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Salem English Lutheran Church

August-September 2021

Splish Splash Resurrection Joy



"James Berton Henzler-Heaney, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." As a pastor, the words that accompany the sacrament of baptism, are always a favorite. For 20 years I have had the honor of meeting families at the font to take part in God's work through water and word. But this one felt different. This gathering at the font felt different for a couple of reasons...

First, it had been 18 months since I first met Jimmy at the hospital just after he was born in February 2020...just as the world was being put on guard against a mysterious virus. For 18 months our faith community has stayed active and alive, doing our best to do gospel work under circumstances none of us could have imagined...and while it's not "over", gathering in person to "finally" get Jimmy baptized into the family, seeing all of you there as witnesses surrounding him with your love, made all of us feel some real resurrection joy. ***Coming together for the sacrament of water and word felt like coming home.***

The second reason it felt different was because of Jimmy's relationship with the water. What does that mean? Well, going into his baptism, we didn't know how he would feel about it—he's never seen me off screen and there was an "audience" to consider. So instead of our fancy font, I opted for a plastic tub. I filled it with water, put some toy boats in it, and placed it on the kids table before worship. ***Jimmy LOVED this idea!*** He and his cousins and friends played and ***splashed in the water*** for quite a while, getting pretty wet, before worship. When it came time for the baptism, I took the bucket, set the boats aside, and brought it to the front. He had been having so much fun in that "bucket" of water, that when I took some out and poured it on his head ***he just grinned...and a part of us was healed in that moment of resurrection joy.***

The past 18 months have been hard—I keep saying it, but we need to keep acknowledging it...we are weary. Our fatigue has

increased...making everything more difficult even as the light at the end of the tunnel gets closer.

But we can't forget why we are here, why we bother to gather online, and what binds us together. During COVID we have certainly learned what does ***not*** make us the church...our building, routines, or even tradition. ***What does make us the church, what unites us, sustains us, and gives us our identity as beloved...is the water.*** Jimmy's baptism wasn't just about him...it was about us. When he was doused in that water (I got him pretty wet), ***he joined US in OUR family...God's family. The joy of water is for us too.*** I invited everyone to play in the water (with boats) after worship...because we all need to be reminded of what unites us in Jesus' victory over death...water, word, and resurrection joy.

I have come back often, the past week, to the image of Jimmy and the other kids splashing and playing in the water that morning...too young to know what the significance of that water would be...but old enough to know the joy of getting wet. Splish. Splash. Go. Play in some water and be reminded...and may their joy be your joy as we remember the water that brings resurrection joy to all.

Be Well and Make a Splash!

—Pastor Rhonda



Final Summer Preaching Series

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"
Ephesians 2:8

Join us for worship beginning August 8 for a 4 week series on the New Testament Epistle, Ephesians. Grace, creation, redemption, and good works as a way of life...this beautiful and poetic little Pauline letter packs a punch.

Salem News



Faith Practices &
Neighboring Practices

We are excited to announce that selected members of our congregation will be taking part in the Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices Project hosted and presented by the Minneapolis Area Synod. Funded by the Lilly Endowment, this two-year learning community will put our hearts and minds to the test as we learn about what it means to be good neighbors and practitioners of our faith. With an ever-growing need to engage with our communities, and an always present calling to practice our faith, this program will provide us with the tools and experiences to grow in both areas in a way that will deepen our congregation's relationship with God and neighbor.

Success in this program will not be gauged by our ability to gain members or create new programs. Success will look like understanding that change is a process and that relationships take time and intention. How can we become communities of practice? What does it mean to be a community of practice in our context? And how might we utilize these learned tools to live more fully as God's people in this place? This is what we hope to explore during our time at Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices. Learning sessions begin on September 24, 2021.

Council Corner

Highlights from July's Meeting:

- ◆ Salem's finances continue to look good. Both giving and spending have been about 5% lower than budgeted.
- ◆ An update was given on the SpringHouse Safe Opening Team. Some outside groups with established relationships will begin to meet at the end of July in the SH building.
- ◆ Salem has accepted an invitation to be part of the Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices program through the synod. We are currently building the team.

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. [July Council Minutes](#) [June Financials](#)



Last Worship in the Park of the Year God's Work. Our Hands Sunday

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 19—we will have one final worship at Minnehaha Regional Park for the year. We will meet at Wabun Pavilion F (the smaller one) for 10:30 am worship and fellowship hour following.

We will be marking "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday—so come prepared to do some service projects during worship. **Watch for details about donations we will be accepting and supplies we will need in the weeks ahead!**



NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Fall Narrative Lectionary Returns

As we gather for worship beginning in September, we will once again dive into the narrative lectionary. We will begin again at the beginning of the story and work our way through some of the Old Testament stories in the fall, transition to the prophets during Advent, and then move into the gospel of John in the new year. Here's what we will dig into come September:

- 9/12: Genesis 1:1–2:4 Creation by word
- 9/19: God's Work Our Hands Sunday
- 9/26: Genesis 21:1–3; 22:1–14 Binding of Isaac
- 10/3: Genesis 27:1–4, 15–23; 28:10–17 Jacob's Dream
- 10/10: Exodus 2:23–25; 3:1–15; 4:10–17 God's Name Revealed
- 10/17: Exodus 16:1–18 God Provides Manna
- 10/24: 1 Samuel 3:1–21 God Calls Samuel

More News

Safe Reopening Update

Your SpringHouse safe reopening team has been working hard to get our building open in a manner that is safe. Yet, even as this is being written, the Delta



variant of COVID is making a surge throughout the country. As we keep our focus on the science and the guidelines, we need everyone to know that the plans we make, the guidelines we put forth, and the dates we set are all based on current COVID conditions and are therefore liable to change as the trends change in order that we keep everyone as safe as possible.

That being said, our phased reopening has begun. A handful of our well-established groups, those that have had a longstanding relationship with SHMC, have started to meet in the building. While the building is not "open" to the public yet, these groups have been given permission to use specific parts



of our building with strict guidelines for the spaces they can use and specific COVID protocols. *No groups are allowed to use the sanctuary spaces currently being used by sanctuaries for leading worship online on Sunday mornings.

As we look toward fall—our target date for returning to worship in person is still Sunday October 10.

While we will not be going "back to normal" and our schedule and building use may look different than it has in the past—we are looking forward to being able to gather in person again. Stay tuned over the weeks ahead as we move closer to that return and talk about what it will look like for Salem.



**Joint SpringHouse Worship in the Park is BACK!
Blessing of the Backpack Tags Too!
Ice Cream and Fellowship to Follow!**

For the first time in over a year and a half, we will gather as a SpringHouse community on Sunday August 15. We have reserved a big pavilion at Minnehaha Regional Park Wabun Picnic Area that will give us plenty of space to gather, spread out, and worship together!

Please bring a mask to wear during our joint worship. Out of an abundance of caution, because we will be gathering with the other congregations, because the Delta variant is making a surge, AND because we will be SINGING—we are asking folks to mask up.



We enjoyed our outdoor worship in July, with a baptism and lots of visitors!

Sunday School, Children's Ministry, and Youth

Children's Ministry/Sunday School



Sunday School will be back this fall, but we are still working on what will be our safest options. Stay tuned over the next several weeks to find out what will be

happening in the squiggle space this fall.

Prayer Corner

For Climate Change Disasters by Meta Herrick Carlson

Nature's chaos once random
 Now bears the sins of humanity,
 The excess of some,
 The vulnerability of others,
 The force of creation commodified.

There is great grief
 In the rubble and destruction,
 The dry lands and rising sea,
 The vegetation and animals
 Who struggle to adapt,
 Even when we do not.



Mercy for those displaced with little
 And courage for those who hold power.
 There is no safety
 In ignorance and luxury
 At the expense of the earth.

Blessing of the Backpacks and Back-to-School WORSHIP LITURGY

Back to School Backpack Tags

I know it's hard to believe, but fall is just around the corner and while we know that nobody is really ever ready for summer vacation to end and the school year to begin—I think this year we are all hopeful that we will be able to have a more normal “back to school” experience.

For the past several years SpringHouse has offered a blessing of the backpack tags for all of our students. Usually this has been done at our August worship in the park. Due to COVID—our backpack blessing came in the mail last year. *This year we are excited to be able to offer the blessing of the tags in person at our joint worship in the park on Sunday August 15.*

Make sure to join us at Minnehaha Regional Park Wabun Pavilion D on August 15 at 10:30 am to be part of our back to school backpack blessing and to receive your own special backpack tag.




Welcome, Jimmy Henzler-Heaney, Child of God!
 Baptized July 25, 2021



Our World

What’s Wrong with Bottled Water, Anyway?

- ◆ Thirty-six ounces of water is needed to produce one 12-oz. plastic water bottle.
- ◆ Fifty percent of bottled water is repackaged tap water.
- ◆ Bottling water produces 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide yearly.
- ◆ One billion dollars’ worth of plastic is dumped in US landfills every year.
- ◆ Seventeen million barrels of oil are consumed in yearly production of water bottles, enough to run 1 million cars for a year.
- ◆ Americans spend more than \$11 billion a year on bottled water.
- ◆ Fifteen hundred water bottles are consumed in the United States every SECOND.
- ◆ One billion water bottles are shipped across the United States weekly.
- ◆ Tap water is, for most people in most places in the US, cheap, safe, eco-friendly.

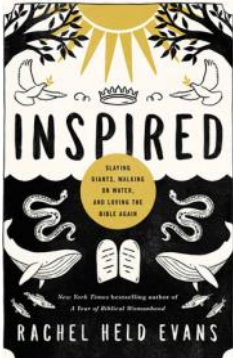


Spirit-led. Welcoming.

Bold. Rooted.

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 last meetings are August 8 and 23.



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, August 8, 23. “Inspired” Book Study

Tuesday
 8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

Remember that **Worship on AUGUST 15 and SEPTEMBER 19** is outdoors at Wabun Park at 10:30 am. See p. 2-3 for details!



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.

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



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:	Tom Pieper	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	Rev: rhonda@discoversalem.org
Jazz Music:	Tom Pieper	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	Rev: rhonda@discoversalem.org
Traditional Music:	Kent Goodroad	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	Rev: rhonda@discoversalem.org
Building Coordinator:	Deb Murphy	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	Rev: rhonda@discoversalem.org
Building Manager:	Rick Bowman	Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	Rev: rhonda@discoversalem.org

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