

Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced smd 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 seeking 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 parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced virgin tattooed plain rich poor short tall average fat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender quick employed freelance not working retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter homeless ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog in

Salem English Lutheran Church

January-February 2022

Hope in the Wilderness



I do love the season of Lent. It has always felt like a wonderful place to put all our grief, disappointment, and sadness, but also a place to put the world's chaos, conflict, injustice, and grief as well. In my lifetime,

which some days feels very long, but in the scheme of human history is not, I can't imagine I have experienced another time when a place to put all of these things feels so crucial. Clearly our world is experiencing chaos and grief today. The invasion of Ukraine, systemic problems in our own city highlighted by a civil rights trial and another funeral for a young black man killed by police, our own nation divided in ways we cannot understand, COVID fatigue and anxiety, an education system that is in shambles and with both Twin Cities teachers' unions on the verge of strike, *and* all the things in our own lives that cause us pain, grief, anger, and fear...there is a deep well of things going on in our world that make us cry out "How long oh Lord" (Psalm 13:1.)

I love Lent because it feels like a good place to bring all these things. It is the wilderness, after all. Even much of the music has that haunting minor sound—it's the season when we dive in and we ponder our humanity, grieve our sinfulness, and give thanks that Jesus knew the wilderness too...and then we join him on the journey to the cross.

But it's not just the music and the journey to the cross that makes Lent a good place to bring all these things. Unlike the first disciples who made the wilderness journey with Jesus, we know the end of the story. While we hide the "Alleluia" - we don't forget the "Alleluia". And there it is...Hope.

There is hope in the wilderness of Lent because we know that despite the world's best effort, death doesn't win. Admittedly, it is sometimes very difficult to see through the darkness of the desert



because the things that life makes us feel are real and fill our lens. But remember what I said in my front page article in January about what the season of Epiphany teaches us? We need to look up to see. Sometimes hope seems hard to find because our view is so consumed by the chaos and grief that we forget to look for it.

Jesus asked God "how long?" Jesus even cried out, "God, why have you forsaken me?" Let us not think for a moment that the very human Jesus didn't experience the world's wilderness. But the wilderness is not the end. The wilderness ends in resurrection and resurrection is just the beginning—the beginning of real hope for the world.

If we were to have a theme this year—as I talked about at our annual meeting Sunday—it would be hope. In the world we live in, I can think of no more important job as church than to be hope-bringers into the wilderness of our world.

So, as we enter the season of Lent—this wilderness season, as we join Jesus on the journey to the cross, as we contemplate our humanity and grieve our sinfulness and the sinfulness of the world....go ahead and bring all the pain and grief, bring the anger and hurt, bring it all—Lent can hold it all. God can hold it all.

But let us not forget that there is hope in the wilderness because we are not alone there (Jesus is well acquainted with the wilderness) and the wilderness is not the final word. The final word, as we all know, is Alleluia.

As hope-bringers we are called to the wilderness...but we are also called to come out of the wilderness carrying a word of hope for the world. It will be interesting to find out what how our hope-bringing takes shape in the months ahead. Remember, it may be buried while we are in the wilderness, but the final word remains Alleluia.

Be Well & Carry Hope!

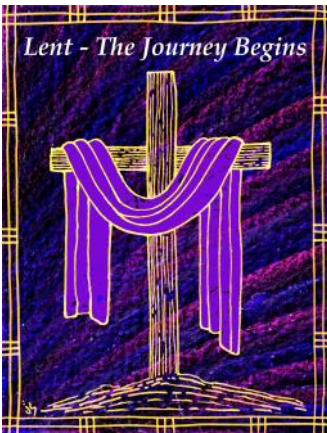
—Pastor Rhonda



Ash Wednesday Worship

Join us on **Wednesday March 2 at 7:00 pm** for Ash Wednesday worship. **We will gather on Zoom** in order to be safe and to provide the most access. (We will live stream the Zoom to YouTube) This was an incredibly meaningful service last year. We hope you will join us for this important service to begin our Lenten journey.

Salem News



Lent at Salem

Ash Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday March 2 at 7 pm for Ash Wednesday worship on ZOOM. Details on page 1.

Mid-Week Wednesdays

Join us on Wednesday evenings in Lent (March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6) at 6:30 pm on Zoom for a short worship service using Hold-

en Evening Prayer. This is a great way to take a breath mid-week during the season of Lent to center ourselves.

Holy Week

Plans for Holy Week will be unfolding soon, using the latest COVID guidelines as we plan. Our hope is to be able to meet in person for much of Holy Week. Meanwhile, get these dates and times on your calendar:

Palm/Passion Sunday: Sunday April 10, 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday: Thursday April 14, 6:30 pm—Join us for our Upper Room Experience to mark the night Jesus was betrayed

Good Friday: Friday April 15, time TBD watch for details to come on our annual service of scripture and prayer.

Easter Sunday: Sunday April 17, 9:30 am (Friends and Family willing to follow guidelines will be welcomed in worship!)



Safe Reopening Update

We are excited to cautiously begin to gather again. Here is the latest update about guidelines that will take effect the first weekend in March:



- ◆ Responsibility for Sunday morning guidelines will return to the congregational level, allowing each congregation to work within their comfort level as long as the SH wide guidelines are followed and any activity is self-contained. (This includes number of worshipers, distancing, vaccinations, food/fellowship etc.) Masks remain a SH mandate.
- ◆ Those not eligible for vaccination (including children under the age of 5) are allowed to be in the building for worship – it will be up to families to decide their own comfort level.
- ◆ Both SpringHouse groups and outside groups can schedule meetings/events in the building as long as they do not exceed 50 people and follow all SH COVID guidelines. They must schedule through Deb Murphy and/or the website reservation system.

Joint events, use of the Gathering Space on Sunday mornings, and children's ministry in the Squiggle Space are still on hold but will be revisited as the team continues to meet.

SpringHouse is still considered "closed", as the doors will continue to be locked to the general public.

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Narrative Lectionary Scripture Calendar

The narrative lectionary story arc continues...

3/2: The Good Shepherd John 10:1-18 (Psalm 23)

3/6: Jesus Raises Lazarus John 11:1-44 (Psalm 104:27-30)

3/13: Jesus Washes Feet John 13:1-17 (Psalm 51:7-12)

3/20: Peter's Denial John 18: 12-27 (Psalm 17:1-7)

3/27: Jesus and Pilate John 18:28-40 (Psalm 145:10-13)

4/3: Jesus Condemned John 19:1-16a (Psalm 146)

4/10: Palm/Passion Sunday The Crucified Messiah

John 19:16b-22 Optional reading: John 12:12-27 (Psalm 24)

More News

The best thing to give up this Lent is plastic, not chocolate

Adult EcoFaith Series—Environmental Stewardship

Join us for our Lenten study—Sunday afternoons in Lent on Zoom. Our Synod EcoFaith team, in conjunction with Hennepin County have designed an Environmental Stewardship and Single Use Plastics study.

While the idea for this Lenten series was sparked by a national youth effort to “give up plastic for Lent”, it is really much more than just about your personal recycling. This Lenten series will give us

- ♦ A greater understanding of Eco-Faith and environmental stewardship
- ♦ Ways to connect our faith/spirituality to EcoFaith learning and practices
- ♦ A deeper understanding of the effect of plastic and what current practices do and DO NOT do
- ♦ Provide easy steps to make an even bigger difference on your own
- ♦ Connect our practices as EcoFaith stewards with systemic and justice-rooted change

No Experience Necessary

Curiosity & Questions Encouraged

NO Homework

Sundays 4 pm on Zoom

March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 & 10

If you can only make some of the dates, that is ok,
please plan to join in on the weeks you can.



ELCA World Hunger

40 Days of Giving

For nearly two years, as the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic, we have seen the number of hungry people

around the world rise sharply, watched as food pantries and soup kitchens expanded to serve an ever-growing number of guests, and longed together in hope for a just world where all are fed.

This very yearning lies at the heart of who we are as church together. Yet our longing has not led to inertia nor despair, despite the discouraging forecasts.

The world provides enough food for all, but as many as 811 million people around the globe are undernourished. 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.

ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. We walk alongside partners and companions in the United States and 60 other countries. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger address hunger and poverty around the world with creative and courageous action.

This Lent pledge to work to end hunger during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. If you're reading this on the computer, follow along on the daily devotional calendar [HERE](#) and find out how to give at <https://www.elca.org/40days> for the good of our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.



Creatively and
courageously working
toward a just world
where all are fed

News



Emma Gives an FP&NP Update

Greetings from the Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices team at Salem. We're gathering monthly to work towards a goal of understanding Salem's role and call within our neighborhood - however we choose to define it. We've learned lots of new personal skills - like one on ones, story telling, praying the Psalms and this month we covered Lectio Divina. The intent is that these rituals or practices can center and guide us on this journey.



There are a whole host of resources available about Lectio Divina* - but the essence boils down to "Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest" As we spent time practicing this practice - I reflected (see what I did there?!) on how these steps can be useful across more than just our spirituality and religious practices. Tough parenting moment? Slowly reassess the situation, reflect on what God is saying to you in the experience, and Respond with grace, humility, service and love before I Rest in letting God work within me for the next time. Tough situation at work? With a friend? Stepping back and leaving room for God to guide us is a profound chance that definitely takes practice. I invite you to join us trying this practice over the next few months (a Lenten practice perhaps?) or ask any of us about the other spiritual skills we're learning if you're looking for something new to try. It will probably be hard at first, and may not be quite the right fit, but you don't know if you don't try (at least that is what I tell my kids!).

*If you want more info on Lectio Divina - reach out to me, Pastor Rhonda, anyone on the Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices team - or Google!

Praying the Psalms Part III

One of the easiest ways to pray the Psalms is to find a single verse that resonates with you. Take that verse and repeat it, memorize it, and make it a mantra of sorts that you can carry with you in your mind and heart.

As you store up these simple verses, they will become part of you and you will have access to them wherever you are.

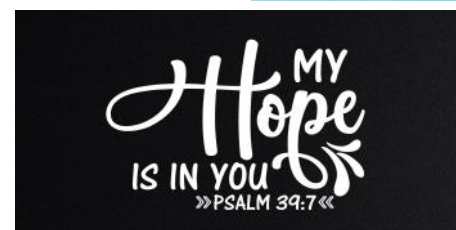
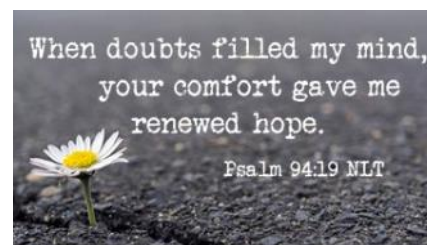
Give these a go—or start exploring and find some of your own!



"You give me strength and guide me right." Psalm 18:32

"God is our refuge and strength" Psalm 46:1

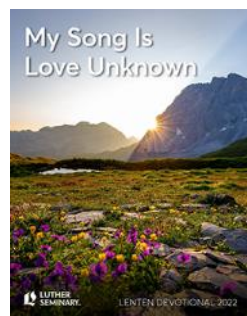
"Give thanks to the Lord, who is good; God's love endures forever." Psalm 107:1



More News

Lenten Practices

Looking for a spiritual practice or devotional for Lent? Here are a few different possibilities. If you have internet access, you can click on the provided links to access the resources. If you are reading this in print and have not already gotten these materials, please call the office to have one sent to you.



Luther Seminary Devotional

A daily devotional for the season of Lent. This year's is entitled "My Song is Love Unknown". Download for a traditional daily devotion.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/>

Lent Photo a Day

If you prefer a more creative spiritual discipline, and find yourself on Facebook, join us in



"Following Jesus" Lent Photo a Day 2022. Each day there is word to center your day around. Find something in your day that reminds or helps you focus on that word and post it to social media. To check it out on Facebook click this link.

<https://www.facebook.com/LENTPHOTOADAY/> To download the PDF devotional click [HERE](#).

Anatomy of the Soul—Reflect on the Psalms this Lent

Fitting in with our theme of praying the Psalms, the RCA has put together a wonderful devotional for Lent 2022 written by their chaplains. Meditating on the Psalms is a fitting way to move through Lent, a season when we ponder our humanity, grieve our sinfulness, and give thanks for Christ's gift.



Each entry in this Lent devotional series includes:

- ♦ A Psalm to read and a featured excerpt from the Psalm.
- ♦ A personal devotion that reflects on the Psalm.
- ♦ A prayer that reflects the theme of the devotion.

Download a PDF of this devotional [HERE](#).

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.

Download our Praying in Color Lenten Template [HERE](#)

To find out more about Praying in Color and see other templates, visit <https://prayingincolor.com/tag/lent>

This is Pastor Rhonda's Lenten Prayer from last year—she simply chose a name from our directory and prayed using that name.



Opportunities



Building Beloved Community

South Minneapolis Day Camp

South Minneapolis Day Camp will be IN PERSON this summer! Yay!


Mark your calendars for **June 27 - 30, Monday - Thursday**, from 9am - 4pm, plus an **evening family celebration on Thursday, June 30**.

Who can come? Day Camp is for anyone entering **kindergarteners through middle schoolers**. And, we invite **high schoolers to serve as leaders** during the week (we do offer a stipend!)

Watch for our registration website to be up and running soon!

Voices 2022!

First Christian is excited to announce that their **VOICES: Addressing Issues That Affect the Church and Wider Community** series is back for 2022 as a virtual speaker series, beginning March 28. Below you can see the first 4 of 8 virtual events and if you want to learn more check out their website: www.fccminneapolis.org/voices.



 <p>Rev. Luther Young MARCH 28, 2022 - 7 PM Moderator, Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance Panel Discussion: LGBTQ+ Issues from Black & Hispanic Perspectives</p>	 <p>Sheletta Brundidge APRIL 25, 2022 - 7 PM WCCO Radio, Podcaster Autism & Health Care Disparities</p>
 <p>Julia Dinsmore MAY 23, 2022 - 7 PM Author "My Name Is Not Those People", Activist How Classism Affects Us</p>	 <p>STREET VOICES OF CHANGE Street Voices of Change JUNE 27 - 7 PM Building community and creating spaces that honor the experiences of homelessness</p>

Sunday School

Kids Invited!


Since we are not quite ready to meet together in the Squiggle Space for joint Sunday School—we will continue to meet for Online Storytime from the Squiggle Space!

All kids are invited to join in our Zoom call on Sunday mornings! The Zoom call opens at 9:20 am, and we start at 9:30 with our Gathering Time - talking about our blessings and what we're grateful for until about 9:40 am. Then it's **STORY TIME FROM THE SQUIGGLE SPACE!!!**

We will have someone reading a children's story to you - a different story and reader each week. After the story, there will be an activity that everyone can do together. How fun is that?

AND—we finally have a YouTube channel just for our Stories—so you can access them at any time. Watch for the details to access this channel to come in the next couple of weeks. Currently Pastor Rhonda is working on getting all the stories since October edited and uploaded so you can access them!

Questions? Talk with Pastor Rhonda or Deb - or both! The Zoom link is emailed to families each week, usually on Saturday. If you are not getting the email or if you want to be added to our list of Child Ministries families, please email Deb (deb.murphy@fccmpls.org) or Pastor Rhonda.





Youth Minister Search

We are entering the search for a new Youth Minister and hope to have applicants soon!

More News

Council Corner

Highlights from the February Meeting:

- ♦ Officers were appointed after the annual meeting. Barb Livdahl continues as president and Paul Wharton continues as VP. Shannon Fast - treasurer and Kathy Sievwright - secretary.
- ♦ SpringHouse Board reps: Michelle Madsen continues as secretary and Diann Uzelac will be the new Salem Co-Chair. An open "at large" position, will have it filled soon.
- ♦ The FP&NP Cohort continues to meet and are working on a "listening" project for summer. The entire congregation can look forward to being part of this project.
- ♦ Giving seems to be on track for the first month of the year. Discussion was had about new signers being added to bank accounts.



**"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

Donate Your Empty Egg Cartons

Just bring them along when you have the opportunity to worship in person and put them in the box next to the information table. Cartons will be re-used by CES (Community Emergency Services) and/or other food shelves to re-package eggs they receive in much larger boxes. 12 or 18 count cartons are OK; cardboard or Styrofoam OK. Please direct any questions to Diann Uzelac.



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!

Sundays

- 9:30 am Salem Worship In Person and on YouTube
- 9:30 am Story Time from the Squiggle Space on Zoom
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour in the Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm EcoFaith Lenten Series on Zoom (March 6-April 10)

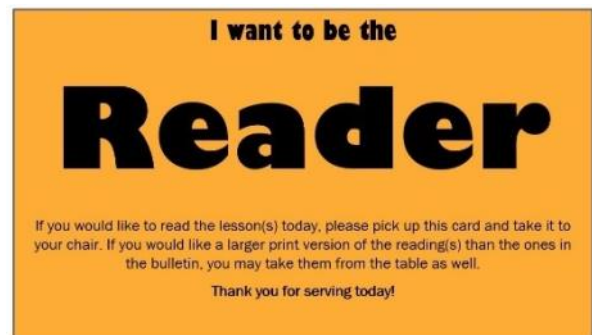
Tuesday

- 8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday

- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services via Zoom (March 2-April 6)

See page 2 for Holy Week Service information



Help Out at Worship!

If you would like to read the scripture during worship, and are attending in person, please pick up the reader card when you come in. We are excited to have people participate again!

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.

Matt Potts - 3/4

Matt Giinther - 3/31

David Seiffert - 3/7

Linda Hanson - 3/31

Sarah Sinderbrand - 3/8

Elaine Reed - 4/18

Bettie Buzzell - 3/20

Luke Pena - 4/21

Bob Hlavinka - 3/28



610 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

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(R.L.C.) Congregation
We are a Spirit-led, welcoming, and bold
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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:	Traditional Music	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

Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced smoo tattooed plain rich poor short tall average fat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender slow quick employed free lance not working retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter homeless ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog innocent guilty aggressive passive no confrontational peace maker 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 transgender quick employed free lance not working retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter ho ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog in Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced smoo tattooed plain rich poor short tall average fat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender slow quick employed free lance not working retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter homeless ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog innocent guilty aggressive passive no confrontational peace maker 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 transgender quick employed free lance not working retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter ho ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog in