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Salem English Lutheran Church

September-October 2022

It's the Little Things



Sometimes it's the little things. No. It's not sometimes, I am coming to believe that it's the little things all the time. I mean, no big things happen without a series of little things lining up right?

If you've attended worship in person over the last couple of months, you will know that one of the issues we have run into is disposal of the communion cups we are using. Before COVID, we never used them, but in a "post-Covid" church, we do. The problem is that every week we find a waste basket to put them in and when time comes for communion the following week, we are inevitably looking around for the missing waste basket. So someone goes into the hall or room next door and brings one in and we start the whole cycle over again. I mean, in the whole scheme of things, it is probably chuckle worthy, but practically speaking, it's a disruption that has not yet made it into the "before worship to do list" because the list is already full.

Well, last week I was reminded it's the little things. Kari, one of our faithful members, came into the sanctuary before worship and placed a nice white waste basket (with a liner) by the communion table. After worship she came up to me and told me that it was her mother's waste basket...one that she barely used...and that she would love it to be here in her memory. Then we both had a good chuckle and I said, "It's the little things, isn't it?" Then, somewhat jesting, I told her I would put a memorial plate (which we don't normally do) on it so nobody takes it during the week...and we laughed some more. But as she was leaving, I stopped her and said,

"Wait. Can you write down her name."

Following worship I went to my office and created a little label with her mom's initials (she always used her initials—MAS) and put it on the basket and gave it pride of place by the communion table. I am so excited that we won't be looking for a waste basket as people are communing on Sundays anymore...but I'm also glad that Kari, and the rest of us, will be reminded of her mom when we join each

other at the meal. It's the little things.

Many of you knew Helen, who passed away in July. I knew her, but I had never met her in person...she preferred e-mail communication. Helen and Gordon had stopped coming to church before I was called to Salem because of issues



with hearing. While they stayed members, they just couldn't join us in worship. Then Covid hit and we all had to pivot and Scott, our head tech guru, finally got me live-streaming (it had been his goal for a while). It was revolutionary for everyone in that time of isolation. But for Helen and her husband, who hadn't been to worship in years because of the sound in our space, it was life altering. "You see", she wrote, "we couldn't participate in person or on Zoom because of our hearing. But on YouTube we can. Taking communion with you and the musicians on Sunday morning feels like coming home." It's the little things. Hitting a live stream button on a camera or phone isn't a big deal. I mean, you can make it a big deal by adding more complex equipment etc.—but at its base, it's not a big thing...it's a little thing.

The reality is that we don't ever know when the little things will add up and big things will happen. We recently got a card in the mail from Helen's family with a note (one of many little notes, I'm sure) and a generous memorial gift that will help us continue to do the work of community that we are doing.

It really is the little things. Over coffee with our FP&NP director Nick, we talked about the neighboring practices we are trying to cultivate and how none of them are big things. Saying hello, listening, inviting, being present, getting out into the neighborhood...all little things...but little things that add up and you never know when they will turn into big things.

Where is God showing up in the little things for you these days? For me, it was in a waste basket and a note from Helen's family.

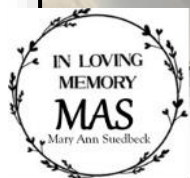
In Hope...Pastor Rhonda

Join us for Book Club in October!

**BOOK
CLUB**

An Altar in the World

"Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars." -Barbara Brown Taylor



Salem News

Worship at Salem

What a great summer of worship! Worship in the park every month was a highlight of the summer—thank you for making it so wonderful!

Two wonderful preaching series: *Building Communities of Resistance* and *The Gospel According to Peanuts* gave us two radically different ways to filter the gospel message and our call to be church.

We also have been getting to know pieces of the new expansive language liturgy and have found it to be lovely. We will continue to learn more in the months to come.

As fall hits we will head back into the narrative lectionary—the year of Matthew. However you are able to join us, we love to have you with us!

Charles Schulz had a way of infusing his faith into his comics. He also couldn't help show his hometown pride every so often!



WORD OF THE DAY

stewardship

noun [stoo-erd-ship, styoo-]

the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.

Stewardship

Thank you all for your giving. From our musicians who offer their incredible talent to our streaming team, the gifts make a difference. From the checks that come in the mail that fulfill a pledge or offer a special gift in honor of something important to the regular giving that happens all online, the gifts make a difference. From tying a blanket or packing a meal to reading a lesson or attending a council meeting, your gifts make a difference. Your gifts make a difference, and our community is grateful.

October is the month we traditionally focus on our all-year stewardship and look ahead to our next year of ministry. This year we want you to be ready to talk about giving and connecting and what those things mean for you. We want you to be able to tell us about the times that Salem, your faith community, has met you where you were? Where do you see God showing in our work together?

Watch for some exiting things coming in the next month to remind us of our call to giving, connecting, and the gospel work of faith and neighboring.

Council Corner

Highlights from the September Meeting:

- ◆ Treasurer: YTD was behind budget when council met in August, but fulfilled pledges brought finances back "into the black" later in the month.
- ◆ Recapped National Night Out/Night to Unite with our Garfield neighbors hearing about their love for the neighborhood and the stories they shared.
- ◆ Our Stewardship Team is planning for a congregational focus throughout October.
- ◆ Pr. Rhonda and Tom Pieper are working on how to move forward with the pianist position following Kent's departure. Guest musicians will be scheduled for the interim. The executive committee will be assembled to talk about pay rates for musicians that have changed quite a bit in the past several years.
- ◆ Lyndale has welcomed their interim pastor and Pastor Rebecca has returned from sabbatical.
- ◆ Minutes from September's meeting are forthcoming and will be available via the e-blast or request when are available.



More News

Congregational Reformation Feast



**Here We Stand
...let's Eat!**

It's time to reconnect! While we have been worshiping in person all summer, it's been hard to get everyone together due to adventures, travel, and all of the things we try to fit in to those summer months. So as fall rolls in, it's time to plan a congregational event to gather us...and what better event than a meal and what better day than Reformation Sunday?

Join us on **Sunday October 30 at 11:30 am** for a time of fellowship, food, reconnecting, and celebration as we gather for a congregational meal. Don't worry about preparing a dish, our lunch will be catered so that we can simply enjoy each others company.

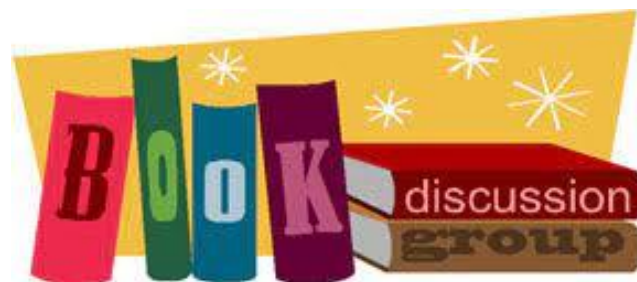
Watch the eblast and your mailbox for a detailed invitation and way to RSVP coming your way soon! We can't wait to get together!



NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Narrative Lectionary Scripture Calendar

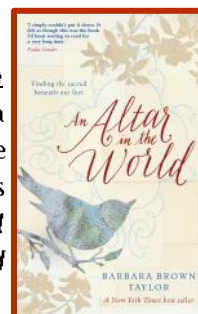
9/25 Flood and Promise - Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17
 10/2: Call of Abraham - Genesis 12:1-9
 10/9: Joseph in Prison-Genesis 39:1-23
 10/16: Rescue at Sea - Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29
 10/23: Covenants & Commandments - Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17
 10/30: REFORMATION Sunday-Wear **RED** (Stay for lunch!)
 11/6: Joshua Renews the Covenant - Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26]
 11/13: David & Bathsheba-2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9
 11/20: Solomon's Wisdom-1 Kings 3:4-9, (10-15), 16-28



Fall Book Club Starting in October!

After a break for summer, it's time to gather again for some of the great discussion we love. Notice we are not calling it book "study" anymore-this is simply a chance to join in reading and discussing a book that delves into the Bible or a topic relevant to where we are...as well as a chance for some meaningful fellowship.

This fall we will dive into **An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith** by Barbara Brown Taylor. This book fits nicely with the work our FP&NP team is doing and allows us to join in that work through the *spiritual practice of being present in daily living and finding church outside our walls*.



The official blurb from publisher Harper Collins: *Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life. In An Altar in the World, Taylor shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go and in nearly everything we do as we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.*

Join Us!

**Sundays on Zoom at 4 pm
October 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13**

Get a Copy of **An Altar in the World** at:
[Magers & Quinn Bookseller \(local\)](#) paperback
[Barnes & Noble](#) paperback or e-book
[Amazon](#) paperback or e-book
Or YOUR favorite bookseller!

If you are reading the online version, right click on the link to order. If you find you need help getting a copy, contact Pastor Rhonda ASAP.



"Whoever you are, you are human.
 Wherever you are, you live in the world,
 which is just waiting for you
 to notice the holiness in it."

Faith Practices... And Neighboring Practices

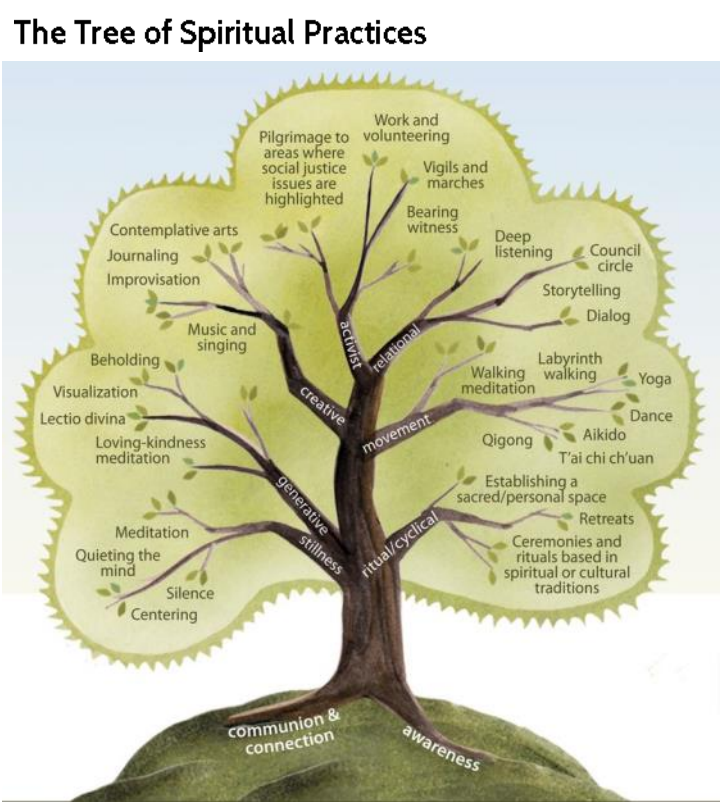


FP&NP Practices, Listening, Neighboring Together
Our FP&NP team will be attending their big fall retreat this weekend and are excited about the direction they are headed. As they are working on the entire congregation's behalf this weekend, they leave you a couple things to chew on.

FP&NP Culture Moment
As we step outside the walls of our congregations and engage with neighbors from a variety of backgrounds, it's essential that we take the time to understand our own culture and the ways that culture influences our interactions. We are hoping to build in our neighborhoods and communities a sense of mutual trust – but trust-building looks different across cultures.
Many Western cultures assume a certain level of external trust and build trust through the execution of tasks – you say you will do something, then you do it, and I begin to trust you. But many non-Western cultures have a lower level of external trust and build trust relationally. This means that trust is built through time spent together and genuine connection.
When we take that step into the neighborhood can we be conscious of our own culture of trust-building and strive to meet others where they are? Take some time today to reflect on how you show others that you are trustworthy and how others have shown that to you. Have you assumed that this is how trust is built everywhere? What would you focus on if you are connecting with someone from a non-Western culture?



**Spiritual Practices and Neighboring:
How They Fit Together**
Corporate and individual faith practices will train our eyes to see where God is *already* at work in the community. *Faith practices and neighboring practices are two sides of one coin.* Prayer, worship, and contemplative reflection attune our hearts to God's presence in all things. Encountering our neighbor, offering and receiving hospitality, and listening without agenda will reveal to us God's presence and activity outside the walls of our church, and will reveal to us the prayers that we may offer.
What are your spiritual practices? Can you name them? If you don't think you have any, take a look at the graphic below and see how many of them resonate with you. What are the corporate spiritual practices we do together as church? Are there practices we could do as part of our weekly gathering?
How will we ensure that we, as individuals and as a faith community, are supporting and encouraging one another in prayer, studying God's Word, and worship?



Reaching Out...



God's Work. Our Hands.

What a wonderful annual tradition we were able to participate in on Sunday September 11. God's Work - Our Hands Sunday has become a wonderful day of worship, service, advocacy, and fellowship. This year we took part in 3 projects for Lutheran Social Services organizations (Camp Noah and Senior Services), wrote letters of thanks for ELCA Advocacy to our elected officials, and wrote cards to members of Salem we haven't seen in person lately.

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who came to help and all those who have already donated to offset the cost of our projects. If you would still like to donate to defer the cost, we have a goal of \$500—of which we have raised about half. See the eblast for details about giving electronically or simply label your donation "God's Work. Our Hands."



LSS Senior Services

Thanks to Lucas & his parents (Nick & Maria), we packed 75 shelf stable Blizzard Meals to be delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients in case of bad weather or illness.



ELCA Advocacy

Along with Emma, several of us wrote thank you notes to our elected leaders for their service.



Tie Blankets for Camp Noah

Ingrid, Josh, & Axel finished our 11th blanket for Camp Noah.



Camp Noah is a camp for kids in communities that have been impacted by disaster. During Camp Noah, a team of certified camp staff accompany campers through a resiliency building curriculum that enables children to process their disaster and trauma experiences. Since 1997, Camp Noah has served in 21 states and Puerto Rico.



Birthday Cards for Camp Noah

We decorated, colored, and wrote out cards for kids at Camp Noah.

Children and Youth News

Sunday School



Exciting things are coming to the Squiggle Space in October!

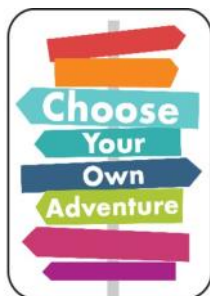
Join us October 9 for our first week of

U Pick Sunday School!
Sundays 9:20 am–10:15 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Squiggle Space will be open Sundays from 9:20- 10:15 am for all SpringHouse children to come and make their own adventure out of Sunday School. There will be lots of options each week and children will be able to choose which ones they do. Some of the activities that will be offered on any given week include:

- ◆ Short videos with big lessons
- ◆ Crafts
- ◆ Storybooks
- ◆ Art–coloring/painting/ sculpting
- ◆ Games (like Bible Bingo)
- ◆ Yoga/Movement
- ◆ Play Doh
- ◆ Storytelling–kids get to tell the stories



We will be offering this time on Zoom as well, for those who cannot be here in person, Watch for details to come!

With 2 kids or 12, this relational based model of gathering our youngest members is bound to be fun for everyone!

Calling Adult Volunteers!

Do you have gifts with kids? Do you have an hour on Sunday morning to spare once in a while? Then we want you to be part of our SpringHouse Sunday School program!

We are looking for adults willing to engage with our kids as they choose their own adventures Sunday mornings.

Each week a theme and different activities will be planned and the adult volunteer is responsible for setting up activities and then supervising and participating in those activities with our kids. Training will be provided! Contact Deb Murphy or Pastor Rhonda for more details!

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS NEEDED!



SpringHouse News

SpringHouse Board Update

The SpringHouse Board met on Sunday, August 21, following the joint SH outdoor worship at Minnehaha Park. Highlights from the meeting are as follows:

- ◆ Treasurer Andy Rennert submitted the profit-loss figures for January through July. Expenses are not as high as expected; only 80% of the year-to-date budget has been spent.
- ◆ The Building Coordinator and the Youth Minister positions have been posted, but no interviews have been held yet.
- ◆ Mike Cackoski presented three Building Committee documents that outlined emergency response actions, preferred vendor lists and purchasing policy.
- ◆ Effort is underway to address the “fob” issue, with many SH people needing fobs and many fobs not working properly.
- ◆ The Board discussed the needs and issues for developing online document storage for all SH minutes, policies, etc.
- ◆ The Board decided on action steps to be taken to deal with misuse of SpringHouse parking spaces.

SpringHouse Ministry Center

Service Opportunity

Senior Community Services (SCS) is a 73 year old non-profit service company in Hennepin County which helps seniors stay in their homes. SCS is seeking people to volunteer or make extra money providing light level house cleaning or lawn care service.

Lawn care offers flexible scheduling and pays \$18 per hour. Must be 16 or older, provide own transportation and lawnmower, and be available through October.

Housekeeping is part time, flexible hours between 8 am and 5 pm, and pays \$17 per hour. Must have cleaning experience and own transportation, may use customer's vacuum cleaner and cleaning supplies.

For questions or more information, contact Harley Hopkins at 952-767-7886 or hopkins@seniorcommunity.org



Senior Community Services

More News

You're Invited! Football Fellowship

November 6 at 12 pm

LynLake Brewery

Though located in the heart of Minneapolis, Salem is home to a surprising number of



Green Bay Packers fans. You're invited to join a few of them at LynLake Brewery (which has declared itself a pro-Packers establishment) on Sunday, November 6 to watch the 12 PM Packers game! *All are welcome - even if you like*

the Vikings or don't care about football! No RSVP required, but you can contact Michelle Ruppert Madsen or Diann Uzelac to say you plan to attend or ask questions. (LynLake Brewery: 2934 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis)

*Note: Salem, as a church entity remains neutral and does not endorse the Packers but COMPLETELY endorses Football Fellowship. Pastor Rhonda backs Football Fellowship of ANY kind 100% and yet reserves the right to say.



Eggs-cellent! Eggs-cellent!

This year we have collected empty egg cartons to be re-used by CES (Community Emergency Services) and/or other food shelves to re-package eggs they receive in much larger boxes. Diann Uzelac has spearheaded this project, and she received an email from the volunteers from the Calvary Lutheran (39th & Chicago) saying that they needed egg cartons for 30 dozen eggs. They were expecting a bulk delivery the next day. Salem's gathering project meant that she had 24+ containers to drop off! We are making a difference in our community. Please keep them coming! 12 or 18 count cartons are OK; cardboard or Styrofoam OK. Please direct any questions to Diann. THANKS!!



Calendar

While we work toward a more normal schedule, we are still using the calendar to highlight 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
9:20 am Sunday School activities in Squiggle Space
10:30 am Coffee Hour in the Sanctuary
4:00 pm Book Club on Zoom 10/9 through 11/13

Tuesday

8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

Plan ahead to Fall Back on November 6!



Reminder: Daylight Saving Time Ends in November! Clocks FALL BACK in the wee hours of the morning on November 6.

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.

Tom Pieper – 9/7	Antone Melton-Meaux – 10/11
Doralyn Dibble – 9/8	Maria Thieling – 10/15
Susie Anderson – 9/9	Clark Hlavinka – 10/23
Jasper Hanke – 9/22	Diann Uzelac – 10/26
Donna Greene – 9/27	Naomi Nelson – 10/29
Jack Hlavinka – 10/4	Paul Varns – 10/29
Jan Olson – 10/6	
Cassie Sievwright – 10/9	
Jon Hanke – 10/10	





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