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Salem English Lutheran Church

January-February 2024



## A Season of Light

Star of wonder, star of light. As I write this front page I am mindful that today is Epiphany. January 6 marks the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord, which begins the season of Epiphany that will take us through Ash Wednesday. Today is when we remember the magi's journey following a star and Jesus being revealed as the Savior of the world. The weeks that follow, the season of Epiphany, are about light, revelation, and glory as *we* follow the star to encounter God, who has come in flesh to live among us. I like to think of it as the season

where we get to know that baby in a manger we sing all those carols about.

During the season of Epiphany we hear stories of Jesus, the Light of the World, interacting with humanity, teaching, preaching, healing, and in so many different ways showing us how we are to live as people of light. We need this season. I need this season.

We need this season of light shining through the darkness because sometimes when the lights of Christmas get put away, we find ourselves right back in the world again...a world that really does love to lead with fear, hatred, scarcity, judgement...and all the things that perpetuate darkness. We need a season with a bright shining star pointing us in the direction of light and love and grace and joy. We need this season to experience the life of Jesus again...to see the light being revealed in each story we encounter in the gospel. I guess the bottom line might just be that we need a season that points us to the light and guides our daily living in the midst of a world that can feel so dark.

Now, I realize that I probably say, "this is my favorite season" at the beginning of every season...but it is true. I'll tell you a secret that probably isn't much of a secret. Most of the time, my favorite season of the church year is the one we are entering. I think this is because God has a way of orienting me and my life to the places where each season meets me in ways that are meaningful.

I love the season of Epiphany—because in the middle of the cold and dark winter here in Minnesota, in a world that is just itching to show us all the darkness it has to offer, we need a season of light. We need a season with a star that guides our way. We need to hear the stories of Jesus being a light in our very human world so we can be the people of God...people of light, of hope, of grace, and of being made new.

This is the season of epiphany. It reminds us of how the light of Jesus continues to guide our lives every day—even after we put away the Christmas lights and carols for another year.

And so we follow the star.

***Star of wonder***

***Star of light***

***Star of royal beauty bright***

***Westward leading***

***Still proceeding***

***Guide us to thy perfect light.***



May the star lead you to the Light of Christ this season.

***Blessings,  
Pastor Rhonda***

### **Epiphany by Walter Brueggemann**

On Epiphany day,  
we are still the people walking.  
We are still people in the dark,  
and the darkness looms large around us,  
beset as we are by fear,

anxiety,  
brutality,  
violence,  
loss –

a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.

We are – we could be – people of your light.

So we pray for the light of your glorious presence  
as we wait for your appearing;  
we pray for the light of your wondrous grace  
as we exhaust our coping capacity;  
we pray for your gift of newness that  
will override our weariness;  
we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust  
in your good rule.

That we may have energy, courage, and freedom to enact  
your rule through the demands of this day.

We submit our day to you and to your rule, with deep joy  
and high hope.

# Salem News



## Poinsettia Beautiful

Thank you to all those who purchased poinsettias in memory or honor of someone they love. Not only do these beautiful plants make our worship space beautiful, it is a clear reminder that our community of faith stretches far and wide in the people we love and who have loved us.

## Sanctuary Switch

January 7, after worship, we will be moving out of the south sanctuary and into the north sanctuary. It's been a year since we switched and SpringHouse has a plan to do 2 or 3 switches per year for the immediate future as we navigate all the new technology that Covid brought our way.

If you are able to join us this Sunday for worship and then to help with the switch...there will be lunch. Many hands make light work...and if you feed them they will come.

*Just remember when you come to worship beginning on January 14, you will need to turn left at the top of the stairs and join us in the north sanctuary.*



## Ash Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday February 14 as we begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday worship at 7 pm. This important and meaningful worship service helps remind us who we are as we hear the words, "remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Yes, February 14 is Valentine's Day, but what better day to gather around the great big love that God has for us? We hope you can join us!



## Narrative Lectionary Scripture Calendar

- 12/31: Beginning of Good News—Mark 1:1-20
- 1/7: Jesus Heals and Teaches - Mark 2:1-22
- 1/14: Parables in Mark—Mark 4:1-34
- 1/21: Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac - Mark 5:1-20
- 1/28: Joint SpringHouse Worship TBD
- 2/4: Death of John the Baptist—Mark 6:1-29
- 2/11: Transfiguration—Mark 8:27 - 9:8
- 2/14: ASH WEDNESDAY Passion Prediction -Mark 9:30-37
- 2/18: First Last and Last First—Mark 10:17-31
- 2/25: Bartimaeus Healed—Mark 10:32-52
- 3/3: Parable of the Tenants - Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]



## More News

### Salem's Annual Chili Cook-Off !



Get your recipes ready and mark your calendars - make sure not to miss out on this always fun annual tradition! We will gather

after worship, on February 11, (Yes, it's Superbowl Sunday again...but long before the big game), for our own celebration! After worship we will take 15-20 minutes to set up and then gather around the crock-pots for tasting, judging, lunch, and prizes!

**Sunday February 11 at 11 am**

**Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place!**

Everyone is welcome to join us for chili tasting and judging! (no qualifications necessary) We appreciate any hands that can help with the set up and the clean up as well. Sign up to bring a Chili to enter or to bring toppings &/or sides in the back of the sanctuary!



*Last Year's Chili Winners!*



## ANNUAL MEETINGS

### Annual Meeting Sunday

Both the Salem annual meeting and the SpringHouse annual meeting (as well as LUNCH) will take place on **Sunday January 28**. This is a **VERY** important Sunday in the life of our congregation and SpringHouse Ministry Center. It is essential that we have as many members in attendance as possible to help make some of the important decisions that will define the ministry we do over the next year and beyond.

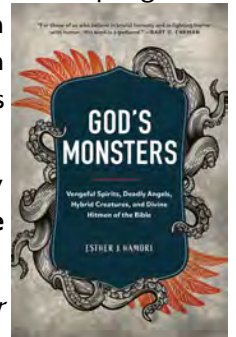
**Make sure to mark your calendars today and watch for details to come in the weeks ahead.**



### Winter/Spring Book Club-Adult Ed

Buckle up! Starting **Sunday, February 18**, we are going to dive into something a little bit different this winter & spring. Plan now to join us on **Sundays at 4 pm** on Zoom for a newly published by book from Broadleaf Books that will surely give us plenty to talk about.

**God's Monsters: Vengeful Spirits, Deadly Angels, Hybrid Creatures, and Divine Hitmen of the Bible**



By Esther J. Hamori (*teacher of the popular class "Monster Heaven" at Union Theological Seminary in New York, where she is a professor of Hebrew Bible.*)

Here is what Broadleaf has to say about it:

The Bible is teeming with monsters. Giants tromp through the land of milk and honey; Leviathan swims through the wine-dark sea. A stunning array of peculiar creatures, mind-altering spirits, and supernatural hitmen fill the biblical heavens, jarring in both their strangeness and their propensity for violence--especially on God's behalf.

Traditional interpretations of the creatures of the Bible have sanded down their sharp, unsavory edges, transforming them into celestial beings of glory and light--or chubby, happy cherubs. Those cherubs? They're actually hybrid guardian monsters, more closely associated with the Egyptian sphinx than with flying babies. And the seraphim? Winged serpents sent to mete out God's vengeance. Demons aren't at war with angels; they're a distinct supernatural species used by Satan and by God. The pattern is chilling. Most of these monsters aren't God's opponents--they're God's entourage.

Killer angels, plague demons, manipulative spirits, creatures with an alarming number of wings (and eyes all over)--these shapeshifters and realm-crossers act with stunning brutality, each reflecting a facet of God's own monstrosity. Confronting God's monsters--and the God-monster--may be uncomfortable, but the Bible is richer for their presence. It's not only richer; the stories of the monsters of the Bible can be as fun, surprising, and interesting as any mythology. For anyone interested in monsters, myths, folklore, demons, and more, God's Monsters is an entertaining deep dive into the creaturely strangeness of the Bible.

## Stewardship and Community News



### Stewardship Corner

#### 2024 Pledges

A big thank you to everyone who filled out their stewardship forms for giving in 2024! This community continues to be sacrificial and generous in its giving and it is evident in the commitments you make of your time, your gifts, and your money. Thank you!

thank you

#### Mini Capital Campaign Update

We asked and you stepped up! Having a easy to navigate, relevant, and useful website is key for any congregation in the world today and ours needs a redesign. We asked you all to step up in a mini capital campaign and help us raise \$1000 (half of the projected cost of this redesign and upkeep.) We are happy to report that not only did we raise that \$1000, we more than doubled that number and as of today raised \$2678.57!



So what will we do with the money above and beyond what is estimated for the redesign? Those funds will be set aside and used for things in the same spirit of the website redesign. In other words, while it may not all be used for the actual redesign costs, it will be used toward the same goals as the redesign...connection with our neighbors, our online presence, and making sure our website and social media stay updated and relevant.

### Lefse is Fun for Everyone!

A huge thank you to everyone who stayed after worship on December 3 to help make this annual Salem tradition a success. A special THANK YOU to Josh for leading the making of the dough and to Ingrid for ricing ALL the potatoes!



Each year our lefse gathering draws some of our veteran rollers and grillers...but EVERY year we have at least 1 or 2 folks who have NEVER made lefse and get to try their hand at it for the first time...and the tradition continues! This year was no exception...LaVina and Terry Giinther gave it a whirl for the first time this year!



### spiritual practice

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

*What practice will you do today?*



# Synod and ELCA News



## MPLS Synod News Conference Assemblies

This year all conference assemblies will take place on Saturday February 10. This is where all nominations and resolutions brought before the Synod Assembly (May 2-4) begin. This year we will nominate bishop candidates and voting members for the next churchwide gathering. Please keep these assemblies in your prayers as they do the business of the church.

### Bishop's Election

At our February conference assemblies nominations will be taken for the next Bishop of the Minneapolis Synod. Once we have official nominees, they will be invited to Bishop Nominee Forums where all we will be able to learn more about them and have questions answered. *Mark your calendars for the three scheduled Bishop Nominee Forums coming this spring.*

Sunday April 7: 2 pm–3:30 pm  
(location TBD)

Wednesday April 10: 7 pm–8:30 pm  
Cross of Peace Lutheran, Shakopee

Saturday April 13: 10 am–11:30 am  
Bethel Lutheran Church, South Minneapolis



For more information and updates check out the Bishop Election Website using the QR code or visit the synod's website at <https://mpls-synod.org/2024-bishop-election/>

### More Stewardship News

For those who give electronically, and did not submit a pledge form for this year, your donations will continue at the same rate as last year unless we hear from you. Please confirm your preference with Laurie in the office. We want to be sure we are complying with your wishes!



# SpringHouse News

## SpringHouse Ministry Center

### Lyndale Welcomes New Interim

We are excited to welcome Pastor Gail Irwin as the new Interim Pastor at Lyndale UCC. We are so glad to have her on board at SpringHouse during Lyndale's transition time.



Rev. Gail Irwin was born and raised in the UCC in California and received her M.Div. at Pacific School of Religion in



Berkeley. After serving two settled pastorates in Wisconsin, she has spent the past 12 years specializing in intentional interim ministry. She is an author and freelance writer and lives on a farm with her husband, Charles O'Harrow, who raises dairy heifers. Her daughter Evelyn lives in Minneapolis. She enjoys music, gardening and bike riding.

## Share your input

Draft social message  
on gun-related  
violence and trauma

### Draft Social Message on Gun Violence and Trauma

How is the ELCA called to respond to gun-related violence? A new draft social message on this urgent and polarizing problem is now available. This message seeks to move past the impasse of gun rights vs. gun control by offering a more constructive proposal. Share your feedback by January 31, 2024

[Right Click HERE](#) or use the QR code to find out more, see a copy of the message, and fill out the survey.



# Children, Youth and Community



## YOUTH GROUP

Youth group is happening on Sundays and YOU are invited! Here are the things you need to know:

- ◆ This time is open to youth ages 10-18 years old. ALL are welcome!
- ◆ Sundays from 10:00-10:40 am
- ◆ Open Youth Room Hours: *(time to just hang out with Chelsea and any others who are around)* Sundays 9:00-10:00am and 10:40 am-12:30 pm
- ◆ NO YOUTH GROUP 1/28: Joint SpringHouse Worship at 10:30 am.

### Welcome Alethia!

Meet our newest SpringHouse staff member, Alethia!



Hi! My name is Alethia Lee. My grandpa Jim Lee is a member of First Christian, so I have been at SpringHouse several times over the years. I am a junior at the School of Environmental Studies which is a magnet school in Apple Valley that is partnered with the

Minnesota Zoo. I have three younger siblings, including a toddler, so have lots of experience and comfort working with kids and I'm excited to meet all of the children at SpringHouse in the Squiggle Space! Feel free to stop by the next time you are at church on Sunday!



### Lock In

Get ready all you youth-type people! SpringHouse is having a Lock-In! Here's the details:

- ◆ **February 2** at SpringHouse Ministry Center
- ◆ Open to **youth ages 10-18 years old**; **youth can invite friends** who do not attend any of the three congregations as long as they complete permission slips
- ◆ \$10 suggested donation per youth to cover costs, but not required
- ◆ **Starts at 4 pm February 2, ends at 8:30 am February 3** (youth can either be picked up by 8:30 or stay until worship)
- ◆ Youth are able to stay Saturday evening and not spend the night with written permission and pick up time given by guardians
- ◆ **Permission slips will be available in youth room and outside of each sanctuary beginning January 6 and MUST be turned in to Chelsea no later than Sunday, January 28.**
- ◆ **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS:** If you are interested in volunteering as a chaperone, please reach out to Chelsea at [springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org](mailto:springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org). All volunteers must pass a background check or have passed one in the last three years.

### The Squiggle Space is Open

Kids from birth to age 9 are invited to come to the squiggle space on Sunday mornings! From 9 am-12 pm there is supervision for our youngest SpringHouse members. So bring your kids by to play, craft, and to have some fun.



## More News



### Day Camp News!

Building Beloved Community  
South Minneapolis Day Camp!

August 19 - 23, 9 am - 4 pm

Please mark your calendars for a great week of fun and faith formation! *This year, our ecumenical day camp will be both later in the summer and at a new location - Diamond Lake Lutheran Church (5760 Portland Ave).* Our program arc will be Monday - Thursday (August 19 - 22), with a family celebration on Thursday night. Friday is a bonus fun day. We are excited to welcome children entering Kindergarten through middle school, and we hope to have a wonderful crew of high school leaders to support the elementary kiddos. More information to come in the months ahead.



### Keeping All Well

As we hit the middle of Flu, Covid, and RSV season, we want to remind everyone about remaining diligent in our safety practices. Keeping our community well is a priority and we appreciate all you have done to make it so.

**If you are sick, please stay home and worship with us online.**

**Please wear a mask:**

- ♦ If you are not feeling 100%
- ♦ If you have no symptoms but have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID
- ♦ If you are at high risk of infection or complications
- ♦ If you care for/live with someone who is at high risk



### 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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

\*January 28 Joint SpringHouse Worship at 10:30 am

10:30 am Coffee Hour in the Sanctuary

4:00 pm Book Study on ZOOM, beginning February 18

### 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**



### 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.

Ian Evans - 1/11

Mary Johnson - 1/28

Paul West - 1/31

Jimmy Henzler-Heany - 2/5

Chris Wick - 2/6

Axel Jorstad - 2/8

Erica Larson - 2/15

Ingrid Jorstad - 2/17

Austin Tollerson - 2/18

Solveig Tollerson - 2/22

Mary Patterson - 2/28







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.**

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