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Salem English Lutheran Church

Late Fall/Early Winter 2020

## It Matters!



I will be honest, writing a church newsletter in the midst of a pandemic, when we are not able to gather as we are accustomed to, in the center of an election cycle like one most of us have never seen, and at that time of year we need to turn our focus to giving, pledges, and stewardship...well, it is complicated. But as I look at the pages we have assembled while I write this last piece for the front page, I am filled with both weariness and hope. I, like you, like everyone right now, am weary. I'm tired of not seeing you. I'm tired of masks and distance learning. I'm tired of

preaching to an empty room (that I know is filled with all of you and yet is not the same) and singing hymns without harmony. The weariness is real.

But I am suddenly, after looking at what is coming, filled with an excitement and hope that I did not know I was missing. Over the next two months we will celebrate the ordination of women in the Lutheran church, we will get to hear stories about why "It Matters" that we are "Together for Joy" as we focus on stewardship, we will gather around topics that have the potential to breath new life into our understanding of church through Animate, we will gather in advent worship on those sacred winter evenings, and we will even be blessed by a virtual Christmas pageant—yes, a Christmas pageant! **These are all the things of hope.**

Just looking at the things we have collected for these few pages reminds me that the church is very much alive. Oh, it may be hard to see it through the chaos of the world right now...but while this building is mostly empty, the church is still full of life. My prayer for you is that in the weariness that you experience, in the days that feel lost or disconnected, that you

know that your church family is still here and very much about loving the world in the name of Jesus.

As the pastor of this faith-filled congregation that inspires hope amidst the weariness, I want to make a couple things clear in this time of fear and anxiousness.

First, ***if you are feeling disconnected—it matters.*** Please reach out to me or to one of our congregational leaders and give us the gift of helping you reconnect. Whether it's a phone call or help with tech to get on YouTube—You are not alone!

Second, ***if you, or someone you know, is looking to get married before SCOTUS has an opportunity to even deliberate your love's worth, I will marry you and support you at no cost right now.*** As a congregation deeply rooted in radical welcome—we support and affirm you!

Finally, no matter where we find ourselves today, tomorrow, or next year, God is with us...of this there is no doubt. YOU are God's beloved and YOU are loved!

*Be Well! Pastor Rhonda*

### Celebration of Women in Ordained Ministry

On November 22, 1970 Elizabeth Platz was ordained in the Lutheran Church of America—one of the ELCA predecessor bodies. She was the first woman of European descent to be ordained into a Lutheran church body in North America.

On Sunday November 22, 2020 we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women in the Lutheran Church! We will also mark the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the ordination of the first women of color in the Lutheran Church and the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the decision to remove barriers to ordination for LGBTQIA+ individuals.

We will gather in worship to celebrate our church and this congregations part in making the larger church more whole as we rejoice in the gifts and service that women have brought to our church and our world as pastors.

Watch for more information about this great worship to come in the weeks ahead.



**We Are Church,  
We Are Called**

50•40•10

# Salem News

## Worship Technically

The transition to live streaming on YouTube has been wonderful for many reasons, but for some, connecting has been an issue. ***We hear you and our “tech team” met to talk about solutions.***

First, we apologize for any issues you have had that are from our end and appreciate your patience as we have been learning how to do all of this.

Second, we have deduced that a majority of the issues might be due to the stream not being “live” until 9:30 am. (If people try to connect before it is “live” they will have trouble.) ***We think we have figured out a fix for this. We will be trying something new this Sunday (11/1) and hope to see if those who have reported issues may connect without trouble.*** After this weekend’s adjustments, we will find out if there are still issues and work to fix them.



Third, we want to make sure you have the **best way to connect to the live stream.** These simple steps will help resolve some connection issues:

1. Go to the [Salem English Lutheran Church YouTube site](#). If you need help getting there, go to our website at [www.discoveralemsalem.org](#) and click on the words “CLICK HERE” in the middle left of the page.
2. You will be taken to the Salem English Lutheran YouTube site. **Please BOOKMARK it on your device.**
3. When it is time for worship—simply go to your **BOOKMARKS** and click on the Salem YouTube site.
4. Once on the Salem YouTube site, you will see all of our previous livestreams by date, starting with the most recent. At the very top/front of the list will be the current days date.
5. Click on the current day and you will be taken to the “live” live stream.

Finally, we want to make sure that you are letting us know when you have tech issues. ***Scott Rusten (resident tech guy) is more than willing to answer questions via email or phone...and even is willing to make a house call if needed.*** From getting to the right site to setting up worship on your TV, he’s your guy!



## Adult Faith Formation

Join us starting November for 4 topics meant to animate faith practices.



During this time when we focus our attention on stewardship and gratitude, yet still find ourselves meeting online in a global pandemic...***is a perfect time to breath new life into our understanding of church*** Join us for these independent conversations about:

- ♦ **Worship: Seeking God’s Presence** - November 15, 11 am
- ♦ **Money: The Joy of Sharing**—November 22, 11 am
- ♦ **Prayer: Oriented toward God**— December 6, 11 am
- ♦ **Community: An Unexpected Family**—December 13, 11 am

Each topic is new and so if you miss one, that’s ok—join us for the next! All of these dialogues will take place via ZOOM and everyone is welcome!

# LivingLutheran

## Living Lutheran Magazine

It is time again to update Salem’s subscription list for Living Lutheran magazine! This dynamic publication has lots of information about what’s going on in the larger Lutheran community, as well as other features about our Christian life together. If you’d like to see a preview of the current issue, you can visit <https://www.livinglutheran.org/> and scroll down to the bottom of the page to click on “current issue.” It’s always nice to get something fun in the mail these days, and ordering your subscription through the church is still only \$9 for the whole year. You may call or email the church office (612-872-4650 or [office@discoveralemsalem.org](mailto:office@discoveralemsalem.org)) if you’d like to opt in or opt out of the Lutheran, or update your subscription information. A link to a Google form will also be coming out in the eblast soon. We are most grateful for those who are able to donate to defray the cost of their subscription and/or donate to cover someone else’s subscription. Questions? Talk with Laurie in the office. Thank you!

# More News

## Focus on Giving–Stewardship November

Faithful giving is part of Salem’s identity as people of God. This has always been clear—but never more clear than in the midst of a global pandemic. The consistency with which the members of this faith community continue to give is live-giving and inspiring.

During the month of November we will turn our focus to our giving as we talk about stewardship, pledges, but most importantly about why it matters.

In the months churches have spent worshipping online instead in beloved worship spaces, the question has been posed by some; “Does church matter if we can’t gather together?”

Well, we all know it does. It matters! It matters because when the world is lonely because of social distancing and sheltering in place, we know that our church family is still here. It matters because the work of Jesus is still being done...the church is not a building, it is God’s people out in the world. It matters because of the relationships our congregation has with those around us, especially our fellow SpringHouse congregations. It matters because we are called together (even when we are together apart) for joy! It matters for so many different reasons...and we want to know why it matters to you!

During the first week of November you will receive our annual stewardship letter with pledge forms and other details to make your giving intentions known. You will also receive an invitation to share some of the ways “it matters” that we are still community—even during a pandemic. No matter which way you choose to share with us—it matters. We will be sharing responses in worship during November and hope to hear from many of you.

Thank you again for your faithful giving and your willingness to be part of this community of faith—it matters.

*It Matters...*



## Poinsettias

As we did with Easter flowers last spring, Salem will be offering poinsettias this year for you to pick up and enjoy at home. Each 14” diameter plant costs \$10, and you may designate your plant in honor or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to order a red or white poinsettia, please contact Laurie in the church office at 612-872-4650 or [office@discoversalem.org](mailto:office@discoversalem.org). A link to a Google form will also be in the eblast. We will use a few plants to beautify our worship space for our online worship, so if you would like your plant to be used in this way before you pick it up, please note that when you order. Order deadline is **November 30!**



## Council Corner

Your church council wants you to know that we are still hard at work and here for you during this COVID time. We realize that because we can’t see one another each week, that there are conversations that may not be happening. ***Please know that we are here and would LOVE to hear from you with ideas, issues, questions...or even just to chat.*** Contact info is available in the Salem Directory—if you need a copy contact Laurie in the office.



Your Salem Council members are: Barb Livdahl, Paul Wharton, Shannon Fast, Rae Buzzell, Michelle Ruppert Madsen, Kathy Sievwright, Myra Rusten, and Sarah Sinderbrand. Send them an email, drop them a line, they would love to hear from you.

### Highlights from October’s Council Meeting Include:

- ◆ September was a good month for giving and put us back on track for the year.
- ◆ A Continuing Resolution on Remote Meetings (recommended by the synod) was passed to allow for remote congregational meetings.
- ◆ The annual stewardship focus will take place in November.
- ◆ Advent plans are in the works and many things are gearing up for the season.
- ◆ For the minutes of October’s meeting check out the link in the eblast or contact the office for a hard copy.



# SpringHouse News

## SpringHouse Board Highlights

Eleven SpringHouse Board members and clergy participated in the September 28 Zoom board meeting. Highlights of the meeting included the following:



- A new boiler has been installed, but it is not yet operational. A new part is on order. The HVAC replacement was approved. (October update: the boiler is working)
- The heating system can now be run on an "unoccupied" mode in order to save on costs and be more efficient.
- The Insurance Committee received three bids for insurance coverage for SH. The bid from Church Mutual was finally approved in a follow-up email meeting by the board.
- Co-chair Rae Buzzell led an open-ended discussion of concerns for the 2021 SH budget, especially in light of the drop in income from rental groups.
- The annual SpringHouse Board budgeting meeting is scheduled for November 8.

## SpringHouse Ministry Center

### 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.churchart.com/calendar/73956030>

If you have questions or would like an event listed, please contact Deb Murphy at [SHcoordinator@fccmpls.org](mailto:SHcoordinator@fccmpls.org).

## Flowers by Myra

Shout out to Myra Rusten for making sure the giant flower pots around SpringHouse look beautiful for the fall and winter!

Remember, if you are in need of flowers, our own Myra does a beautiful job for all occasions.



### FLOWERS BY MYRA MYRA RUSTEN

17725 10th Avenue North  
Plymouth, Minnesota 55447-3428  
612.728.0399

[myra@flowersbymyra.com](mailto:myra@flowersbymyra.com)  
[www.flowersbymyra.com](http://www.flowersbymyra.com)

## Tired of Cooking?

Consider ordering a meal and helping out Brooke Faudree of Quince catering | events. 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](mailto:info@quincemn.com) or 612-709-3442. Brooke hopes to start doing orders through her website soon as well, at [quincemn.com](http://quincemn.com). She is very grateful that members of SpringHouse churches are interested in supporting her business!



## Reaching Out to Each Other and Beyond...

### Advent–Do Not Be Afraid

Advent is coming and we have lots of great plans in the works. Illustrated Ministry has put together a myriad of resources under the theme “Do Not Be Afraid” that we will use in worship, devotion, and even with our kids. Make sure to watch weekly announcements and e-blasts for detailed information to come over the next several weeks about:



- ◆ **Congregational Devotional**– Watch for a wonderful devotional for individuals and families to walk through Advent.
- ◆ **Wednesday Evening Advent Worship**– We will gather weekly during this wonderful season of hope for prayer, song, and waiting.
- ◆ **Do Not Be Afraid: Virtual Christmas Pageant!** Yes, you heard correctly–the SpringHouse Children’s Ministry Team is working on putting together the **Do Not Be Afraid Virtual Pageant** for each congregation to use during Advent as part of their worship experience. (We may even be asking some of you to help!)

### ELCA World Hunger–Good Gifts

The average American spends more than \$700 on Christmas gifts each year. Yet, when we think about the best gifts we have given or received, often what makes them significant is not the gift itself but the meaning behind it.



Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.

Rethink traditional gift-giving this Christmas with ELCA Good Gifts. Give a loved one a gift could change someone's life.

Go to <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> to see the entire Good Gifts Catalog and change some lives. You can also send designated donations to Salem and we will send them on to Good Gifts. We will also send links via the e-blast in the weeks ahead. There are many ways to give to make a big difference!

## ZOOM HOUSE

### Zoom House Delivers Hope this Season

*An update from ZOOM House President Cyndi McDermott*

This year has been especially difficult for the ZOOM House organization and its residents. COVID-19 has negatively impacted our fundraising efforts, particularly with the transition of the annual gala to an online-only event, and has caused hardship for our ZOOM House residents, at least 30% of whom were either furloughed or laid off, leaving them to struggle with securing food and paying rent. The community was extremely generous and contributed items to assist in sustaining our residents.

The unrest in our community and the challenges our country faces today have further complicated this very difficult time. ZOOM House is in the heart of the area where the demonstrations and disruption took place after the death of George Floyd.

The ZOOM House staff continues to meet with residents on an individual basis to ensure their needs are being met. Despite the challenges this year, we had two residents transition out of ZOOM House to their own homes. Residents remain positive and productive.

Your support this year is more important than ever. Unemployment rates continue to be high as a result of COVID-19, and residents will continue to struggle financially. Individual contributions from our ZOOM community of donors account for about 25% of annual revenue. ZOOM House success is highly dependent on your generous donations!

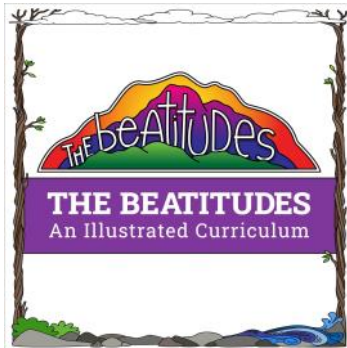
Since its inception the ZOOM Community has helped over 500 families transition out of homelessness. From the board and from ZOOM House residents, THANK YOU for your dedication, loyalty and generous contributions to ZOOM House. You are making a difference! Please consider donating today on-line at [www.thezoomhouse.org/donate](http://www.thezoomhouse.org/donate) or by mail to The Zoom House, 3244 Blaisdell Avenue South #7 Minneapolis, MN 55408. Make your gift last all year long by considering a recurring gift. Your support ensures that ZOOM House can continue its important work!

# Sunday School, Children's Ministry, and Youth

## Children's Ministry/Sunday School

Springhouse Sunday School continues to meet on Sunday mornings via our ZOOM Squiggle Space. Each week we meet at 9:30 am for friends and fun on a Sunday morning!

We are using Illustrated Ministry's "The Beatitudes" for curriculum and hopefully all of our kids got a packet in the mail with curriculum in September. Watch for another mailing to come with the second set of curriculum sheets in the weeks to come.



If you haven't colored your part of the BIG mosaic picture and sent it back to SpringHouse in the stamped envelope, please do—we want to see what this big picture looks like!

Everyone is welcome and we would love to have you. If you are not receiving the Zoom link via email, contact the office to get on the list!

## Youth News



We have a project! ALL of our SpringHouse youth are going to need to be part of this virtual pageant in order to make it work!

While we have not been meeting on Sundays since school started, all SpringHouse Youth are invited to meet this coming Sunday at 6 pm

to catch up and look at the ways the youth can help put the pageant together. A Zoom link will be coming to your email.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 6pm!**

## Calling all Youth, Children, and Families!

It's Christmas Pageant time! Yup, we have the pageant, the Zoom backgrounds, the script, and even some of the props and costumes...all we need are the people. So get ready for the call from the Children's Ministry Team and our congregational leaders to be part of this recorded event.



We will need kids, adults, and even families to help us out by recording pieces of the pageant at their own homes or via Zoom. These pieces will come together for a virtual experience that each congregation can use as part of their worship experience in Advent.



This Saturday is Halloween. Trick or Treat for UNICEF is going virtual this year. In the past our kids have gone Trick or Treating for UNICEF in our gathering space with collection boxes. This year they are creating videos or pictures in their costumes that we will be sharing with the SpringHouse community. You can donate to UNICEF & it will go into the SpringHouse Sunday School trick or treat group. We will give people a couple of weeks to donate. The kids will then share a video about how we did. This is our first service project of the year. So please support our children in learning & doing for others. Watch for a donation link in the Salem eblast.



# 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  
 10:30 am Salem Fellowship via Zoom  
 11:00 am Nov. 15-Dec. 13 Adult Faith Formation via Zoom  
 6:00 pm Youth Group via Zoom (dates TBA)

## Tuesday

8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

## Wednesday

Evenings TBA, starting December 2 Advent Worship via Zoom



**Reminder: Daylight Saving Time Ends in November!**  
 Clocks FALL BACK in the wee hours of the morning on November 1.

## 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.

Jack Hlavinka – 10/4	James Anderson – 11/2
Jan Olson – 10/6	Emma Jorstad – 11/4
Cassie Sievwright – 10/9	Terry Giinther – 11/5
Jon Hanke – 10/10	Lucas Johnson – 11/5
Antone Melton-Meaux – 10/11	David Peña – 11/8
Maria Thieling – 10/15	Emma Schmidtke – 11/14
Clark Hlavinka – 10/23	Erica Doss – 11/16
Diann Uzelac – 10/26	Josh Jorstad – 11/22
Naomi Nelson – 10/29	Katharine Glick – 11/23
Paul Varns – 10/29	Christy Henzler – 11/24
Li Livdahl – 11/1	Emma Anderson – 12/4

## ZOOM Coffee Hour

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 am (or right after worship) in our ZOOM Worship Room for "Coffee Hour". This is an important time for all of us to catch up, talk about what is going on in each other's lives, and stay connected as a community. We would love to see EVERYONE there!



Salem members and friends met at the Wabun picnic area on a chilly Sunday morning in September for our "outdoor socially distanced worship of hope." It was good to see familiar faces!



Nellie Anderson – 12/4  
 Shirley Bernu – 12/9  
 Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka – 12/11  
 Jill Livdahl – 12/25  
 Corinn Sievwright – 12/26  
 Quinn Livdahl – 12/29





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

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