 Corinthians, ask yourself how Paul’s writings about community apply to your own life in the time of COVID-19. Personally, I’m struck by his instruction that whatever we do, we must do with love (1 Corinthians 13). I think about how wearing a face mask and staying home can be an act of love for the most vulnerable of our community. I think about how the verses “love is patient...it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” encourages us to practice grace for our family members, friends, and neighbors, especially when we may differ or disagree (1 Corinthians 13: 4, 7). Paul’s words remind us that God’s gift of love unites us with all of humanity, and we are called to care for each other as one great community in Christ.

SpringHouse News

From the Building Coordinator

Did you know that the SpringHouse calendar is online? This is a great communication tool even when we are not gathering at the building. Meetings held electronically via Zoom or other methods will be listed on the SpringHouse calendar so you can find opportunities to stay in touch with our community.

Find it at this link:

<https://calendar.churchchart.com/calendar/73956030>

If you have questions or would like an event listed, please contact Deb Murphy at SHcoordinator@fccmpls.org.

SpringHouse
 Ministry Center

Tired of Cooking?


Consider ordering a meal and helping out Brooke Faudree of Quince Catering, the small business that operates out of the SpringHouse commercial kitchen. They have been doing orders of various sizes through Instagram (@quince_mn) and with their email subscribers. If you are interested in joining Quince’s email list, contact Brooke at info@quincemn.com or 612-709-3442. Brooke hopes to start doing orders through her website soon as well, at quincemn.com. She is very grateful that members of SpringHouse churches are interested in supporting her business!

Quince
 catering | events


Reaching Out to Each Other and Beyond...

ZOOM Update

Beginning May 30, ZOOM will be enabling GCM encryption across the entire ZOOM platform, providing increased protection for meetings. What does this mean for us? Please make sure if you are using ZOOM via computer, tablet, or smartphone, that you update to the newest version of Zoom (5.0). If you do not do it by May 30, it will do a forced update the next time you try to log in and you may have problems joining the meeting you are trying to attend. If you need help to do this, please contact the office and we will try to get someone to walk you through the process.



Simpson Shelter



Simpson Shelter is temporarily suspending work by volunteers for meals and in the shelter, but their needs continue! For more information about how you can help with donations of goods or money, please visit <https://www.simpsonhousing.org/ways-to-help/give-supplies/> or call 612-455-0849.



The Church is Not a Building


So, Pastor Rhonda, when will we re-open the church? To be honest, friends, not anytime soon. When SpringHouse decided to close the building, we did so to keep people safer than we would be if we stayed open. We hope, and know by the facts, that “Safer at Home” MN has saved lives. Our state leaders are doing a great job doing what needs to be done to keep as many people as safe as possible.

But as things start to open up around us, we are mindful that church gatherings will be one of the last things that are advised. This is because it has been proven that church gatherings are one of the easiest places to spread this virus.

We all have come to know that there will not be a day or time when we, all of a sudden, get the “all clear”. This global pandemic is a long-term situation that we are learning to live in.

I believe there will come a time this summer when we will gather outside at a park or in a backyard—probably in small groups—for something. Maybe it’s a meal or fellowship or a book study group. I believe this will happen. I am unsure though, when we will come together in person for worship.

Yes, the church has left the building. But we are still the church and we are still faithful people who know and share God’s love in all we do...even when it’s not in the building. Until we are able to gather together, please continue to connect virtually—and if you have not been able to connect virtually yet, let us help you do so. The church is not a building...we are the church and we are still doing the work of the gospel.



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

Sunday School and Children's Ministry



Kids' ZOOM Room

Pastor Rhonda is still logging on for Kid's ZOOM on Mondays and Thursdays. Make sure to join us via the link in the weekly eblast for this time together.

Peeps from Home!

Even a global pandemic couldn't stop the creativity of SpringHouse folks, who created dioramas of Peeps and other items for Palm Sunday. Here are a few highlights.



Parable of the Leaven



Adam and Eve

Youth News

Youth Sundays are Coming Up!

June 7: First Christian, June 14: Lyndale, June 21: Salem

Join us as the youth of SpringHouse help lead us in worship. They will be sharing their gifts through music, reflection, and prayer.

Youth Group

Youth are meeting at 5 pm on Wednesday evenings for games, check-in and other activities, and at 9 am on Sundays for a virtual version of regular Sunday activities in the youth ZOOM Room. For more information about joining meetings on Zoom, please contact Lara at 763-777-0194 (cell)

South Minneapolis Virtual Day Camp June 15-19

Here is what we are currently working on:

K-5th Grade

For our youngest day campers (K-5th grade), we are planning live ZOOM events each morning of



our day camp week that will include music, story-time, water stewardship moments, and even break out groups (hopefully facilitated by our high school youth). We will also offer crafts, games, and water stewardship activities for kids and families to do at home throughout the week. We hope this will be enriching and nurturing for your kids, and simple for parents.

Middle and High School Youth Mural-ing in Place

For our middle and school youth, we are working on live events at 1 pm each day that will include fellowship and a project that youth can work on at home during that gathering time. We hope also to have some high school youth facilitating our younger kids during morning ZOOM break out groups.

We are asking everyone to register by June 1 using our new South Minneapolis Day Camp website. (<https://sites.google.com/view/southminneapolisdaycamp2020/home>) We still need registrations for planning purposes. If you have not been a part of day camp before, this would be the perfect year to see what it is all about. There is no cost to this year's camp - but if you would like to make a donation to help us cover our costs, there is a link on the registration form that will allow you to make a donation.



Calendar

In this disrupted time, we're doing the calendar a little differently, highlighting events that take place weekly. Be sure to check the rest of the Scene for one-time events!

Sunday

9:00 am Youth Group via Zoom
 9:30 am Salem Worship via Zoom
 10:30 am Salem Fellowship via Zoom
 4:00 pm Book Study via Zoom (beginning June 14)

Monday

4:00 pm Kids' Zoom Room

Tuesday

8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday

12:00 pm Lunch with Pastor Rhonda on Zoom
 5:00 pm Youth Group via Zoom

Thursday

10:30 am Kids' Zoom Room



Remember Game Night on
 Wednesday, June 17



And Virtual Day Camp June 15-19!

Bibles for Our Young Members

When we baptize the children in our congregation, one of the promises parents and sponsors make is to place the scriptures in our children's hands. Salem will be keeping that promise for some of our young members on Pentecost, May 28.



Receiving the Spark Story Bible will be
Ingrid Jorstad

Receiving the NRSV Spark Bible will be

Axel Jorstad

Xavier Melton-Meaux

Alex Nordeen

Solveig Tollerson



Congratulations and blessings to our young people as they take another step in their faith!

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.

Melissa Anderson – 5/1

LaVina Giinther – 5/6

Emily Chesley – 5/12

Scott Rusten – 5/12

Frank Buzzell – 5/17

Chris Nordeen – 5/19

Ava Melton-Meaux – 5/20

Rae Buzzell – 5/23

Lily Hoskamer – 6/6

Charlie Pieper – 6/7

Kathy Sievwright – 6/7

Shannon Fast – 6/9

Roger Livdahl – 6/9

Kate Rime – 6/10

Michelle Ruppert – 6/13

Paul Wharton – 6/13

Reva Swanson – 6/18

Paul Livdahl – 6/19

Bob Shorten – 6/28

Dona Varns – 7/1

Johan Baumeister – 7/15

Holly Benson – 7/15

Jacentia Peña – 7/24

Alex Nordeen – 7/31





610 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Salem English Lutheran Church
is a Reconciling in Christ
(R.I.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

Pastor:	Rhonda Hlavinka	Building Manager:	Rick Bowman
Youth Minister:	Lara Moll	Building Coordinator:	Deb Murphy
Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	Traditional Music:	Kent Goodroad
Jazz Music:	Tom Pieper		

revrhonda@discoversalem.org
springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org
office@discoversalem.org
spiritj@msn.com
kgoodroad@gmail.com
deb.murphy@fccmpls.org
rjamesb49@gmail.com