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Salem English Lutheran Church

November-December 2022

Waiting...It Takes Practice



We don't like to wait...for anything. Let's face it, we are not good at waiting...for anything. We live in a world of instant gratification with electronic messaging that allows us to follow the world in real time from pretty much anywhere. The internet, social media, computers in our pockets...they eliminate the need to wait. We can pull out our phone and virtually get in line for everything from dinner to rides at Disney World. My kids don't even really understand

commercials that interrupt your entertainment because they have always lived in a home with a DVR—making commercials something to fast forward through. No, we don't like to wait and we are not really good at it either.

Holly W. Whitcomb, a United Church of Christ minister, in her book *Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting*, writes,

"The season of Advent, more than any other time of the church year, invites us to embrace the spiritual discipline of waiting. The season of Advent will not be rushed. The Advent carols must be sung, the Advent candles must be lighted week by week, and the doors of the Advent Calendar must be opened day by day. Christmas will finally come when all the expectant Scriptures have been read and when the baby has finally been born."

I love the season of Advent because in the midst of a world that is rushing around trying to get the cookies baked, gifts bought, concerts attended, parties pulled off, and all the other things done, this season forms a backdrop of calm and waiting. It's as if, while the world is frantically running around, there is this serene season calling to us, quietly reminding us, to stop and remember what all the running around is supposed to be about.

This is why I love Advent midweek worship. In this season, I need a reminder to stop, take a breath, and remember why. Our Wednesday Holden services are one way we practice waiting. We intentionally set aside time, even when we are busy, to gather and listen, watch, and wait.

Practice. I just reminded my son that when he is learning anything, the only way he will get better is by practicing. Hmmm...practice. Advent is a season of waiting, but since waiting

is not always our forte, maybe Advent calls out to be a season of practice. But practice how...and what exactly?

I'm glad you asked. Spiritual practices are any "regular and intentional activities you do to deepen your relationships with the sacred and the world around you." Advent is the perfect time to focus on the things we do to live into our identity as beloved people of God. It can be a time to focus on practices specifically around "waiting", but also any of the practices that slow us down and focus us on the Holy.

Conveniently, our Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices team has been learning about and working at spiritual practices for 18 months now and as the rhythm of our congregational life seems to take a more regular shape, we are imagining ways to bring these practices to you. Advent seems to call for precisely this.

Join us for the season of Advent, of waiting, of practice. During worship, in our e-blasts, Facebook posts, and any other ways we can think of, we will be talking about spiritual practices - ones you are already doing (I'm excited to hear about these) and ones that may be new and even surprising. We will be practicing some together and hopefully you will find time and space to practice one or more on your own throughout the season.

Advent is a season of waiting, watching, deep breaths, and hope. But in the world we live in, these things are counter-cultural and sometimes seem strange to us...and so we must practice and learn and practice some more. Join us as we set out to do some of this practicing together in the weeks ahead.

Advent Blessings...Pastor Rhonda

Poinsettias

Salem will be offering poinsettias again this year, to beautify the Christmas worship space, and/or for you to pick up and enjoy at home. Each 14" diameter plant costs \$12, and you may designate your plant in honor or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to order a red or white poinsettia, please contact Laurie in the church office at 612-872-4650 or office@discoversalem.org. You may also use the Google Form link below (right click) –or click the link in the e-blast. When you order, please let us know if you would like to pick your plant up before or after Christmas. **Orders are due by THIS Sunday November 20!**

[Poinsettia Order Form - Click HERE!](#)



More News



ELCA Good Gifts

Stumped for a Christmas gift for a relative or friend? Just want to do some good in the world during this holy season? Consider the ELCA's Good Gifts program! From chicks and goats to fruit trees to mosquito nets or school fees, this program provides support that makes big impacts in communities around the world. You can donate directly through their website, <https://goodgifts.elca.org>, or send your gift to the church office, made out to Salem and noted for ELCA Good Gifts. Be part of solutions around the world!

Council Corner

Highlights from the November Meeting:

- ◆ Treasurer: YTD we will likely end the year at less of a deficit than projected. The 2023 budgeting process has begun.
- ◆ First "post"-COVID sanctuary switch will be the first week of January to begin the season of Epiphany.
- ◆ Stewardship season is underway and we will be celebrating our commitments and our stories on Sunday Nov 27.
- ◆ Plans for Advent & Christmas worship/events were discussed.
- ◆ The SpringHouse proposed 2023 budget was discussed and revisions will be sent to the SH board for action.
- ◆ Annual meeting date was set for January 29

Full minutes will be available via the e-blast as soon as they are available.



Congratulations and Godspeed!



Congratulations Carl and Emma!

If you happened to be in worship on November 13, you were lucky enough to be part of **Carl and Emma's pop-up wedding!** It's a great story that starts with a new job, a move to Colorado, a wedding planned for next April...and Sunday after the postlude had everyone sitting back down for a short ring blessing and signing of the certificate, allowing them to make the big move at the end of the month officially married. Thank you all for being part of this special moment.



Godspeed Carl & Emma!

Emma has accepted a position at Western Colorado University in her chosen field, working in their library with student literacy. Yay! This means they will be heading west at the end of the month.

Join us on Sunday November 27 as we send Carl and Emma off on the next leg of their adventure with prayer, blessing...and cake! (It wouldn't be a Lutheran send-off without cake.) Come and offer your blessings and let's say farewell with as much joy as they have brought to us over the past few years!

Blessing of Farewell and Godspeed
 Sunday November 27
 Celebration Coffee Hour afterwards!



Faith Practices... And Neighboring Practices



FP&NP—It's the Meaningful Little Things

Our FP&NP team has been hard at work trying to figure out how to take all the amazing things they have been learning and bring it to all of you. Learning to listen, asking meaningful questions, and discovering and putting into practice some of the spiritual practices we have explored is bringing us to a better understanding that being church is about deep meaningful things rather than big or grand things. We are looking forward to bringing some of these spiritual practices to you during Advent...a natural time in the church year for contemplation and prayer. Keep watching for ways the team is working to bring their learning to you!

FP&NP Culture Moment

"Privilege" can be a scary word in dominant culture settings, especially in 2022. At the same time, it is often a buzzword when we put the word "white" in front of it. The dictionary defines privilege as "a special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group."

When we discuss privilege, it is important to remember that while the instinct is to move toward race and ethnicity, there are other privileges that exist that may not be afforded to you or people you may know. Economic and class privilege are also very prevalent in American society. There are things that people are able to do, see, participate in, and buy because of their socio-economic status. The privilege of physical ability is also one that is prevalent. People with disabilities and special needs communities do not have the privileges able-bodied people have.

There are many facets to privilege in modern society, and while they are not always discussed, they are still there. In thinking about this...

- ◆ In what ways does privilege show up for you?
- ◆ How can you think about your privileges (or lack thereof) outside of race?
- ◆ What can you do to put those thoughts and reflections into actions?

spiritual practice

Spiritual practices are **any** regular and intentional activities you do to deepen your relationships with the sacred and the world around you.

Spiritual Practices in Ordinary Moments:

Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices team member Anna Bliss, member of FCC, shares one of her spiritual practices...it has helped carry her and has inspired so many others.

May 2022



I went for a walk in my neighborhood, listening to the songs of the day from birds seen, unseen, recognized, and not. I passed splashes of tulips in gardens and lawns - some fiercely protected from creatures who might dine upon them. A brontosaurus gazed at me from a wooden plinth.

I started walking to get out of the house and move in the early days of the pandemic. It has become more than just walking - it quiets the noise in my head; puts me back into the workings of my body and its breath; and allows me to focus on the here and now, the beauty and the serendipity and the gloriousness of the world. It can sometimes take a few blocks before I notice my pace and my breath, slowing down so I can notice what surrounds me. Each step can then become meditation and prayer. My rules for walking are simple:

- Put on a pair of comfortable shoes
- Dress for the weather
- Leave the house
- Walk
- Don't follow yesterday's path
- Turn when you feel called to
- Listen to your surroundings, not your headphones
- Pay attention
- Watch, see, smell
- Turn again, meander
- Observe and appreciate
- When you feel like you are about halfway there
- Turn and head towards home

- Anna

Stewardship...

Salem Stories

The stories we tell about being church are important because they remind us of our history, inform who we are today, and help shape our future. We have asked each of you to share your stories about times when Salem met you where you were or when you experienced/witnessed the church showing up for others. Our hope is to share some of these stories in the weeks and months ahead.



Your Stories are Our Stories

From Michelle Ruppert Madsen

Many churches that I have visited over the years focused on young married couples and families with children. It seemed to be “target audience” if you will. In many ways that is wonderful, and at the same time as a single person who had aged out of youth group, it was sometimes difficult to envision where I would belong in those communities. When I started going to Salem, I was welcomed with the same warmth and interest as any new visitor. Regardless of my identity, I not only felt seen and invited to participate, but I also saw people of all ages, partner statuses, and family statuses being in community with one another. The whole community led by example in this way. I feel assured that the rest of the congregation will continue to see and engage me regardless of where I’m at with family status or age at any given point in my life.



Commit to 2023

First—Thank you! We always begin with gratitude. Then, as we prepare for another year of ministry, we are asking you to make your commitments known to us. There is no way around the fact that it has been a difficult year for everyone...and the church has not escaped. Without SpringHouse being open for income, our congregational shares have made finances even tighter than expected and will continue to do so into next year. **The good news** is that the building is opening and we are optimistic that increasing SpringHouse income will relieve some of the stress on congregations. **Even better news** is that Salem’s generosity has brought us to the end of another year projecting the year end financials to be better than budgeted. While we will still live into our deficit budget, it will likely be by much less than expected. **This is all good news** in a world leaving financial realities for most congregations uncertain.

SpringHouse will bounce back AND Salem is taking seriously the question of what it means to “be church” in 2023...intentionally working toward being better at neighboring, growing our network of people/partners, and meeting people where they are - showing them what being part of our community is like. The future is bright because the church has something people are longing for...acceptance, love, and a willingness to meet them where they are.

If you have not completed your pledge form for 2023, please do so now using the [Google Form](#). the link in the e-blast, or call the office for a paper form. We will gather and celebrate pledges and stories on Sunday November 27. Thank You!



Meeting Our Neighbors - The Intersection of Loss & Grief

Late last Spring pastor Rhonda received a call from a friend of a SpringHouse colleague. Her father had passed away and their home church was not returning their calls. Because they were Lutheran, her friend referred her to Salem. Broken-hearted by loss and by the non-response of their church, she asked if Salem would be willing to open and host a memorial service. Salem didn’t hesitate to say yes and work with SH to make it happen. Pastor Rhonda coordinated with the family, planned and presided over the service, and it was a wonderful time of grace for a family Salem didn’t know. Salem met them where they were, at the intersection of the loss of a loved one and the grief of not being able to plan a service because no one would answer their call.

This is not a story about how amazing Salem is, it’s about how simple it can be to live out the gospel with our neighbors. Neighboring, stewardship, gospel work is about listening and being open to action when an opportunity arises...it’s little things that meet people where they are.

Children and Youth News



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

The Squiggle Space is open Sundays from 9:20- 10:15 am for all SpringHouse children to come and make their own adventure out of Sunday School. Choose from different activities each week and even help decide what activities are offered. 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 fun for everyone!

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS NEEDED!



We Need YOU!

We are looking for adults willing to engage with our kids as they choose their own adventures Sunday mornings. Volunteers are responsible for setting up activities, starting the Zoom call, and then doing activities with kids. Contact Pastor Rhonda if you might be interested.



Meet Allison, Our New Building Coordinator

Hello, SpringHouse community! My name is Allison and I'm the new building coordinator. I came to SpringHouse because I take a strong interest in interreligious work, spiritually grounded activism, and the arts. I'm very excited to help coordinate all of the vital community programming that happens here. When I'm not working at SpringHouse, you can find me working the lobby desk at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (come say hi!), creating art of all kinds, and spoiling my cat.


Please contact Allison for any building needs you may have—including reserving rooms or spaces for meetings!

You can reach her at the main SpringHouse phone number, 612-353-6292, or by email at Allison.Jones@fccmpls.org, or for space reservations, shcoordinator@fccmpls.org.

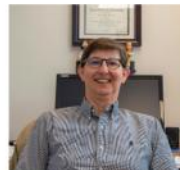
SpringHouse News

Don't Miss this Speaker–Voices 2022!

First Christian is excited to announce that their next **VOICES: Addressing Issues That Affect the Church and Wider Community** event is November 28. This as a virtual speaker series so anyone can participate. Go to the FCC website to REGISTER today!



Settler Colonialism, the Impact on Native Peoples, and Working to Restore Right Relations



Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnett
 Assistant Professor of American Religious History
 Phillips Theological Seminary

Mon. Nov. 28, 2022, 7:00 - 8:30 PM on Zoom
 To learn more and register:
www.fccminneapolis.org/voices

Underwritten by The Wholeness Fund of FCC Minneapolis

SpringHouse Board Update

The SpringHouse Board met on Sunday, November 13. Highlights from the meeting are as follows:

- ◆ Welcome! New Building Coordinator Allison Jones and Pastor Joann Conroy, Lyndale's Interim Pastor of Congregational Life, were officially introduced and welcomed!
- ◆ Treasurer Andy Rennert brought the proposed 2023 SpringHouse budget to the board for consideration. After detailed discussion, the board approved the budget for individual congregation consideration.
- ◆ Treasurer Andy Rennert gave the financial report, which is looking favorable through October.
- ◆ "Fob" issues are still being addressed. We are waiting for a response from the software company to fix issues.
- ◆ Childcare needs were discussed. Currently, FCC is the only congregation in need and will be procuring childcare for their worship time. If more needs arise, SH will coordinate with FCC and its provider in the process.
- ◆ Meetings were set for the next year. **The annual meeting will take place on Sunday January 29.**

More News

Salem's Chili Cook-Off is BACK!

Pull out YOUR recipes and mark your calendars TODAY to make sure not to miss out on this annual tradition making its big comeback! We will gather on Superbowl Sunday (don't worry—long before the big game) for our own pre-game celebration!



Sunday February 12
11 am
(after worship)

Watch for details to come about...

Entering YOUR Chili, donating fixings, sides, desserts and helping with setup/cleanup

Living Lutheran Magazine

It is time again to update Salem's subscription list for *Living Lutheran* magazine! This dynamic publication has lots of information about what's going on in the larger Lutheran community, as well as other features about our Christian life together. If you'd like to see what it's all about, you can take a look at the church's copy in the library area of the sun room. Please see the bulletin insert and subscription list at church during December for more information about subscriptions and plan to update your information and donate to defray the cost of your subscription if you are able. [You can also sign up or donate through this online form.](#) For 2023, the total cost is still only \$9 for each subscription. You may call the church office (612-872-4650) if you'd like to opt in or opt out of *Living Lutheran* magazine, or update your subscription information. Questions? Talk with Laurie in the office. Thank you!



We're Still Collecting 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

Our calendar highlights 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

Tuesday

8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesdays November 30-December 21

6:00 pm Light supper
6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer for Advent

Saturday December 24

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday January 1, 2023

9:30 am Worship at regular time!

Looking Ahead to Annual Meeting Sunday

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 29 when we will gather for the SpringHouse annual meeting and our own Salem annual meeting. Join us for worship, stay for lunch and the annual meetings! We hope most of you will be able to attend.

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.

Li Livdahl – 11/1	Emma Anderson – 12/4
James Anderson – 11/2	Nellie Anderson – 12/4
Emma Jorstad – 11/4	Shirley Bernu – 12/9
Terry Giinther – 11/5	Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka – 12/11
Lucas Johnson – 11/5	Jill Livdahl – 12/25
David Peña – 11/8	Corinn Sievwright – 12/26
Emma Schmidtke – 11/14	Quinn Livdahl – 12/29
Erica Doss – 11/16	
Josh Jorstad – 11/22	
Christy Henzler – 11/24	





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	Office:	revrhonda@discoversalem.org
Jazz Music:	Tom Pieper	Building Manager:	Rick Bowman	spiritj@msn.com	jamesb49@gmail.com
Building Coordinator:	Allison Jones	shcoordinator@fccmps.org			