

Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced small 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 non 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

May-June 2023



Practice, Practice, Practice...

I am always struck by the way this community welcomes visitors. We are a very small congregation and I imagine that walking in the door could be difficult for many because, let's face it, there is no real way to be anonymous. But over and over I have observed this community make a room that has only a small number of people in it feel simultaneously full and intimate. You have an uncanny way of welcoming people in a way that is warm and friendly

and yet not overwhelming or threatening. In fact, everyone in this congregation is so good at offering genuine welcome to visitors that I rarely even introduce myself until they are getting ready to leave. And it's not because I don't want to or even because I am an introvert, it's because you are so good at it that there is no reason to risk the possibility that meeting the pastor right when they walk through the door might be uncomfortable for them.

It strikes me that this gift of welcome, of listening, of making someone feel like they have belonged here all along, is not something that just happens. This gift that our community demonstrates is something that this community has cultivated over years of practice. For some it comes easily, for others it is not quite as natural...but everyone has learned to do it in a way that is very real.

Last week I was privileged to meet with the Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices first cohorts for the final retreat of our two year cycle. I am excited that we have come to this point and yet somewhat sad that we will not continue to be in community the same way we have been for two years. We will, however, continue to be part of the FP&NP community as a new two year cycle begins and we will continue to learn from each other. The reality is that you can't meet with people for two full years and then just go your separate ways...we will continue to practicing what we've learned together even though we are "officially" done.

Did you notice the name? Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices. Practice is right in the name. I will be honest, our team really didn't understand what we were doing or what was happening until about 9 or 10 months into our two years. Coming from a place where goals and objectives are important and where numbers are how we evaluate things, it took us a while to understand what we were doing. We were practicing.

At first we just practiced breathing and silence—because our world is not all that conducive to either. Then we practiced lectio divina—listening to scripture and prayer of all kinds. We practiced listening, storytelling, and listening to stories. We

practiced asking good questions and answering good questions. We practiced cultural competency, disrupting racism, and organizing. We practiced spiritual direction and being community. We practiced recognizing toxic charity, abundance, asset mapping, and dreaming. We practiced a lot of things.

We have already shared some of what we have practiced with you, but we are excited to do even more practicing in the months ahead. For we know what practice does right? I learned as a child that if I wanted to be good at something—the piano, painting, hitting homeruns, riding a bike, or being a friend—if I wanted to be good at something, I needed to practice.

I will not say that "practice makes perfect"...that's just not true. But perfect isn't what we are reaching for. Last Sunday the reach was to make a visitor feel welcomed and valued...and because of all the practicing this community has done, you did it masterfully.

We are going to be doing some practicing together in the months ahead. Practicing faith and practicing neighboring...and if some of it feels counter-cultural, I assure you it is. But it is also good. These practices are all based in exactly what I saw happen on Sunday in church...being present, paying attention, listening, holding space, and welcoming.

Practice has made you great at community and welcome. I look forward to practicing more of this with you.

—Pastor Rhonda



Breaking Out the Organ

That's right! Join us for worship on
Sunday, June 11
as we welcome a guest organist to lead us in worship. Don't miss a great opportunity to hear this beautiful instrument played.

Salem News

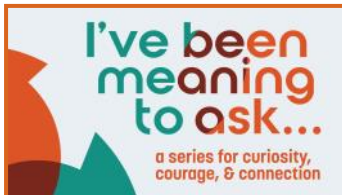


Pentecost Sunday

Make sure to wear **RED** and join us on Sunday May 28 for the celebration of Pentecost—the Birthday of the Church! Come and experience the breath of the Holy Spirit and celebrate being part of a church infused with that breath in all we do. **Don't forget to WEAR RED!**

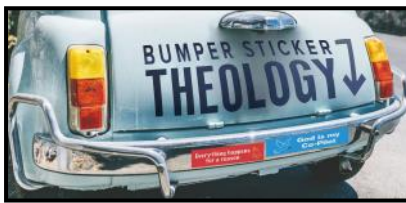
Summer Sermon Series

Buckle your seatbelts for summer, when the narrative lectionary takes a break so congregations can explore other things in worship. We have two different series coming our way starting in June!








I've Been Meaning to Ask

Some of the best conversations start with good questions—questions we've been meaning to ask, questions that keep us curious, and questions that lead us deeper into courage and connection. This worship series will be crafted around four guiding questions: "I've been meaning to ask... Where are you from? ... Where does it hurt? ... What do you need? ... Where do we go from here?" and then some additional questions inspired by the work our Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices team has been doing for the past two years. As you can see, these questions aren't surface level. They will invite us to tell our stories, share our hurt, care for one another, and dream about new ways forward together as neighbors to one another and the community around us.



Bumper Sticker Theology


The second half of the summer will be spent exploring some of those famous sayings we find on the bumper in front of us in traffic. Are they really in the Bible? What do they mean? Are they helpful or hurtful? How do they inform our theology in times of joy or suffering? Don't miss this series devoted to the bumpers all around us.

Summer Worship in the Park

It's that time of year! The sun is getting warmer and the grass is starting to wake up. This means it's time to gather in the park for worship.

We will gather once a month this summer at **Wabun G** for worship. Remember—due to park hours and logistics—**all park worship is at 10:30 am**. So mark your calendars and plan to join us for some outdoor worship!



Sunday June 18

Sunday July 16
Join us for **LUNCH** after

Sunday August 20
Joint **SpringHouse** Worship

All Park Worship at 10:30
at **Wabun Pavillion G**

Guest Organist

Join us **June 11** as we welcome Cathleen Gempeler; organist, pianist, and certified music and sound therapist, as our guest organist for the day. She has played the organ since high school and most recently studied as an organist at St. Olaf College. We are excited to welcome her and hear her play!





Photo Directory

It's time for an updated member directory. We have **TWO** tasks for all of you.

- Have your photo taken! That's right, we are doing photos for the directory. Emily Chesley will be taking pictures on Sunday mornings after worship beginning next week. Watch for dates and a sign up to come in the announcements and eblast to make sure you get scheduled.
- Check the clipboard in the sanctuary to make sure your information is correct.



Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices



Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices

Cohort Finale

The Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices team had their last retreat of their 2 year cohort on May 13. However, while the official cohort is done, they will be continuing their learning as the next cohort begins and as they continue to work on (and lead our congregation in) the practices they have been introduced to. We are excited about some of the “next steps”.

- ♦ A 4-6 week **sermon series** called “I’ve Been Meaning to Ask”.
- ♦ **Asset Mapping:** The team has already had the Salem council do some asset mapping and we are excited to do some congregational wide asset mapping...looking at all of the things Salm has and dreaming about what we could use them in our faith and neighboring practices.
- ♦ **Neighborhood Walks:** We are looking to organize some times to gather after worship and go for a walk in the neighborhood. These walks could simply be in the residential neighborhood or they could be to a local eating establishment for a meal or coffee time.
- ♦ **Salem Stories:** Watch for a project coming soon that will be designed to preserve some of the important stories you all carry about Salem. Knowing where we come from informs where we are going and we are excited to imagine how it will look to collect your stories!
- ♦ **Practicing Neighboring with our SpringHouse partners.** Following the worst part of the pandemic, we have found it more difficult to connect. We are looking forward to spending some time this summer reconnecting with our partners.
- ♦ Continuing and growing some of the neighboring practices we are already doing like **Open Streets** and **National Night Out**.
- ♦ Continuing to experiment with congregational and individual faith practices.

You are invited to:
Groundswell

A learning summit
exploring the call to be neighbor



Saturday, June 3, 2023
Augsburg University

Co-hosted by Augsburg’s Riverside Innovation Hub and
MAS Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices

Come and See!

June 3 from 9 am–4 pm (with free lunch)!

You are invited to come and see what this whole Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices thing is all about! Our team will be participating in an amazing learning summit about the call to be neighbor.

Groundswell is intended to remind us that across the church there is a movement back into the neighborhood, trusting that **God is up to something and inviting us to participate**. On Saturday June 3 we will gather for workshops with some amazing experts and faithful leaders including Julia Dinsmore, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, leaders from CLNE, (Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement) and some incredible Spiritual Directors!

If you’re interested in joining us, contact Pastor Rhonda ASAP and she will get you registered!

Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices Cohort



May–Mental Health ★ June–PRIDE

May is Mental Health Month

MENTAL HEALTH

IS... ISN'T...

- Important
- Something everyone has
- Intrinsically linked to (+probably inseparable from) physical health
- On a continuum
- Worth making time for
- Part of being human
- Something we need to look after
- Positive + Negative
- Changeable
- Complex
- Real

- A sign of weakness
- Shameful
- All in your head
- Always something negative
- Something you decide to have
- Something to think about only when it feels broken
- An interchangeable term with mental illness
- Feeling good all the time
- Something you can snap out of
- Fixed
- Fake news

Help Make It OK to have a Mental Illness

It's OK to have a mental illness – many of us do. Nearly one in five Americans live with a mental illness. It's more common than diabetes (1 in 10) or left-handedness. Mental illnesses can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, race, religion or income. However, because of stigma, people may delay seeking treatment or support. The sooner people get treatment, the greater their chances of recovery.

How can you Make It OK? Start talking.

Mental illnesses are treatable health conditions just like a physical illness, such as diabetes. When we learn more and start talking openly about mental illnesses, we help to stop the stigma, change the culture and offer support for those living with a mental illness.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

YOUR STORY MATTERS

STIGMA MATTERS

CONNECTION MATTERS

REST MATTERS

IT MATTERS

KINDNESS MATTERS

HEALING MATTERS

EACH MIND MATTERS

SELF-CARE MATTERS

Make It OK.org

YOU ARE MORE THAN enough

#MoreThanEnough

It's ok TO NOT BE OK.

#MoreThanEnough

We are a

RECONCILING in CHRIST

Congregation

Being RIC

Since 1974, *ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation* has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of LGBTQIA+ Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.

If you go to the www.reconcilingworks.org and use our zip code to search for an RIC Partner congregation, the very first congregation to show up, at the very top of the list, is Salem English Lutheran Church. Salem has a long history with ReconcilingWorks, becoming an official RIC congregation in 2005. As of this week there are 1015 Reconciled in Christ congregations and 297 faith communities on their journey to becoming RIC. This is amazing work and amazing news! On the other hand, there are almost 10,000 ELCA congregations in the US...which means the work continues.

As a congregation in an urban and primarily progressive setting, it is easy to take for granted the work of welcoming. However, as much progress as our collective work has made, there are still so many people who are in need of welcome across the church.

As a “Partner Congregation” in the work of ReconcilingWorks, we commit to 4 things:

1. Clearly state a welcome to people of “**all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions**” or “**LGBTQIA+ and**” and name our commitment to “**racial equity**” or “**anti-racism**” in our welcome statement.
2. **Be open to calling** an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.
3. Allow sanctuary/community space/ to be used for **LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings**.
4. **Make a meaningful contribution annually** to support the national RIC program.

This year we will take the month of June, PRIDE month, to do several things to bring ReconcilingWorks back to the forefront of our minds and our ministry. First, we will take a closer look at some of their newest resources to reconnect with the work we are part of. Second, we will collect a special offering throughout the month of June for ReconcilingWorks to fulfill our Partner Congregation commitment and help fund the continued work of welcome.

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Salem English Lutheran Church

SpringHouse

Green Team Wants You

For all events please look to our bulletin announcements or the eblast for full details or contact Lyndale member Melia at runningbird68@aol.com.



Summer Walks

SpringHouse Green Team members will be leading a few casual outings this spring/summer to explore our great urban natural world.

Join in a **"Birding Power Walk" on May 31 at 9 am** starting from Nokomis Beach Coffee.

Birding walks on June 8, 15 and June 26 at 9 am beginning at North Mississippi Regional Park off highway 94 and 57th Ave.

Plant Exchange

The SpringHouse Green Team is planning a **plant exchange on Sunday, June 4, 9:30 – 12:00**. Now is the time to divide some of your perennials to keep them healthy and blooming. Bring any plants you no longer want to SpringHouse and they will be given away. Last year lots of neighbors stopped by and were blessed with plants for their yards. Join us for gardening and outreach!

Wakan Tipi Volunteering

Join the SpringHouse Green Team this summer and volunteer at Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi. Formerly known as Lower Phalen Creek Project, Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi is a Native-Led, East Side environmental conservation nonprofit. Lyndale UCC member Melia Derrick will lead hands-on volunteer opportunities on Tuesday evenings June 6, July 18, and Oct 3.

SpringHouse Gardens

The SpringHouse Landscape Committee is seeking your help in maintaining the beautiful gardens that surround our building.

Our **first gardening date is Saturday, June 3 at 10:00 a.m.** Bring gardening gloves, a hand spade (if you have one) and a water bottle to keep yourself hydrated. Our **second gardening date is Monday, June 12 at 11:00 am.**



New Food Share at SH Supports Our Community



SHMC is excited to partner with the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA) and offer free groceries to those in our community. Starting Wednesday, May 17, community members can pick up two bags of groceries at SHMC from 11:30AM – 1:30PM. Going forward the Food Share program will be open on the third Wednesday of every month. There will be a large selection of fresh produce as well as staples

available. LHENA will be providing the food and volunteers for this program. We are delighted to be the facility partner. For more information either contact Allison at Allison.jones@fccmpls.org or Joan at joan@thewedge.org

SpringHouse Ministry Center

Greenway Cleanup

SpringHouse Ministry Center adopted a four-block section of the Greenway several years ago that we are responsible for cleaning up twice a year.

We will be gathering at SpringHouse on **Saturday, June 3 at 1 pm** to do our part...and YOU are invited.

That's right! No experience necessary. Anyone can join in the Greenway cleanup. All needed supplies (gloves, bags, etc) will be provided. Questions? Please contact Shannon Fast at larson.fast@gmail.com Join us for this neighborhood project!



Salem English Lutheran Church

More News

Council News


Highlights

- Several bonds given as a memorial gift are maturing this spring and summer. A team has been put together consisting of 2 council members and 2 non-council members to look at different options for the money and bring a proposal back to the council.
- Giving was especially generous in the month of April, allowing us to come in above budget for the month.
- SpringHouse income from rentals is ahead of budget for the year, meaning the building is being used again!
- A new Photo Directory is in the works. Emily Chesley and Barb Livdahl will be coordinating taking everyone's picture after worship on Sunday mornings over a period of several weeks.
- We have a guest organist scheduled for June 11
- The Audit committee will be conducting an audit the last week of May.

Full minutes will be available in a binder in the sanctuary when they become available or you can contact the office to get a copy.



Remember You Can Park at Trustone



Just a reminder that on Sunday mornings, all of SpringHouse is able to park in the Trustone lot right south of 28th on Lyndale. This is a convenient parking opportunity that allows you to use a parking lot with sidewalks that lead all the way to Salem.

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 and they will be re-used by CES (Community Emergency Services) and/or other food shelves to re-package eggs. 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
 10:30 am Coffee Hour in the Sanctuary

Tuesday
 8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

Spirit-led. Welcoming.

Bold. Rooted.

Open Streets

Save the Date!
Sunday October 8, 2023

We want you to join us for music and fun as we greet our neighbors and continue our work of neighbor-ing.




2023 Routes & Dates

- East Lake**
Saturday, June 10
- Glenwood**
Sunday, July 16
- Cedar**
Sunday, August 20
- West Broadway**
Saturday, September 16
- Lyndale**
Sunday, October 8

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.

Melissa Anderson – 5/1	Shannon Fast – 6/9
LaVina Giinther – 5/6	Roger Livdahl – 6/9
Emily Chesley – 5/12	Kate Rime – 6/10
Scott Rusten – 5/12	Michelle Ruppert Madsen – 6/13
Frank Buzzell – 5/17	Paul Wharton – 6/13
Chris Nordeen – 5/19	Paul Livdahl – 6/19
Ava Melton-Meaux – 5/20	Bob Shorten – 6/28
Rae Buzzell – 5/23	
Charlie Pieper – 6/7	
Kathy Sievwright – 6/7	





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	revrhonda@discoversalem.org
Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	office@discoversalem.org
Music:	Tom Pieper	thomas.pieper@wayzata.k12.mn.us
Youth Ministry	Chelsea Boyden	springshouseyouth@tcamps.org
Building Manager:	Rick Bowman	rbowmanb49@gmail.com
Building Coordinator	Allison Jones	shcoordinator@tcamps.org