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Salem English Lutheran Church

Late Summer/Early Fall 2020



Black Lives Matter, Wear a Mask, and Vote!

I have been trying to think of what to write for this front page. I want to write something inspirational that brings you hope and comfort in this, the sixth month, since we've seen each other in person. I want to...but things keep getting in my way, things like: · The murder of **George Floyd** and the shooting of **Jacob Blake**. · The **call for justice** in streets everywhere · The **violence in our city** in the wake of civil unrest. · **A virus** that still seems shifty and scary and **affecting**

more and more people, not fewer. An **economic downturn** and **unemployment** that is crushing. · **Technology** that nobody wanted to learn that a virus forced us to use. · Folks **protesting wearing a mask** because it "violates their civil liberties". · The **toxic nature of all things political** as we approach one of the **most important elections in our history**. · The NBA, WNBA, and MLB teams **choosing not to play their games and demanding justice** using their billion dollar platforms. · A little **book by Lenny Duncan called "Dear Church"** that several of us have been reading and discussing. · Still **not being able to see YOU**.

Because of all these things...I am not sure I have an inspirational and comforting newsletter article in me. What do I have then?

First, and unapologetically and without qualifiers, **Black Lives Matter**. One of the things that I have learned over the past several months is that I have used a lot of qualifiers when I have talked about Black Lives Matter...sometimes choosing not to use that phrase at all. But the church and its leaders are called to be more direct. The reality is that in our country black bodies are being shot, abused, exploited, and disenfranchised by white people (and even a virus) through our systems for law enforcement, education, banking, employment, healthcare, and even church.

Systemic racism is real and it is alive and well in our church just as it is in the world. The marginalization of black and brown and indigenous people has been exposed through COVID-19 and the murder of George Floyd in a way that has caused people who have never listened before to **see. What are we, the church, going to do with this moment?**

Oh, by the way we are still in the middle of a global pandemic. I remember standing with my colleagues in March saying..."Well, we need to plan to not be here a few weeks." Almost six months later we have just now formed a team to talk about what it will look like to reopen our building to worship when it is safe.

*Insert here my extreme **GRATITUDE** that you all, the people of Salem, have decided to trust our ELCA leaders, our governor, and science, and have not tried to push us to re-enter our

building before it is safe. I long to see you all face to face (if this were TV, this is where it would break to a commercial about our Outdoor Socially Distant Worship of Hope and Community) but I also long for you each to stay well.

Finally, and I'm sure you all hear me when I say this election year is proving to be exhausting. Just yesterday our country celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first votes cast by women. This joyous milestone finds itself in the midst of a political season that is proving to be even more toxic than most.

It's strange...I grew up being told by most that pastors couldn't be political. Only my uncle, my pastoral hero, ordained for over 50 years, told me differently. He said to me often, "If you haven't been arrested for Jesus, you're not doing it right." He always knew that the gospel, that Jesus, was political. It was everyone else that was trying to hide it. He always stood with the marginalized even when it came before the family and people he loved most. He knew...and he tried to tell me. But I'm not sure I truly understood it until more recently than I want to admit. He knew that Jesus would ALWAYS stand on the side of justice and with those who were on the outside. He could see Jesus kneeling with George Floyd and marching with those demanding justice. He could see Jesus overturning tables because a pipeline threatens creation and indigenous people's lives. He could see Jesus wearing a mask to protect his neighbors AND strangers. He saw it and we are called to see it too.

The God of the universe, who created you and knows you by name, whose only child was sent out of such great love for you to die so that you can know life...is calling you, is calling us, is calling the church to see and to act. How will the church live into this moment of history?

I don't have all the answers, I wish I did. I do know that right here and now there are 3 things all of us can do to be like Jesus.

1. Declare that Black Lives Matter
2. Wear a Mask!
3. Vote!

Be Well! Pastor Rhonda

Salem News

New Worship Format

Thanks to a wonderful grant from the synod, we have been able to update our technology so that we are now “live streaming” worship on Sundays and using ZOOM before and after for gathering prayers and then coffee hour.



The transition has not been without some bumps in the road, but we know that the worship sound is much better on YouTube and our amazing musicians can be better appreciated, so each week we are learning more and making adjustments to ensure that your worship experience is the best it can be.

Thank you for sticking with us and for your patience during this transition. Please continue to join us as we learn, evolve, and lead worship each and every week. Here’s how to join us:

- ◆ Go to the Salem YouTube Channel and then click on the live stream for the day. You can also watch past live streams on our channel. Search for Salem English Lutheran Church on YouTube.
- ◆ Watch the weekly e-blast for the link to the Salem YouTube page AND the Live Stream for the coming Sunday.
- ◆ Go to our Website and click the bright RED link on the home page. www.discoversalem.org
- ◆ Check out our Facebook page on Sunday morning for a post with the link. www.facebook.com/salem.mpls

ZOOM Coffee Hour

Don’t miss time with your fellow Salem friends when we gather on Sunday mornings after worship at 10:45 am for coffee hour. Bring your own cup of coffee and even some snacks and share what’s happening in your neck of the woods. Even if you are not able to join us for worship, but have a few moments to pop in for a chat, we would love to see you!



In-Person Socially Distant Worship of Hope

Mark your calendars!

September 20.–10:30 am

Minnehaha Wabun Pavilion Area.

We are going to worship together in-person (for those who can safely do so with the guidelines we will provide). This one-time outside worship will be an opportunity to see each other face to face (from a distance, of course) and to worship as a community in a way we have longed for.

Details are still being worked out and will be conveyed over the next several weeks through the e-blast and mail.

Some of the guidelines:

- ◆ Masks will be required
- ◆ Social distancing will be strictly adhered to (we will have hosts who will guide people to properly distanced areas)
- ◆ We are asking people to Bring Your Own Chairs. (we will have some chairs available for those who may not have them, but bringing your own provides safer seating)
- ◆ We will not have printed materials at the worship site. You will be able to choose to bring them printed from home or use your smart device to look at it during worship. (Those who don’t have access to email will receive it as they do each week in the mail.)

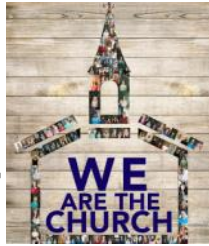
Watch for an official invitation with complete guidelines and instructions to come in the next couple of weeks before our outdoor worship. **Then pray for sunny weather** as we prepare for this one time socially distant worship of hope and community!

More News

Joint SpringHouse Live Stream Worship

Sunday September 13–10:30 am

Gathering Sunday will look different this year—but one thing will be the same—we will gather as SpringHouse in Joint Worship together. That's right, mark your calendars for Sunday September 13 when we will gather with our partner congregations for a Joint Live Stream Worship.



We will gather via live stream at 10:30 am (notice the change in our Salem worship time) to worship, hear how our individual congregations have been doing ministry during COVID time, and celebrate the ministry we share as SpringHouse.

Watch for details, including the link for that Sunday's worship, to come in the next couple of weeks via e-blast for some and mailbox for others.

Stewardship Stuff

To say thank you for your faithful giving, does not seem good enough. We continue to be blessed by consistent giving and generosity. If you read the treasurer's report, you will see that giving has started to fall a bit behind budget, but the good news is that our members and friends continue to support the work we are doing within and beyond our community. Thank you for your faithfulness!



Treasurer's Report for August

Net-income is starting to fall behind budget. If current trends continue, a shortfall of about \$8000 can be expected. In addition, a special assessment from SpringHouse is looking likely since rental income is down and there were unforeseen capital expenses. Salem applied for a PPP loan for \$10,700. The application is currently being reviewed by Bremer Bank.

Reopening Report

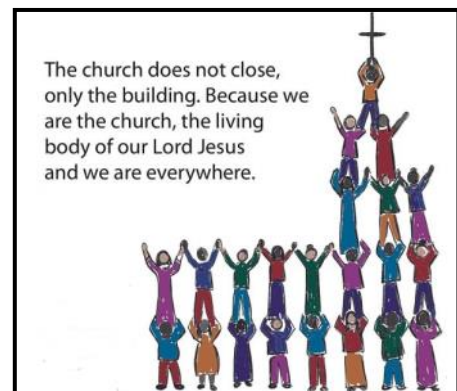
Salem has formed a team that is looking at all the details around reopening our church building to in-person worship. Working with the SpringHouse board and the teams from both Lyndale and First Christian, we are working on the whens, wheres, and hows of doing church inside our building when the time is right and it is safe to do so.



The team came away from their first meeting in August with two key first steps.

1. They will be looking at metrics to find out what COVID case numbers and other statistics should look like before we entertain having inside in person worship. There is agreement that before the building can be opened for worship and other meetings, the case numbers in the county need to be on a consistent downward trend. They are now exploring some specifics in regards to what those numbers will look like.
2. They decided, in the interest of hope and community, and because we have a good understanding of safety protocols that work, that Salem should have a one time outdoor worship before winter starts. They will be putting together complete guidelines and instructions for the outdoor worship so that it can be done faithfully and safely.

Just know that we are taking our lives together and this virus seriously and working toward coming back together. We **WILL** come back together and we **WILL** do so safely.



Reaching Out to Each Other and Beyond...

U.S. Wildfires Situation

Fueled by a heat wave and ignited by lightning strikes, dozens of wildfires have erupted across California. At least four people have died, tens of thousands of people are under evacuation orders and more than 1 million acres have burned. Some evacuees face the difficult decision of whether to stay in a shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lutheran Disaster Response is in engaging with Lutheran Social Services in California and the three California synods to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond. We expect immediate needs to include food and other life necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized.

What you can do:

Pray for the communities that lie in the paths of wildfires in CA. Give: Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to "U.S. Wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires until the response is complete.

To find out more about what ELCA Disaster Relief is doing, where need is greatest, and how to give, visit www.elca.org and click on Our Work and go to Lutheran Disaster Relief.



Relay for Our Water

As part of our Water Is Life Day Camp, we have arranged to be part of Relay for our Water that is following the journey of a pint of sacred water set in motion with a water ceremony at the Headwaters of the Mississippi that will be carried throughout Minnesota, being honored all along the route.

The water will be passed to and from water protector groups and individuals, with each group celebrating their contributions to the protection of the water in their own traditions.

The water is then carried to the next group by walking, running, biking, canoeing, horseback riding, or driving the water (with social distancing precautions in place)!

The water will be returned to the Headwaters of the Mississippi during the end of wild rice harvest season (in October) with our gratitude and solidified commitment to protect our Minnesota water and stop the Line 3 pipeline.



Our South Minneapolis Day Camp Congregations will receive the water Tuesday September 22 and pass it to the next group on Wednesday the 23. Watch for ways that you will be able to participate in the passing of this sacred Minnesota water on social media and some other ways to come soon!

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.

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!



Reaching Out to Each Other and Beyond...



Help people and ministries affected by COVID-19

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) continues to minister to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need. To continue this important work, the church needs your help.

With congregations and ministries across the country, and a network of companion churches and partners in over 70 countries around the world, we anticipate this crisis will affect us all. In the United States, unemployment has soared. We see rising demands on our food pantries, homeless shelters and social services. Around the world, millions of people living in poverty are facing this pandemic without reliable access to sanitation and health care.

Now is a time when we need one another. Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.

You can help by supporting your congregation and making a gift to the ELCA's COVID-19 Response Fund. Your donation will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need.

Ways to contribute:

- ◆ Send a check to Salem clearly marked for the ELCA COVID-19 Relief Fund
- ◆ Mail a check directly to the ELCA. Make sure the check is labeled "COVID-19 Relief Fund" in the memo line. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
- ◆ Call 1-800-638-3522 Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm.
- ◆ Online at www.elca.org/publichealth



It's ZOOMfest Time!

Attend in person or virtually Saturday August 29

ZOOM House is hosting its fifth annual ZOOMfest fundraiser at Dual Citizen Brewing on Saturday, August 29 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm. Enjoy delicious food, craft beer and live outdoor music by Paul Seeba or via our **Facebook live event**

Paul Seeba is a local acoustic artist from Hibbing, Minnesota. According to FATEA Magazine, he has a sound that is versatile and evades typical music genres falling into indie, rock, folk and country. His debut album Mitchell Yards became the soundtrack for a PBS documentary out of Minnesotan that won a 2015 regional Emmy.



Ticket Pricing (Virtual and In Person)

- **VIP ticket \$100:** Includes the live music event, 3 craft beer tickets, a \$20 Hungry Greek meal voucher, 1 ZOOM House Pub Glass, as well as, VIP preferred seating.
- **Night Out ticket \$50:** Includes the live music event, one craft beer ticket, one ZOOM House pint glass and a \$15 Hungry Greek meal voucher
- **Music Lover tickets \$30** and include the live music event and one craft beer.

ZOOM House has provided much more than just shelter for the families that made ZOOM their home. ZOOM is a community of support, focused on building authentic relationships and creating space for growth and success. Together, with your support, we can ensure that ZOOM House continues to have an impact and supports families transitioning out of homelessness.

Sunday School and Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry/Sunday School

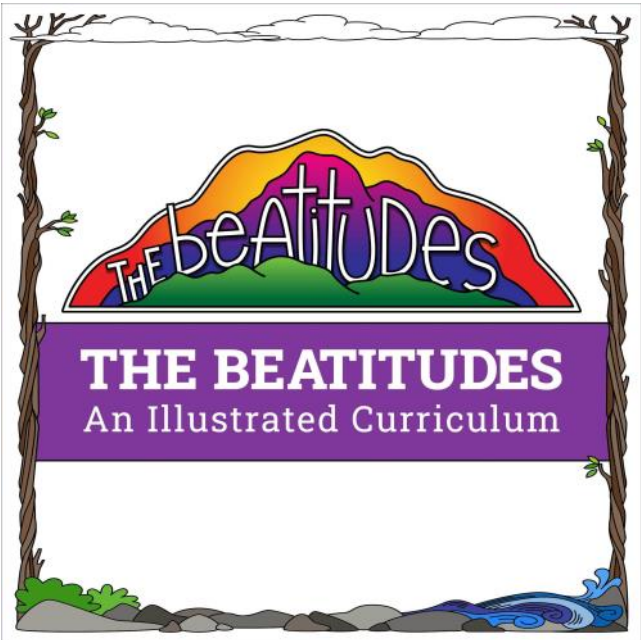
Springhouse Ministry Center is excited to announce the start of our version of **Distance Sunday School!** The curriculum we will be following is a twelve-session, verse-by-verse study of the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew, written by Illustrated Ministry.

Each child will receive a page-by-page booklet to follow along in, coloring sheets, art supplies, and a bonus poster square (or squares) to color that will be part of a fabulous mural for the Squiggle Space.

Sunday School stories and instruction will take place live via ZOOM on Sundays (but will be recorded so they can fit into your own schedule) and will include activities you can do at home.

If you are interested in participating in our program please reach out to the office or Pastor Rhonda to make sure you are on the list.

We look forward to connecting with all the kids!



Youth News

Lara Moll Resigns

At the beginning of August we received our Youth Minister Lara's resignation. She was in the middle of a situation with her family that needed her attention. She shared with us the reality of her situation and asked that she be released from her responsibilities so she could be present with her family. We were sad to see her leave but ask that you continue to send your prayers for her and her family.

During this interim period, Pastor Rhonda along with volunteers from both Lyndale and First Christian will be taking up the important ministry we have with and for our youth. If you have questions, feel free to contact Pastor Rhonda.



Moving Forward...

Youth Group Sundays:

No Mornings Necessary!

That's right! One of the beautiful parts of youth group in a pandemic is that Sunday mornings don't have to be when we meet. SpringHouse Youth Group has been and will continue to meet on **Sunday evenings from 6 pm-7 pm.**

Join us on our regular ZOOM link-available in our e-blast weekly and in communication from Pastor Rhonda via text and email. Each week we catch up, play a game or two and share a quick prayer as well. Currently, because we are meeting on ZOOM, it is BYO snacks...but we will be talking about some in-person socially distanced ideas in the months to come.

Over the next few weeks we will spend a few minutes each time working on prayers for the Joint SpringHouse Worship on September 13.

Join us! Even if you haven't for a while-we would love to see your face!



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

- 9:30 am Salem Live Stream Worship on YouTube
Except September 13 and 20 at 10:30 am!
- 10:45 am Salem Fellowship via Zoom
- 6:00 pm Youth Group via Zoom

Tuesday

- 8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

**"We are a Spirit-led, welcoming,
and bold Christian community,
rooted in the neighborhood
and striving to live faithfully in God's
world."**

Salem Mission Statement



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.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Tanya Swanson – 8/7 | Tom Pieper – 9/7 |
| Myra Rusten – 8/10 | Doralyn Dibble – 9/8 |
| Xavier Melton-Meaux – 8/18 | Susie Anderson – 9/9 |
| Barbara Livdahl – 8/21 | Jasper Hanke – 9/22 |
| Orpha Rustebakke – 8/23 | Donna Greene – 9/27 |
| James Anderson – 8/30 | |

Special Dates to Remember!

Sunday September 13, 10:30 am
Joint SpringHouse LiveStream Worship

SpringHouse
Ministry Center



Sunday September 20, 10:30 am

Salem Outdoor Worship at Wabun
Picnic Area



God's Work Our Hands Sunday

Each year we celebrate this ELCA initiative in worship together on the Sunday after gathering Sunday. This year will be no different. As part of our Outdoor Worship we will have COVID safe service opportunities for folks to take home with them and complete. For those who are unable to attend our outdoor worship—don't worry, service projects will be offered through the eblast and mail—we won't let anyone miss out. *A global pandemic cannot stop us from using our hands for God's work!*

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Water is Life Virtual Day Camp

The South Minneapolis Day Camp Crew finished their last Water Wednesday this past week. As part of their final acts of fostering water stewardship among our youngest members, they sent out advocacy postcards to all of the kids who participated in day camp this summer. Each child was asked to design the back of two different postcards and then send them off in the mail. One goes to Governor Walz to thank him and challenge him to stop line 3. The other goes to their state congressional rep about the water initiative Governor Walz has put forth for the budget. See page 4 for more about water advocacy!





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

Pastor:	Rhonda Hlavinka	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	Rev: rhonda@discoversalem.org
Office:		Jazz Music:	Tom Pieper	spiritj@msn.com
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