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Salem English Lutheran Church

September-October 2023



God Has Plans for Us!

As I look out my window and see the leaves beginning to change—just kidding, my office window looks up from the lower level to the patio and I can't see any leaves at all. While leaves changing in the fall are certainly one of my favorite things, today I want to talk about bumper stickers, kids time, presence, and neighbor. For those following along, we just finished our short 4 weeks series on Bumper Sticker Theology, talking about some of the

cliché sayings we find on the cars in front of us in traffic. What a fun series! Well, on the final week, during kids time, I asked Axel, Ingrid, and Kjell if they might be able to help me come up with a sticker for our church...something short and easy to remember that tells people what our church is really all about. To be honest, I thought it was kind of a challenging assignment. But before I even finished posing the question, Axel said, **"We love God...God loves us more."** Now, I was tempted to say, "Amen, we can all go home now." But I wanted to make sure we didn't short Ingrid on any of her thoughts. (I could tell Kjell would need a little more time...I mean, he was sitting up there on his own for the first time and that was probably enough for one Sunday.) Well, without skipping a beat, Ingrid said, **"Love ALL people, no matter who they are."** Well ok then...class dismissed, church over, drop the mic, it is finished, time for donuts.

In fact, if you have ever wondered if our faith community still has a purpose, if you've had moments of doubt about our future, or have just asked yourself if we are doing anything that makes a difference...check out our newest Salem stickers.

Axel and Ingrid came up with these answers because, in addition to some great parenting, they are growing up in a loving community of faith that speaks its truth, is not afraid to voice welcome, preaches love in tangible ways, and has given them the confidence to know that God loves them and so do we.

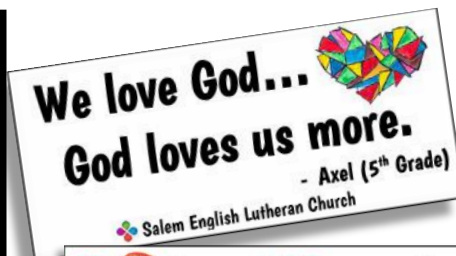
This would be enough. If this was the only difference we have made recently, it would be enough. But it's not. There are

countless stories of ways our community has made these truths known to each other and our neighbors that have made a difference.

Remember that college freshman who found himself on Sunday mornings, alone in his dorm, watching worship on YouTube? The couple who had not been able participate who said being with us on YouTube felt like "coming home"? The families that have reached out in gratitude after experiencing our care after losing a loved one? Or the family who couldn't even get their "home" church to answer the phone and yet found us willing to welcome them without question? How about all the people who have walked through our door who have been told by the world that they were not worthy, who found we meant it when we said "all means ALL"?

I could go on and on...and so could you...but you get the idea...church may look different, this congregation may be small, but we are mighty, we are blessed, and God has plans for us. Plans that center around simple things like presence (just being there—wherever there is) and authentic welcome (and I challenge anyone to show me a community that does it better.) When we are consistent in doing these things and when we lead from a place of faith and from our assets instead of falling into the mentality of fear and scarcity...well, not only are we faithful to our call as disciples (as church), but we end up with little humans like Axel, Ingrid, and Kjell, who have a profound understanding of God's love that, frankly, can teach us all.

Blessings, -Pastor Rhonda



Be part of the work! Join us for Open Streets, Book Club, and any of the other places we are working to be present, practice neighbor, and develop our assets.

And don't forget to stop and get your new Salem stickers (there are two sizes) and put them everywhere as a reminder of your call and just how much you are loved.

Salem News

Worship News

With fall here and our leap back into the rhythm of the narrative lectionary, we will be looking for more involvement from you during worship. Here are some ways to get involved:



READER—as always, we will continue to have our “READER” card at the back table and if you are willing to read the lesson during worship, simply pick up the card.

COMMUNION ASSISTANT —Since COVID began Pastor Rhonda has been the only one serving communion. We will be returning to having someone help by serving the wine/juice. If you want to help with communion, simply pick up the “COMMUNION ASSISTANT” card from the back table.

ASSISTANT MINISTER—Ever imagine yourself leading liturgy or prayers on a Sunday morning? Let’s make it happen! You can either talk to Pastor Rhonda and coordinate a Sunday OR if there are pieces of worship for the ASSISTANT MINISTER on a Sunday, there will be an ASSISTANT MINISTER card on the back table...just pick it up.

KIDS TIME— Have you dreamed of leading kids’ time? Talk to Pastor Rhonda and coordinate a Sunday to do so!

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Narrative Lectionary Scripture Calendar

The narrative lectionary picks up in September—this year being Year 2: the Year of Mark. We begin, as always, with the OT in story, move into the prophets at Advent, and the gospel in Christmas/Epiphany.

9/24: Garden of Eden - Genesis 2:4b-25

10/1: Isaac Born to Sarah - Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

10/8: Jacob Wrestles God— Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30

10/15: Moses & God’s Name - Exodus 1:8-14 [1:15–2:10]; 3:1-15

10/22: Hear O Israel - Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9

10/29: Ruth - Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17]

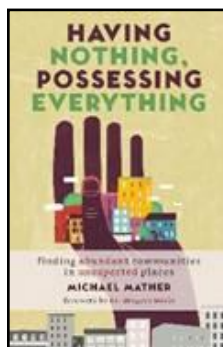
11/5: David Anointed King—2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150

Book Club

Starting in October



It’s time to gather again for some great discussion and inspiration...as well as a chance for some meaningful fellowship. Remember, *no experience necessary and even if you can’t make it every week—you should still join us!*



Salem Fall Book Club

Sundays at 4 pm on Zoom

October 8, 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12
(with November 19 as a make-up day)

This fall’s Book Club pick, Having Nothing, Possessing Everything: Finding Abundant Communities in Unexpected Places by Mike Mather, comes highly recommended

by Nick Tangen (Director of Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices in the MPLS Synod) He says, “This book illustrates what it’s like when a church takes asset-based community development seriously.”

This book will give us a chance to take seriously and dive deeper into our calling as neighbor and the work we have just begun on our Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices journey.

Pick up your copy at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) , [ChristianBook.com](https://www.ChristianBook.com) , or a number of used and new booksellers of your choice. Contact Pastor Rhonda if you need help getting a copy.

“Pastor Mike Mather arrived in Indianapolis thinking that he was going to serve the poor. But after his church’s community lost nine young men to violence in a few short months, Mather came to see that the poor didn’t need his help—he needed theirs.

This is the story of how one church found abundance in a community of material poverty. Viewing people—not programs, finances, or service models—as their most valuable resource moved church members beyond their own walls and out into the streets, where they discovered folks rich in strength, talents, determination, and love.

Mather’s *Having Nothing, Possessing Everything* will inspire readers to find abundance and hope all around them.

”

Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices



OPEN STREETS MPLS LYNDALE

Lyndale Open Streets

Yay! Open Streets is Sunday October 8 and **WE NEED YOU**. Come be a neighbor with us as we hand out treats, greet the people in our neighborhood, and maybe even dance a little.

Our neighboring outing for October is this awesome Salem tradition. Neighboring outings are events designed to help us to be more present in our neighborhood. This event, in particular, gives us the opportunity to be present and to let people know we are a welcoming and non-judgmental faith community that is interested in what is happening outside our walls, as well as in their lives. This is one of the ways we are able to "be church" in concrete ways beyond our worship. This is gospel work—and we'd love to have you as part of it!



Here's how to get involved:

1. Sign up [HERE](#) (if reading electronically) or in the back of the sanctuary for one of 2 shifts: "Set up" shift from 11 am - 1 pm. "Take Down" shift from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm.
2. Make a special gift to Salem designated for Open Streets to help cover the cost of our live musicians, popsicles/treats, church swag, and other supplies. We would like to raise at least \$500 to cover most of these costs. .

We look forward to seeing you on the street!

Johan Baumeister joins Minneapolis Area Synod staff as Congregational Organizer for Climate Justice

Johan Baumeister has been named the congregational organizer for climate justice for the Minneapolis Area Synod.



Most recently, Johan has worked as a certified peer specialist offering support for

persons in recovery from depression, teaching self-advocacy skills, and coordinating a range of services for individuals living with HIV.

Johan has had experience organizing, including with church members, during the 2012 Minnesotans United For All Families campaign. The Minneapolis Area Synod also supported this campaign based on social statements and assembly resolutions.

"My past experiences in faith-based activism and organizing are certainly something that I'm excited to put to positive use," Johan offered. "I'd also like to think that my own journey through mental health recovery is a compelling witness to how hope can fuel powerful change in our lives and communities."

"We are excited to add Johan to our team," stated Bishop Ann Svennungsen. "He brings real-world experience that will give us a fresh look at our ministry, even as we adjust the focus of his position to more deeply consider 'climate justice.'"

"It's really inspiring to see that members of my own faith tradition are singing out a prophetic call for hope, justice, and an equitable environmental future," responded Johan when asked about why he was interested in this position. "These are my values too, and so – in the words of the hymn – 'how can I keep from singing?'"

Johan attends Salem English Lutheran in Minneapolis. He is pictured above with his husband AJ.



Reaching Out

God’s Work, Our Hands

The ELCA celebrated 10 years of God’s Work Our Hands this year and Salem gladly took part in what has become a great tradition in our community. This year we gathered enough supplies to create and pack 100 Hospice Kits for Global Health Ministries. (Find out more about their hospice kit program [HERE](#) *(if you are reading electronically.)* Each of these 100 kits will journey to Africa and bring compassion and comfort to someone dying of HIV/AIDS, cancer, or another devastating illness. We also rolled bandages, and wrote cards.



Thank you for all your support as we once again stepped up to serve our neighbors in concrete ways! A special thanks to Thrivent for granting us \$250 in matching funds.



SpringHouse Joint Worship

We had a wonderful joint worship in the park with our SpringHouse partners. Our musicians came together for great music, our voices raised collective praise, Nick Tangen from the MPLS Synod brought a word of hope and neighborin as our guest preacher, we blessed the backpack tags for all those heading back to school, and even celebrated the ordination anniversaries of Pastor Rhonda, Pastor Rebecca, and Pastor Joann. What a gift our SpringHouse community is!



Reaching Out

ZOOM HOUSE

ZOOM House News

Salem recently received this update from ZOOM House

Over the past few years, ZOOM House has struggled to maintain financial stability. Through our wonderful donors, long term relationships with local parishes, foundations and grant funding, they were able to continue their mission. Unfortunately, they have realized that they will not be able to continue as ZOOM House nonprofit.

ZOOM Board initiated a strategic action plan last year to achieve the organizational and financial stability to continue to provide safe, affordable housing and services. The board believed that the most effective option was to be acquired by another organization with deeper financial and operational resources. Without a change, ZOOM House would run out of funds in early 2024.

They engaged a consultant and consulted with other organizations to find a solution and avoid negatively impacting our residents and secure inventory of affordable housing in Minneapolis.

ZOOM House is now in the final due diligence phase with a partner with deeper resources and extensive experience with both affordable housing and supportive services. If all goes well, the building will transition to the new owner by the end of the year. Then ZOOM House will conclude the dissolution process, and wrap-up its 25+ year run serving families and individuals experiencing housing instability.

There are risks and potential hurdles to the plan, including city and state approval timelines. If approvals are not acquired before ZOOM's financial resources are exhausted, residents will be forced to move with little time to plan. Your contributions will help ensure residents are well cared for while ZOOM House, its partner, and lenders have the time to complete their work.

Please consider donating today at www.thezoomhouse.org/donate. THANK YOU for your dedication, loyalty and generous contributions to ZOOM House.

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, October 7 at 10 AM** 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 laron.fast@gmail.com Join us for this neighborhood project!



Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, they stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Currently the organization is working with partners in the U.S. and around the world to help people affected by wildfires, flooding, earthquakes and other disasters. If you would like to help, you can donate at

<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse>

or you can write a check to Salem, noting "Lutheran Disaster Response" and we will send it along.



Children, Youth and Community



We need a few new members! Could it be you?

According to the SpringHouse Covenant, Children's Ministry is led by a standing Child Ministries Team, made up of representation from each congregation. This team is responsible for imagining what ministry for children from birth through elementary school looks like. This includes the nursery, Sunday ministry, special events, and intergenerational events.

As we continue to navigate what ministry, as a whole, looks like on this side of the pandemic, we also need to envision what ministry with our kids can look like. ***We need some new people with fresh voices to help us move forward.***

Members of this team commit to:

- ◆ Occasional meetings (can be Zoom meetings)
- ◆ Working with a team of 2 people from each congregation
- ◆ Dreaming about what ministry with children can look like and what we want it to look like
- ◆ Helping make strategic decisions and plans about nursery care, Sunday School, and other parts of children's ministry
- ◆ Helping name/find adult volunteers from their respective congregations (which may or may not include themselves) to help lead/supervise any programming implemented

Qualifications for the Child Ministries Team

- ◆ A love of children and commitment to SpringHouse
- ◆ Willingness to learn and imagine what being church for our children looks like
- ◆ Ability to help implement plans the team makes

Special Note: One does NOT need to have children, teach Sunday School, or chaperone events themselves. This is a team that envisions what ministry can look like and dreams, plans, and implements plans for ministry.



Lutheran Campus Ministry

Join staff and students of Lutheran Campus Ministry for a fun in-person gathering at the beautiful Campus Club Terrace overlooking the city. Gather around hearty appetizers, a cash bar, good music, inspirational stories from students and alumni, and a chance to raise some money for the transformational work happening at Lutheran Campus Ministry – Twin Cities! Weather permitting, the event will take place both outdoors on the terrace and inside the lounge. Masks are not required but guests are welcome to mask. You may choose to dine indoors or outdoors. Lots of options!

Thursday, October 5, 2023

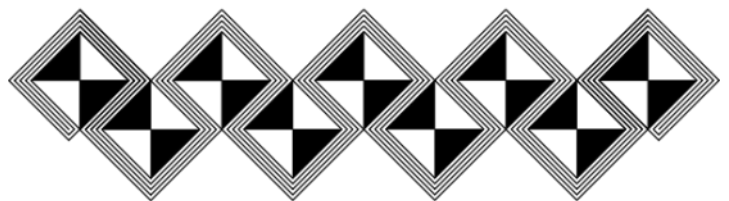
5:00 PM Cocktails and Appetizers

6:00 PM Program

7:00 PM Jam Session and Singing around the fire (bring your instruments!)

Tickets: \$30

Information and link to purchase tickets at
<https://lcmtc.org/support-us/fall-fundraiser/>



SpringHouse Ministry Center

SpringHouse Board News

The SpringHouse Board met Sunday, August 20, following the SH Joint Worship at Minnehaha Falls Wabun Park.

Highlights of meeting:

Updates from the SH congregations:

- ◆ Lyndale UCC has formed a Search Committee and hopes to have the search concluded by the end of the year
- ◆ The ashes of three Lyndale members will be interred in the SH Memorial Garden sometime this fall. All congregations will be invited to the ceremony.
- ◆ The SH library is being “refreshed” – watch for changes.

Andy Rennert’s finance report stated that we are ahead in the annual budget at this point. Funds set aside for capital improvements are being invested in interest-bearing CDs.

Reporting for the Building Committee, Mike Cackoski noted that a recent leak was caused by an air conditioner duct, and a window on the east side of the building was broken. Both have been repaired.

Brief discussion about SH fundraising, and mechanisms for giving memorial gifts to SpringHouse. No action taken.

Motions approved:

- ◆ SH kitchen committee is authorized to either sell or donate the blue & white dinner service.
- ◆ A new twice-a-year Sanctuary Switch schedule was approved, which will start January 2024, and run in a three-year cycle.

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.

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
- 4:00 pm Book Club on Zoom – Oct. 8-Nov.12

Tuesday

- 8:15 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

**“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



New Directories Are Ready!

That’s right—our new picture directory is ready. You can pick one up at church, or contact Laurie in the office if you would like one sent to you in the mail. A digital version will be ready soon.

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

Jan Olson – 10/6

Cassie Sievwright – 10/9

Jon Hanke – 10/10





610 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Salem English Lutheran Church
is a Reconciling in Christ
(R.I.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

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