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Salem English Lutheran Church

June-July 2021

How Many Lutherans Does it Take to Change a Lightbulb?



There are a few different punch lines to this joke about Lutherans and the lightbulb.

How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? **CHANGE?!?! Nope.**

How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? **We don't really know, but they have formed a committee to study the issue and will report back at their next meeting.**

How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? **Scripture tells us that it is by FAITH and not by WORKS that we truly see...so it's still dark.**

Change. It's funny how Lutherans get such a bad rap for our resistance to change. I will admit that my experience as a life-long Lutheran has led me to find these punch lines pretty funny. But Salem has really turned that view upside down. Even before the pandemic I was acutely aware of the myriad of radical changes this faith community was willing to stretch through in order to stay a community rooted in the gospel. I mean, I could write this whole front page article about your journey to radical welcome—it is PRIDE month after all. **But this past year...this year has changed everything we all know and feel about change.**

A week has not gone by in the past 15 months where we have not had to deal with change. Sometimes it's been little things, but more often than we would have liked, it was some significant parts of our lives taking a sharp turn into change.

Where is she going with this? I can hear you asking. Well, we are rapidly (slow as it may feel) approaching, and in fact may have already entered, the time when things are going back to "normal". But—(insert deep breath)—I'm not sure that going back to "normal" in all things is where we are headed. Certainly, there will be parts of life that will go back to the way they were. However, I am also certain that there is more change ahead.

How do we come back in person and still maintain our online worship presence? How does our building handle 3 different services at the same time? Can we really go back to 2 services? I have been meeting with a faithful group of SpringHouse folks on the Safe Reopening Team, and I can tell you that there are many changes we will need to navigate just in terms of our building as we move forward.

But here's the cool thing about change...yup, there is a cool thing. **While it is often very difficult and forces us to stretch our comfort zones, it is also a chance for us to imagine.** Change allows us to use our imagination to envision what things might look like "if..."

What does it look like when we come back together to worship? **Can you imagine** what "hybrid" worship looks like? **What does it look like** to live in our SpringHouse covenant post-pandemic? Living in the wake of a pandemic and in light of the events we have lived through while "away" **can you imagine some of the gospel work God might be calling us to that we have not imagined before?**

A year that forced us to slow down, to isolate, and to imagine life together in radically new way is leading us to a new place—a good place where we can gather again, be social, and see each other face to face. But this new place will require even more imagining of life together as the church. There are a lot of questions and it may be difficult at times...but there is something wonderful about the chance to imagine, isn't there?

Think about what God has done this past year...just keeping us together and getting your pastor to learn how to livestream were pretty miraculous. Now imagine what God can do when we continue to open ourselves to change. Salem has a deep history of embracing change—with a committee or two along the way—but none the less thriving. I invite you to join me in smiling about the changes that are on the way and trusting God to make them so very good.

Be Well and Imagine Much!

—Pastor Rhonda

Inside...



Salem News



Soil & Spirit Day Camp

Join us for South MPLS Day Camp, June 21-25!
It's not too late to sign up for our Hybrid Day Camp
Experience this summer!

For our elementary kids, they will meet on Zoom in the morning for an hour or so for stories, songs, science, and small groups. Then they will have online content to engage with at their own pace through the week. BUT in addition to these online pieces—there will be at least TWO evening options for live in-person outdoor gathering! (T, W, Th and party on F)

For Middle School and High School Students—we have an AWESOME week of afternoon (1-4pm) in-person content planned. On site at Bethel Lutheran (one afternoon at Our Saviour's) with art, disk golf, gardening, a visit to George Floyd Square, and ice cream for a start!

Check out the details and Register at the link here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/southminneapolisdaycamp2021>

Stewardship Corner

Thank you for your continued giving!
Whether it is a check in the mail, your regular electronic giving, or a special gift given in honor or memory of something special in your life...your giving continues to be faithful and important to our lives together.

As we begin to look toward gathering together in our building again, we look forward to passing the plate once more in our traditional act of giving. But know that you, the people of Salem, have proven that a passed plate on Sunday is not the only way to be faithful in our stewardship. Thank you!

It Matters...

TOGETHER FOR JOY

Summer Preaching

Join us as we begin our summer with a 6 week preaching series on the Old Testament book of Jeremiah.

Often seen as a long sermon, what does it give to us as we understand the trauma of the ancient Israelites and their displacement and exile? What does it say to us about God's faithfulness?

God's punishment? The future? As the book of Jeremiah travels thousands of years to meet us, what does it offer us? How can it help us make sense of our own traumatic past? Join us starting in June as we journey with the prophet Jeremiah and discover the Potter in a new way.



Council Corner

Highlights from May's Meeting:

- ◆ Salem's finances continue to look good. Giving was slightly lower in April, but still leaves us on trend to finish the year close to budget.
- ◆ An update was given by Paul H. and Pastor Rhonda on the SpringHouse Safe Opening Team. A statement will be presented to the board this week with more information.
- ◆ New and continuing Trustone check signers were authorized and noted in the minutes.
- ◆ Salem applied for an Open Door grant through the ELCA. Grants will be awarded in June.
- ◆ One of the social events we will offer this summer is on June 12. We will have a social hour on the SH lawn followed by the annual Greenway cleanup.

To see the minutes from the council meeting, right click on the links below (in the digital version), or contact the church office for a copy.

[May Council Minutes](#)

[May Treasurer Report](#)

[April Financials prepared for May Council Meeting](#)



More News



It's time to practice being together again as we navigate what fellowship and life after a global pandemic looks like. So let's start with a few outdoor social events designed to give us a time of fellowship in a way that is safe and fun. *Join us—we have missed seeing you in person!*

Salem Social & Greenway Clean Up

Join us Saturday, June 12 at 10 AM on the SpringHouse lawn to catch up with your Salem friends! Breakfast *treats from Heights Bakery and Isles Buns* (worth the trip themselves!) will brighten your morning and of course, coffee and other beverages will be provided too!



Those who are interested can head out to help clean the Greenway. All necessary gear will be provided, though you are welcome to bring your own puncture-proof gloves if you have them.

Fellowship Hour after Worship June 20

AND July 25

Make sure to join us at Wabun for our June and July worship services—but stay for a time of fellowship afterward! At the time of publishing the Scene, plans are still underway—but we are looking to make one of these gatherings a lunch, while the other will be breakfast treats. Watch for details about these fellowship times to come in the weeks ahead!

And Finally—An Ice Cream Social!



That's right! Looking way ahead to our August 15 Wabun worship—we will be fellowshiping at a good old fashioned ice cream social. Grab your spoon and pick your flavors and be prepared to go crazy with toppings!



Summer In-Person Worship & Fellowship Time

Sunday June 20 - 10:30 am (pavilion D)

Sunday July 25 - 10:30 am (pavilion G)

Sunday August 15—10:30 am (pavilion D)

Minnehaha Wabun Picnic Area

Make sure to mark your calendars for the times we will meet in-person and outdoors for worship! Details and directions for each service will be in weekly e-blasts and mailings.

June is Pride Month

Throughout the month of June, as we gather in worship, we will be celebrating with all of our LGBTQIA+ siblings what it means to be created fully in the image of God. As a Reconciled in Christ congregation, we wave our welcome flag all month long!

For more information on RIC Virtual Pride 2021 check out the website:

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/virtualpride2021/>



SpringHouse Safe Re-Opening Team Update



COVID-19 Update and Recommendations from the SpringHouse Safe Re-Opening Team

The SpringHouse Safe Re-Opening Team, consisting of SH clergy, SH staff, a representative from each congregation, and a representative from the building committee, have met 2 times over the past 2 months to work on a plan for reentering our building in the safest and most faithful ways possible. While there are still many questions, and COVID's consistency is its unpredictability, we have put together some plans in order to

move forward and look to working on details to bring them to fruition in the months to come. We appreciate the patience and faithful support of all of our SpringHouse congregations during this time of uncertainty AND excitement.

Here is what we know right now:

When can we worship in person and inside?

The big picture: we are hopeful to be able to worship indoors and in person at some point this fall with our goal being October. However, this is contingent on several factors:

COVID Specific Factors:

- ♦ Vaccinations being available to children (many are projecting this to happen in late summer or early fall)
- ♦ Community vaccination percentage
- ♦ Current rate of infection (number and stability)
- ♦ Local, state, and national mandates
- ♦ MDH and CDC guidance

Building Specific Infrastructure Factors:

- ♦ Internet capability for continued livestreaming for all three congregations. Hardwired connections and WiFi are currently being evaluated and necessary improvements/changes will be made.
- ♦ Technology needs for "hybrid" worship for all three congregations is being evaluated. (i.e. screens, projecting, sound, and general connection capabilities) What do we need to come back into the building together and continue to offer online worship simultaneously?
- ♦ General building preparedness. The building has been used in completely different ways this last year and there is a lot of work that will go into preparing spaces for people to inhabit them again. In addition, we will need to have a specific plan for logistics that matches our building COVID requirements, which may include sanitizer stations, specific entrances and exits, etc.

A date continues to be a moving target, but we are hopeful that by October we will be phasing back into our building for worship and community life together.

When can other groups meet in the building again?

We are working on the infrastructural and procedural issues around our building and COVID that need to be addressed before we can schedule any small groups. **The goal that the team came away with is that we hope to be able to welcome SOME small groups, in a phased fashion, into the building starting as early as July 1.** Our goal will be to work with some of the groups that are essential from the community (i.e. recovery groups that have met for a long time at SH) and congregational small groups, and move toward a larger number of our regular community wide rental groups.

What about mask requirements, distancing, and vaccinations?

There are many questions that are still being wrestled with. We will, first and foremost, continue to follow the most conservative mandates that our local, state, and national leaders provide. Beyond those, and when those are no longer “mandates”, we will have a SpringHouse policy that we are comfortable with and provides the safest options for everyone. These procedures and guidelines are still being discussed and will be brought forward as they are crafted so that we have clear plans in place by July 1 for the possible opening of the building to specific small groups and by fall for in-person worship and all that comes with it.



Team Members: Pastor Ashley Harness, Pastor Rebecca Voelkel, Paul Thuras (Lyndale), Pastor Laurie Pound Feille, Pastor Dan Adolphson (on sabbatical), Martha Harris (FCC), Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka, Paul Harper (Salem), Deb Murphy (SH Staff), Rick Bowman (SH Staff), Kam Anderson (SH Staff), Laurie Zaepfel (SH Staff), Building Committee Rep: Mike Cackoski

Minneapolis Farmers Markets

While you're waiting for SpringHouse and other places to fully open, perhaps consider a trip to a farmers market! Nearly 20 farmers markets will operate throughout Minneapolis this year, and they have already begun to open.

Farmers markets are a great way to get fresh food on the table, an important part of our food supply and an essential connection to our farmers. There has never been a more important time to buy local and contribute to a healthy local food economy.

The Market Bucks incentive matches up to \$10 worth of coupons per day to customers who use SNAP benefits to purchase eligible foods at participating farmers markets.

Right click here to [Find a map and schedule for farmers markets in Minneapolis](https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/homegrown-minneapolis/farmers-markets/) or visit <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/homegrown-minneapolis/farmers-markets/> or call 311 or [612-673-3000](tel:612-673-3000)

The map and schedule will be kept up to date as schedules shift. COVID-19 safety measures will be in place in the farmers markets.



Sunday School, Children's Ministry, and Youth

Children's Ministry/Sunday School



Pentecost Sunday was our last official Zoom Sunday School meeting for the year.

We will be taking a break as summer begins and look to plan some things we may do during the summer months. Watch for updates in eblasts and newsletters.

We're not sure what fall will look like, but we are already starting to plan. We are looking forward to gathering in person when the building opens in some sort of hybrid fashion so that those who are still only able to participate on Zoom will be included in our programming.

For now, have a great start to your summer and watch for news about things to come in the SH Squiggle Space!

All Ages Enjoy Coloring!




Prayer Corner



In honor of June being Pride month, we offer up a prayer for Pride.

Prayer for Pride

By Jennifer Garrison Brownell



Holy One,
Today I was reminded again
what I keep forgetting.
That this kind of Pride,
the Pride for which we march,
the Pride we celebrate,
has an opposite, too.
This Pride's opposite is
not humility, it is shame.
So we gather and
we march and we revel
not because we lack humility.
But because
we stand before you,
finally, unashamed,
just as you made us. Amen.



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

4:00 pm, June 13, 27, July 11, 25 "Inspired" Book Study

Tuesday

8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

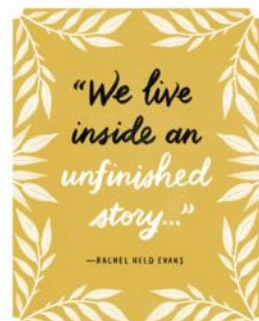
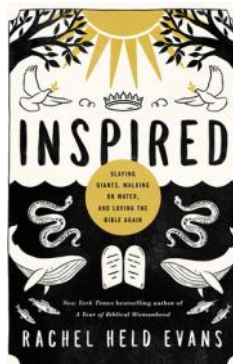
Remember that Worship on JUNE 20 and JULY 25 are outdoors at Wabun Park at 10:30 am. See p. 3 for Details!



Book Study Continues

Please join us as we continue to spend time in Rachel Held Evans' book, *Inspired*. It's not too late to join—each week is a different chapter and different topic. Talk to Pastor Rhonda if you would like to stop in.

The book study meets every other Sunday at 4 pm, on June 13 and 27, and July 11 and 25.



honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original 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."

Guest Preacher/Presider July 18

Make sure you are ready to be online for worship and coffee hour on Sunday, July 18 when Antone Melton-Meaux has graciously accepted the invitation to preside over worship and preach. It is always wonderful when we get a different voice on Sunday—even more special when it is one of our own!



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.

Lily Hoskamer – 6/6

Paul Livdahl – 6/19

Charlie Pieper – 6/7

Bob Shorten – 6/28

Kathy Sievwright – 6/7

Dona Varns – 7/1

Shannon Fast – 6/9

Johan Baumeister – 7/15

Roger Livdahl – 6/9

Holly Benson – 7/15

Kate Rime – 6/10

Jacentia Peña – 7/24

Michelle Ruppert – 6/13

Alex Nordeen – 7/31

Paul Wharton – 6/13





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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Building Manager:	Rick Bowman			deb.murphy@fccmpls.org
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Christ tended to attract