

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

Salem English Lutheran Church

July-August 2023



Connections and Conversations

Peter Block says, "We must establish a personal connection with each other. Connection before content. Without relatedness, no work can occur." Peter's conversations with our Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices cohorts were incredibly powerful—which I'm sure you all have been able to glean since I keep referring to him in worship and meetings. His assertion that good questions really can change the world is what prompted our current worship

series "I've Been Meaning to Ask"...in which we have just spent two weeks on one question, "Where are you from?"

"Where are you from?" You've all been asked the question. At a new job or school or any new adventure, really...we've all been asked this question. So, what's your answer? If it's anything like mine, it's something like, "I'm from Fridley MN which is a suburb of Minneapolis." Sometimes I'll give a few more details, but if I'm honest, I think when we are asked that question, it is usually perfunctory...an easy way to say we've gotten to know someone...without really getting to know someone.

What if that wasn't the case? What if we really wanted to know where others are from? What if others really wanted to hear where YOU are from? There is something profoundly life giving when someone genuinely wants to know you. Authentic relationships can be rare in a world where we are pulled in a thousand different directions because it takes intentionality. As I said in a sermon several weeks ago, neighboring (building relationships) is not rocket science—it's not complicated, but it is hard because it takes time.

I am increasingly aware of the fact that it's not the big things—but the little things we do that build community. After just two weeks of setting aside 8 minutes of conversation time in worship to listen to one other person answer the question, "Where are you from?", I see people entering into deeper relationships. People who have sat across from each other for years have learned new and amazing things about each other in just 8 minutes...and it makes a difference...because it matters if you are seen, heard, and known.

Good questions draw us together and open possibilities for vulnerability, trust, and connection. Because, let's face it, I am so much more than Rhonda, from Fridley—a suburb of MPLS. We are from all of the places we've been, all the experiences we've had, and all the stories we are part of.. I'm Rhonda from Fridley doesn't even start to tell you where I am from. And I can tell you that it matters to me if you care that I am more than that. It matters to all of us that we are more than a point on a map.

Which brings me right back to where I began. "We must establish a personal connection with each other...Without relatedness, no work can occur."

Why are we focusing on questions and conversations? Because if we do not really know the neighbors we have within our own faith community, how can we ever do the work of neighboring outside our faith community...in the neighborhood...in the world? If we do not have genuine connection and relationship among each other, how can we imagine working together to create relationship with those beyond our walls?

It's not complicated, but it is hard...this whole neighboring thing. *(Especially for all my introverts out there.)* Being intentional about listening and sharing with each other means we must make time to do so AND possibly come out of our comfort zone too.

More than anything else, God wants us to be in relationship...with Them and with each other. That's what the whole of scripture is about isn't it? Therefore it seems that taking time to ask, to listen, to share...to neighbor...is one of the most faithful things the church can be about. In fact, I'm discovering that these simple moments of conversation might be one of the most important calls we have.

Where are you from? I really want to know...because you are the people with whom I have been called to do God's work in the world...and while it isn't rocket science, it is often hard...but we can be a great team.

—Pastor Rhonda



Summer Worship in the Park

Sunday July 16

Join us for a sandwich LUNCH after

Sunday August 20

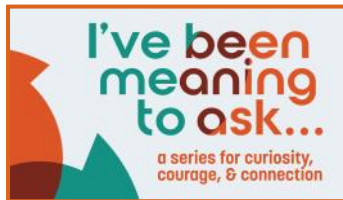
Joint SpringHouse Worship

All Park Worship at 10:30 at
Wabun Pavilion G

Salem News

Summer Worship

I've Been Meaning to Ask



We are off and running with our series based on good questions that will run through the end of July. Make sure to be in worship each week as we connect with each other,

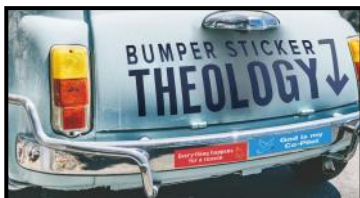
practice listening, practice telling our own stories, and explore what it means to really engage our neighbors in genuine relationship.

Special Guest Preacher

Don't miss worship on **Sunday August 6**, when our own **Emma Jorstad** (of **Salem Chili Cookoff** fame) will jump into the pulpit to preach. Emma is a long time member of Salem and has been participating in our Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices team for the past 2 years and is excited to share what God is up to through her experiences.



Bumper Sticker Theology



Beginning August 13 and going through Labor Day weekend, we will explore Bumper Sticker Theology. We will take these 4 weeks to explore 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.



Neighboring Outings

As part of our Neighboring Practices work, we are hoping to plan a congregational neighboring outing once a month. Our goal is to simply be present in the neighborhood and with our neighbors. We may just take a walk around the neighborhood or we may visit a local eating establishment.



Our first Neighboring Outing will be on

Sunday July 30

following worship at 11 am,

when we will walk across the parking lot for lunch at

World Street Kitchen


After a conversation one of our council members had with someone from WSK, we know that they are still reeling from the pandemic. Thankfully, they are starting to bounce back, but we thought it would be great to support them by simply visiting for lunch.

Moving forward, we are looking for people (**yes, you**) to volunteer to coordinate just one outing. This simply means helping to determine our outing and then being present for the event. If you would be willing to lead one of these neighboring outings, contact Pastor Rhonda OR sign up in the sanctuary for whatever month you are willing to coordinate.

So, plan to stay after worship on July 30 and join us for lunch! Sign up to coordinate an outing. Then stay tuned for future outings to be announced. The work of neighboring is central to who we are and we are looking forward to all the places we'll go!

SAVE THE DATE for our October outing NOW! **MPLS Open Streets Lyndale is coming Sunday October 8**, and it will be our monthly outing. This annual tradition has become fun for everyone and this year we want YOU to join us! Mark your calendars NOW and join in the neighboring.

Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices



Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices


A Gift to Mark the Journey & An Artist We All Know

After our last gathering, each of the 13 congregations in the Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices experience received an email from our leader Nick. We want to share it with you. (Pay close attention, you will see a familiar name.)

As we said at our May retreat, this is just the beginning of what we see as a movement to reorient the church to the neighborhood. As a part of that movement, we have one additional gift and opportunity for you.

Earlier this year we spoke about the importance of highlighting the neighbor and the neighborhood in worship, when most of our community members are present, and when stories, leadership, behavior, and symbols all come together. As a part of that important work, we are commissioning original banners for use in your sanctuary that highlight the call to be the neighbor in the places where God has called us to live and worship.

Emily Chesley, an artist and member at Salem English Lutheran Church, has agreed to design and create these banners in collaboration with each faith community. While the banners will all have some similar elements, we hope that you will connect with Emily and share a bit about the neighborhood/ community where your church is located. Emily will use her creative skills to highlight your particular community on this banner, ensuring that the neighborhood can be present in symbol during worship.



Emily has made many of the paraments you see on Sunday mornings at Salem and we are so excited that they are leading to new and expanded opportunities for her to find meaningful work in ecumenical arts. Congratulations Emily!


Congratulations Frank Buzzell!

Frank graduated from Twin Cities Academy in June. During his high school career, he was an honor student, a very accomplished soccer player, as well as an all around great young man. He is planning to take a gap year and do some travel and career exploration

Below is a picture taken this past winter on their trip to Ethiopia of Frank, his mom Rae, and his birth mother Fantenesh. They are both very proud of him!

We pray God's blessings on Frank as he starts a new leg of his journey.





“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

God’s Work. Our Hands.

Our annual day of service in the ELCA is just around the corner at the beginning of September. Ideas for service projects we can do that day? Just want to help plan? Contact Pastor Rhonda to help make this day special.

South Minneapolis Day Camp 2023!

Cardboard Kingdom



South Minneapolis Day Camp – Building Beloved Community. Originated by Salem...it has grown into a group of 12 somewhat “ragtag” congregations that take seriously the call to do ministry together with our communities. Four full days of kids from K– 12th grade, lots of adult volunteers, songs, art, stories, games...and of course heat. (for some reason, it’s always HOT during Day Camp)

This year our theme was “Home”...how everyone deserves one...how God created all of the earth to be our home...how homes all look different...and then we wanted to teach them about housing insecurity in the real world...hoping they could learn to be advocates...and maybe even little organizers for housing justice in their own ways. So, they built Cardboard Kingdom.

Cardboard Kingdom and all the other wonderful things we did during day camp helped to give them a wider picture of welcome, being houseless, equity, responsibility, and generosity. So much learning and fun, all in one week! We can’t wait until next year.



Day Camp Art



The Mission: As builders of a Cardboard Kingdom, who are dealing with real world problems and solutions, use this art time as a place to dream. Use your imagination to create a portal into another world...a world where **ANYTHING** is possible. What does that world look like?



Flying cats, mushroom houses, rainbows, free pizza puffs at the laundromat, spaceships for cars, homes for everyone, neighborhoods based on kindness, places where everyone belongs, unicorns, futuristic technology, and lots and lots of ice cream...the worlds of our kids’ imaginations are beautiful!



SpringHouse and Community News

Random Thoughts from a Day

Camp Volunteer

From Kari Podenski

Day camp. What can I say about day camp? This summer was the second time I have been a volunteer "shepherd" for south Minneapolis day camp...and it was awesome!



I was asked to reflect on the experience, here are my thoughts...random as they may be.

First and foremost, I just never stopped smiling. I was able to abandon my adult facade and live vicariously and intentionally through everyone I encountered. Joy is infectious!

The intergenerational connections and interactions made me feel part of a bigger better place in the world. Each day I spent time with a group that included elementary age kids, high school youth, college students, and adults. We traveled as a group for all of our experiences and the positive energy exuded by everyone at every age was inspiring and filled us all.

I observed over and over how enlightened and intelligent our children and youth are...it filled me with hope for humanity and our world. One morning we learned about bees and butterflies and I was so impressed by the things our kids already knew and the enthusiasm they had for learning, sharing, and working to protect creation. Pastor Rhonda and I think the adults actually did more learning that morning...from our children...which is cool.

Finally, It is always wonderful meeting people from all of the other churches who collaborate to provide an amazing day camp experience for all. The fact that so many congregations can work together to pull off something so great is extraordinary, and meeting and learning from other churches is energizing.

What all my random thoughts boil down to is that I left day camp every day with memorable experiences that I continue to enjoy. Next year, you should come join us!

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. The program started Wednesday, May 17, and going forward, community members can pick up two bags of groceries at SHMC on the third Wednesday of every month from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. The Food Share program will provide a large selection of fresh produce as well as pantry staples. 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

The Green Team Wants You

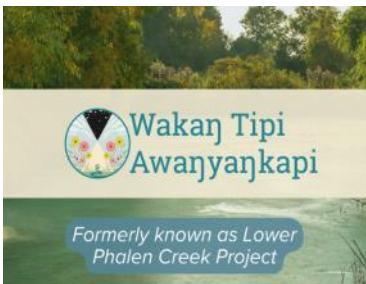
Wakan Tipi Volunteering

Join the SpringHouse Green Team this summer and autumn 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 July 18, and Oct 3.

People wanting to volunteer can contact Melia at runningbird68@aol.com.



More News–Youth and Community



Chelsea Needs Your Help!

If you have youth in upper elementary school (4-6 grades), middle school (6-8 grades), high school, or even college, this message is for you!

Our new youth minister, Chelsea needs updated contact information from you. They have created a Google Form for all families with kids these ages to fill out so they can keep you in the loop.



CLICK HERE OR on the link in the e-blast to be taken to the form. Please fill a form out for EACH youth in your family!

Greenway Clean up

In May, members of SpringHouse congregations gathered to clean up the Greenway. A great day helping the neighborhood!



A Job in Ministry?

The Minneapolis Synod is seeking applicants for two important positions. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in making ministry part of your work, you are encouraged to apply.



Admin/comms assistant for Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices program

The Minneapolis Area Synod's Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices learning community focuses on convening congregational cohorts to learn and experiment with faith practices and neighboring practices, with an emphasis on developing faithful leaders. This initiative will deepen the spiritual life of the congregation through more significant engagement with the surrounding community, places where God's presence precedes our engagement.

This position will support the Director of Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices in administrative and communication tasks related to the program's learning community.

For more information or to apply, contact Nicholas Tangen at n.tangen@mpls-synod.org or (651) 808-7067

Congregational Organizer for Climate Justice

The Congregational Organizer for Climate Justice position of the Minneapolis Areas Synod draws on the method and practice of community organizing, facilitated through the institution of the Lutheran church, centered on building a network of relationships among congregational leaders that can be organized for effective and strategic change on issues of systemic environmental justice and climate action.

The Congregational Organizer will be stepping into the role to carry out issue-based organizing that has been developed with an established network of leaders within the congregations of the synod. The organizer will continue to build and maintain this strong base of leaders to take on structural climate issues that can be addressed through community-based organizing.

For more information or to apply, contact Emilie Bouvier at e.bouvier@mpls-synod.org

Council News

Highlights

- ◆ The library committee is looking for ideas to help utilize the amazing collection of books we have at SpringHouse.
- ◆ Our income from the first half of the year is over budget, which is good!
- ◆ We will be making an intentional effort to use Thrivent Action Grants for events like Open Streets & God's Work Our Hands.
- ◆ We are still waiting to hear about the Imagination Grant that Pastor Rhonda applied for from the synod. We should know by August 1.
- ◆ Neighboring Outings will begin in July. We need people to volunteer to coordinate one month at a time. The first one will be to World Street Kitchen for lunch.
- ◆ The new photo directory is going well and Laurie should be able to start formatting mid-July.
- ◆ A "bond committee" has been formed to work on how to use the money we will receive from matured bonds over the next 12 months. Members are: Josh Jorstad, Linda Hanson, and Michelle Ruppert Madsen.

Full minutes will be available in a binder in the sanctuary 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.

Please Pause Egg Carton donations

Due to the avian flu situation and other factors, egg cartons are not needed right now. We will let you know when to bring the egg cartons again. 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.**

Save the Date for Open Streets! Sunday October 8, 2023

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



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.

Dona Varns – 7/1	Myra Rusten – 8/10
Johan Baumeister – 7/15	Xavier Melton-Meaux – 8/18
Holly Benson – 7/15	Barbara Livdahl – 8/21
Jacentia Peña – 7/24	Orpha Rustebakke – 8/23
Alex Nordeen – 7/31	James Anderson – 8/30





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@ccmpls.org
Building Manager:	Rick Bowman	rbowmanb49@gmail.com
Building Coordinator:	Allison Jones	shcoordinator@ccmpls.org