

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 seekin
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

February-March 2021

The Wilderness



I love Lent...I always have. There is something about the image of wilderness that has always resonated with me. I think it has always just felt like coming home, because in the Lenten wilderness there is no need to pretend bad things aren't real, that grief isn't overwhelming, or that life is not really hard sometimes. The pieces of me that have encountered loss, heartbreak, disappointment, and judgement have always felt comforted by the image of wilderness during Lent because, as Jesus shows us so vividly in the garden as he prays, it's ok to not be ok. Don't get me wrong, it's not all about me, and I am certainly not equating my life experiences with Jesus' journey to the cross...I have just always felt like the solemnity of

Lent and the image of walking in the wilderness, offer us a time to lean into our own human journey. This year is no exception...

EXCEPT for the fact that as we enter Lent this week, as we talk about the Lenten wilderness and the journey we will take with Jesus to Jerusalem...it feels a little like we've been here since last year. We entered the wilderness of Lent last year not knowing that our world would be interrupted and the wilderness would last so long.

It's been almost a year now. I mean, we celebrated Easter, and it was wonderful...as wonderful as it could be on ZOOM in a lock-down stay-at-home situation. But if we are honest, it didn't really feel like we left the wilderness at all.

Parts of this past year have been profoundly difficult as we have experienced grief, loss, fear, anxiety, anger, and so much isolation. Between a global pandemic and a divided nation in turmoil, we have walked through the wilderness.

So as we enter Lent this week...as we step into this season...it again feels a little like home because, let's face it, we have been here all year. Now, as we join Jesus and journey to Jerusalem, we will experience Jesus' grace as we get lost along the way, we will experience Jesus' welcome as we are found, and we will walk through the dying of Ash Wednesday to resurrection on the other side of the cross and tomb. The wilderness that we have been walking through will meet the wilderness of the season of Lent and our walking will take on a new focus as we move toward life and away from death.

I invite you this Lenten season to lean into the wilderness. I invite you to feel the pull of the journey we are about to embark on even though it feels like we have been here for so long. Why? Well, because as familiar as this wilderness may feel...I have a sense that when we reach Easter this year, resurrection may take on a different feel than it did last year.

There is light at the end of the tunnel in terms of the pandemic we are living through. Already some of you are fully vaccinated and while the rest of us wait, we know that every shot that is put into an arm makes our wait safer. We will come together again. We will worship in-person this year. We will be able to gather with friends and loved ones. It may not be the same...or back to "normal"...but it will be out of the wilderness to be sure. Wilderness is finite, it has a beginning and an end. (Even the ancient Israelites made it into the promised land after 40 years in the wilderness...can you image 40 years?)

We always have a reason to rejoice at the empty tomb...always! (even in the midst of a global pandemic) And yet...this year I think our Alleluias will ring a little louder and our celebration, while still distanced, will be marked by a renewed hope that there is light and an end to the long wilderness journey we have been on.

So welcome to the season of Lent. I look forward to our journey together....for on the other side of the wilderness is resurrection.

Be Well!

Pastor Rhonda



Ash Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday February 17 at 6:30 pm for Ash Wednesday worship. We will gather on ZOOM for an interactive mid-week service. (The Zoom worship will be broadcast on YouTube for those who cannot make it.) Bring your own ashes for the imposition of ashes during worship. (you can use ash from a fireplace, dirt, marker, etc.)

Salem News

It Matters...Together for Joy

Thank you, all of you, for your continued generosity and stewardship! We are together for joy—even while we are apart and it matters. Again this month, we want to highlight a few of the answers from our community about why Salem matters.



What are the things that make our church special or unique?

- "We are reconciling—truly open and committed to welcome."
- "We may be small, but we are mighty!"
- "Three separate congregations living in covenant with each other."
- "We have so many long-term members who hold us up with history."
- "Social justice and honoring diversity are strengths of Salem."
- "Our history of adaptation to ensure we are still God's church on the corner of Garfield and 28th."
- "Our ability to share resources with two other congregations making all three congregations sustainable."

Spirit-led. Welcoming.
Bold. Rooted.

Council Corner

Highlights from January's Annual Meeting:

2. Pastor Rhonda led the congregation in a discussion of the highlights from last year.
3. SpringHouse Financial Report: The pandemic resulted in a \$33 thousand reduction in rental income. Expenses were much lower than budget and SpringHouse ended up finishing the year slightly in the black.
4. Salem Financial Report: Salem finished the year \$17,045 in the black thanks to generous gifts, lower expenses than normal due to the pandemic, and a modest PPE loan that will be forgiven due to COVID-19.
5. The 2021 Salem budget was presented and approved.
6. Council and committee positions were presented and all nominated members were voted on via unanimous ballot.
7. Pastor Rhonda led a discussion of what we are looking forward to in 2021. Included in this was coming together in-person to worship again!



NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

- 2/17—Luke 9:51-62: Journeying Toward Death—Jesus Turns to Jerusalem
- 2/21—Luke 10:25-42: Journeying Past Our Neighbors—The Good Samaritan
- 2/28—Luke 13:1-9, 31-35: Sustenance for the Journey—Lament Over Jerusalem
- 3/7—Luke 15:1-32: The Possibility of Journeying Home—Lost Sheep/Lost Coin
- 3/14: Luke 16:19-31: Journeying with Ghosts—Rich Man and Lazarus
- 3/21: Luke 18:31-19:10: Journeying to Redemption — Zacchaeus
- 3/28: Luke 19:29-44: Journey to Jerusalem—The Triumphal Entry
- 4/1: Maundy Thursday Luke 22:1-27: Journeying Together—The Last Supper
- 4/2: Good Friday Luke 23:32-47: Journeying Alone—Crucifixion
- 4/4: Luke 24:1-12: Journey to Resurrection—Resurrection

More News

Lent at Salem



"He fasted for forty days
and forty nights..."

Ash Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday February 17 at 6:30 pm for Ash Wednesday worship on ZOOM. Details on page 1.

Mid-Week Wednesdays

Join us on Wednesday evenings in Lent (Feb 24, March 3, 10, 17, & 24) at 6:30 pm on Zoom for Holden Evening Prayer Around the Cross. This brief service of prayer and song is a great way to take a breath mid-week during the season of Lent to center ourselves. Join us for this brief service of prayer and song.

Journeying to Jerusalem:

Lost, Found, and Resurrected

Journeying to Jerusalem is an exercise in getting lost, dying and resurrecting together. Join us for worship on Sunday mornings in Lent as we join Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and the cross. Each week we will follow the story as the gospel of Luke lays out which will take us from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday.



Holy Week

We will gather online for worship throughout Holy Week.

Palm Sunday: Sunday March 28, 9:30 am –Bring your paper palms to shout Hosanna!

Maundy Thursday: Thursday April 1, 6:30 pm–Join us for our Upper Room experience online again this year as we mark the night Jesus was betrayed.

Good Friday: Friday April 2, time TBD watch for details to come on our annual service of scripture and prayer.

Until All Are Fed



In the last year, as the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic, we have seen the number of hungry people around the world rise, watched as food pantries and soup kitchens expanded to serve an ever-growing number of guests, and longed together in hope for the time when we "will hunger no more, and thirst no more ... and God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes" (Revelation 7:16-17). This very yearning is at the heart of who we are as church together. Yet our longing has never led to inertia or despair, despite the discouraging forecasts. We are an Easter people, ever journeying toward the cross but trusting in faith that God's story does not end on that hill. This Lent, you're invited to join together with fellow supporters to pledge to work to end hunger during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. Your support is critical to help people around the world who face hunger and poverty.

We invite you to study, pray, reflect and give with us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving – for our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.

To give or to learn more go to www.elca.org/40days

[Download the 40 Days Devotional Calendar HERE!](#)



The world provides enough food for all, but nearly

690 million people

around the world face chronic hunger.

We believe in a God of abundance,
so as a church, we live out our baptismal call
to strive for a just world

where all are fed.

Faith and the World

The Line 3 pipeline rebuild project is a bad idea

By Paul Harper

Salem was asked by the Interfaith Power and Light organization to sign on to an ad that was going to appear in the Star Tribune newspaper. This ad was in opposition to the replacement of Line 3, a crude oil pipeline for Enbridge Energy. We missed the deadline to sign on to the ad because we did not have time to assess the views of the congregation. This article is intended to inform you about the Line 3 replacement project, advocate for a position, and promote further discussion.

What is the Line 3 replacement project?

Line 3 is a crude oil pipeline owned and operated by the Canadian company, Enbridge. It moves crude oil from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin. The crude is then moved from Superior to oil refining plants mostly around the midwest of the United States, but some goes further in the US and a tiny amount may end up in other countries. The existing Line 3 pipeline was built in the 1960's and is now so degraded that only a smaller amount of crude can move through it than originally designed. Its degraded state creates risk of spills along its pathway through Native American lands, wetlands, and other natural habitats. It has reached the end of its lifetime. Enbridge is seeking to replace the pipeline with a new, larger capacity line that mostly follows the current path of Line 3, though from Clearbrook, Minnesota the replacement is to follow a new path to Superior, making the replacement pipeline longer than the original. Enbridge's plan is to *leave the old pipeline in place permanently*. On the face of it this is simply a project to replace old, failing crude oil infrastructure with newer capability, although the new line would increase the capacity of the line. So why all the hubbub?

What is Enbridge's business?

Enbridge is a mining company. It extracts crude oil from a vast *tar sands deposit* in northern Alberta. We must be clear, though, that the petroleum product extracted from the tar sands is nothing like the liquid crude oil bubbling up from the ground in the Beverly Hillbillies. It is a mostly solid product composed of sand, clay, water and a thick, molasses-like substance called bitumen. In order to transport this product through a pipeline chemicals are added along with other processing to make it less viscous. This 'crude' is of very low quality compared to other crude oil. It is more expensive to refine it into fuels. It contains large amounts of highly toxic heavy metals and other impurities. It leaves behind a toxic byproduct called petroleum coke which is often burned like coal. Further, it is an energy intensive process to refine this crude, producing vast amounts of carbon dioxide. The mining of tar sands creates a vast, scarred, and polluted area that destroys the natural habitat. You can see this if you use Google maps to look at the area just north of Fort McMurray, Alberta using the satellite view. Enbridge is trying to take advantage of their tar sands holdings by moving the extracted crude to buyers who will refine it. We note that while it is expensive to extract this crude product from the tar sands deposits, it is also expensive to refine it. And this is at a time when there has been a glut of crude oil in the US, and prices for refined oil (e.g., gasoline) are very low.

Climate change

In order to evaluate the logic of rebuilding Line 3, let's consider that in the context of the global climate change emergency with which we currently live. Climate change is happening due to the fact that carbon dioxide (CO2) as well as some other gases in the atmosphere trap heat generated by the sun. The more CO2 in the atmosphere, the more heat is trapped, causing the earth to warm. Starting more or less with the beginning of the industrial revolution around the 1850's, humanity started pumping more and more CO2 into the atmosphere. Largely this is the result of burning various fossil fuels (coal, gasoline, oil, natural gas, etc.) through transportation, industrial processes, heating, etc. If you follow this link (<https://keelingcurve.ucsd.edu>), you can find a set of graphs that show how the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere has substantially grown since the mid 1800's and even more so since 1960. Considering the historical record going back 800,000 years (see tab on the Keeling curve link), there is more CO2 in the atmosphere than ever before (in that time frame).

As the earth warms, the climate is being changed. Already we see many indicators of a changed climate: rising oceans that threaten coastal communities, warming and acidifying oceans that are killing off coral reefs and causing ocean going life to migrate, forest fires, flooding, droughts, loss of habitat for natural life, a growing number of climate refugees (people that have to move because their home is no longer viable), etc., etc. With the amount of CO2 already in the atmosphere warming and climate change will continue. Adding more CO2 to the atmosphere will exacerbate the problem, potentially leading to an earth environment that threatens the viability of human civilization. In order to avoid this existential catastrophe humanity must stop producing CO2. This means, amongst other things, stopping the burning of fossil fuels, the major source of CO2.

Replacing Line 3 is not a good idea

So, should we replace the Line 3 pipeline? We think not. First and foremost is its contribution to CO2 pollution and the exacerbation of global warming and climate change. If a major part of the solution is to stop burning fossil fuels, why would we make such a substantial investment into the fossil fuel industry? It sends the wrong message. We have more than enough petroleum capability for now; we don't need more, we need alternative energy. That's where our investment should go. Besides this fundamental reasoning for opposing Line 3, there are a number of other pros and cons which I will briefly summarize.

Pros

Building a new pipeline creates jobs. It is true that the construction project would create many jobs (estimated at about 4200). But those jobs are all short term. Once the pipeline is built, only a handful of jobs will be required to maintain the pipeline.

The old line is breaking down - it must be replaced. This is true, the line is falling apart. Do we need to invest in a new line to move tar sands crude to refiners? There is a glut of higher quality of crude that mitigates this concern. And, we need to stop using fossil fuels!

Cons

Risk of spills and leaks. A new pipeline always has a risk of leaking highly toxic crude into the environment. Cleaning up such a spill is difficult if not impossible. Wetlands are threatened. Natural habitat is threatened. Water tables may be polluted. Plus, Enbridge has a rather terrible record of leaks and spills.

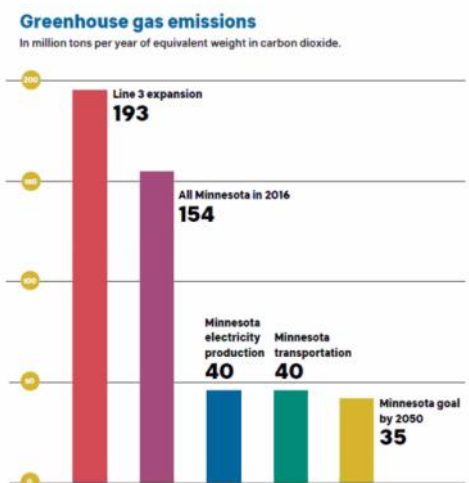
Old line stays in the ground. This is not so much a con as a problem we have either way. We don't need old, rusting, potentially toxic oil infrastructure in our natural habitat.

Supports a particularly dirty and expensive component of the petroleum industry. It is true that humanity will continue to burn fossil fuels while we transition to clean, renewable energy. But we should not support tar sands. It is dirty, highly toxic, and leaves behind an uninhabitable landscape. This is not infrastructure to invest in.

There is no planet B. The earth is our one and only home. If we don't stop spewing CO2 into the atmosphere, we will destroy our home. Earth will become more and more inhospitable and we will lose the blessing that we have.

Conclusion

Rebuilding Line 3 is not in our long or short term interest. The people (that's us!) need to send a signal to the petroleum industry, and to our political leaders, that we support the end of fossil fuels, that we will do what it takes to save this precious planet for future generations. That starts with stopping the expansion of the petroleum industry.



Sunday School, Children's Ministry, and Youth

Children's Ministry/Sunday School



Springhouse Sunday School continues to meet every Sunday morning via our ZOOM Squiggle Space.

If you have not been able to join us—we would love to have you any time!

We will be continuing our Illustrated Ministry Compassion curriculum through Lent. Each week there is a welcoming, story, activity, lesson, and always lots of fun!

If you need the ZOOM link, contact Pastor Rhonda and she will make sure you get it!



Youth News

Hiatus is over! Let's gather to catch up on Sunday February 28 at 7 pm. We will play some Kahoot Trivia, catch up with where every one is at. Look at a calendar of events and projects for the next few months...and hopefully just have some fun together.

Assignment: Bring your own dessert. Make it your favorite and be ready to share what it is and why it's your favorite!

See you on February 28 in our Youth Zoom Room!



Let's Talk About Prayer

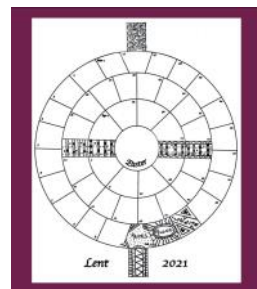
Lent brings us an opportunity to focus. As we journey through the wilderness to Jerusalem with Jesus, you are invited to try something different or new as part of your prayer life. Check out this fun and creative way to pray in Lent.

Making the Lenten Journey—Praying in Color

For the season of Lent, praying in color uses a calendar template with a space for each day. Check out the "how to" and then use the link to download your own template to get started!

Praying in Color Calendar Template for Lent

Using a calendar template is a simple, daily, and playful but serious practice for praying our way through the forty days of Lent. Each day, choose a word to ponder or a person to pray for. Write the word or name in the allotted space with a pen and draw or doodle around it. Add color with colored pencils or markers. Let the word or name speak to you. If words come to you as you draw, pray them. If not, just continue to draw, stay quiet, and let the word or name burrow into your mind and heart. Returning to the calendar each day establishes a special time to be present to God and to listen.



Think of each mark of the pen or stroke of a colored marker/pencil as a small non-verbal prayer. The goal of the doodling and drawing is not to make a beautiful work of art (though it often does), but to create a visual prayer. Drawing/doodling invites the body into the prayer, gives the eyes and hand something to do, and helps to focus attention on the word or person.

Praying on the calendar is a visual and kinesthetic Lenten discipline. The accumulation of words or peoples' names on the calendar creates an emerging

tapestry of your spiritual journey.

Get your own Lenten Template [HERE!](#) Or go to www.prayingincolor.com/tag/lent

Welcome to a New Way to Pray

Praying
in color



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
- 9:30 am Zoom Squiggle Space Sunday School
- 10:30 am Salem Fellowship via Zoom
- 7:00 pm Youth Zoom (2/28)

Tuesday

- 8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday

- 6:30 pm Lenten Services via Zoom (2/17-3/24)

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!



Faith and the World

A huge thank you to Paul Harper, council member and saxophonist extraordinaire, for writing our first article under our newest heading "Faith and the World".



The Line 3 conversation has been going on around us in our communities for a while now and yet not many of us were terribly knowledgeable on the details. The council decided that as a faith community it is important for us to have conversations around important issues in the world that can be informed by our faith and our church. Therefore, we are introducing "Faith in the World".

This an effort to engage and inform. We are hoping to allow members and friends to use this space for conversations regarding issues beyond our walls that call for us to be knowledgeable and faithful.

If you are interested in writing a piece that has a different view point or on a different topic, we welcome you to submit it for our next newsletter deadline.

We will also be seeking out individuals who would like to serve on a ministry team that helps our faith community engage in the world around issues such as Line 3. If you would be interested in helping to guide where we go and what topics we engage, contact Pastor Rhonda or Barb Livdahl.

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.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Chris Wick – 2/6 | Bettie Buzzell – 3/20 |
| Axel Jorstad – 2/8 | Bob Hlavinka – 3/28 |
| Ingrid Jorstad – 2/17 | Matt Giinther – 3/31 |
| Austin Tollerson – 2/18 | Linda Hanson – 3/31 |
| Solveig Tollerson – 2/22 | |
| Mary Patterson – 2/28 | |
| Matt Potts – 3/4 | |
| David Seiffert – 3/7 | |
| Sarah Sinderbrand – 3/8 | |



**"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



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	Revthonda@discoversalem.org
Office:	Tom Pieper	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	spiritj@msn.com
Jazz Music:	Kent Goodroad	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	kgoodroad@gmail.com
Traditional Music:	Deb Murphy	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	deb.murphy@fccmpls.org
Building Coordinator:	Rick Bowman	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	rjamesb49@gmail.com
Building Manager:		Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	