

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

March 2024

The Depth of Our Community



One of the great joys I have as a pastor, is sharing the pulpit with others willing to preach the gospel. A few weeks ago I was inspired by a visit to share another space ...the newsletter front page. And so I step aside this time around and offer you the front page from long time Salem member and ordained Lutheran pastor of over 60 years, Roger Livdahl. The story he shares is one he wrote down as an introduction to his own journal about his travels working for the gospel. Thanks Roger!

IN CHICAGO: "This Man Is Jesus!"



In the eight years I worked in Chicago for the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeals I spent between three and six hours a day commuting between the church-wide center and our home in Valparaiso, IN. One night I had a late start before I entered the Kennedy Expressway which was like a

very slow moving parking lot. After about 45 minutes I became very hungry. Seeing a Wendy's drive-in along the way I pulled off the Kennedy hoping that the traffic would diminish while I ate.

While circling in the slow line to the drive-in window I had watched a man standing by the entrance. I handed a \$10 bill to the window person to pay for a hamburger and small drink which came to \$2.84. She handed me \$7.16 in change. The man quietly moved up to my window and asked, "Sir could you spare a little of your change. I haven't had anything to eat in two days.

My first inclination was to think, "What if he is just an alcoholic or a drug addict? Do I really want to feed his bad habit?" As I looked at him I saw how thin and haggard he looked, and thought, "Maybe, he's suffering from AIDS?"

I said, "Sure, take this," as I handed him \$2.16. He looked happy and appreciative. Then I thought, "What if he really hasn't eaten for two days? If so, \$2.16 won't buy him much, even at Wendy's." I called the man back to my window and pulling the remaining \$5.00 change out of my pocket I said, "Sir, would you mind taking this?"

Then he did a very surprising thing He started to dance around and shouted to the woman at the serving window and all the cars lined up behind me, "This man is Jesus! He gave me much

more than I expected!" He said it several times to the other people walking into the restaurant. I was embarrassed and wondered, "When is my hamburger going to get here?"

I thought, "This man is really mistaken. I gave him just \$7.16 and he calls me, Jesus? Talk about cheap grace!" I have believed that If I give to a hungry person I may be giving to Jesus. It was so much more difficult to believe others could see me as Jesus, when I was doing something that required so little sacrifice from me.

I guess, as Christians we are called to reflect Christ to others at unexpected times, unbelievable as that may seem.

"Therefore be imitators of God as beloved children,
And live in love, as Christ loved us,
And gave himself up for us,
A fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2

*Blessings,
Pastor Roger*

Retired Pastor Roger Livdahl...

Roger was ordained over 60 years ago. But did you know that after many years in the parish **he worked for Church World Services for 13 years traveling the globe addressing hunger, disaster, and crisis.** Then, in 1987 (right before the ELCA was formed) **he was asked to help shape the newly formed church's hunger and disaster appeals. In 1990 Roger became the Director of ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeals and served at ELCA churchwide for 8 years.** This year ELCA World Hunger is celebrating 50 years of Lutherans addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world. As we celebrate this anniversary, I thought it only appropriate to turn this front page over to Roger, who was instrumental in shaping the work we participate in today.

Salem News



Lenten Holden Prayer on Zoom

Take a breath each week during Lent on Wednesdays as we gather for a short 30 minute Zoom service that is a mash up of Holden Evening Prayer and Holden Prayer Around the Cross and offers us time for song, prayer, and presence.

Wednesdays in Lent
(February 21 - March 20)
6:30 pm on Zoom



Palms & Peeps

Palm Sunday will be full of hosannas & Peeps. Make sure to join us for worship on **Sunday March 24** as we

celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the beginning of Holy week...AND as we make Peeps dioramas. You won't want to miss it...palms, & Peeps! *See the back page for details on Peeps dioramas for everyone.*

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Narrative Lectionary Scripture Calendar

2/25: Bartimaeus Healed—Mark 10:32-52
3/3: Parable of the Tenants - Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]
3/10: Great Commandment—Mark 12:28-44
3/17: End of the Age—Mark 13:1-8, 24-37
3/24: Palm Sunday—Mark 11:1-11; 14:3-9
3/28: Maundy Thursday: Lord's Supper, Prayer in Gethsemane—Mark 14:22-42
3/29: Good Friday: Crucifixion—Mark 15:16-39
3/31: Easter: Resurrection—Mark 16:1-8
4/7: You Shall Be My Witnesses—Acts 1:1-14
4/14: Peter Heals in Jerusalem—Acts 3:1-10

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER *in the* UPPER ROOM



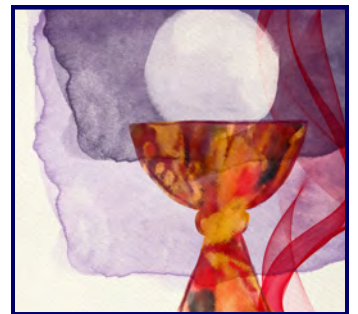
Maundy Thursday Worship in the Upper Room

Our Upper Room Meal & Worship has become one of Salem's finest traditions. Please plan to join us Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 pm. Just as Jesus and his disciples gathered, so we will gather around the table, with friends, for a meal and worship this holy night. Dinner will be catered by one of our local Greek/Mediterranean restaurants, so you don't want to miss out.

Thursday March 28, 6:30 pm

RSVP by Sunday March 24 (Palm Sunday) by one of the following:

- ◆ Using Sign-Up Genius through the E-Blast
- ◆ Signing up on the clipboard in the sanctuary
- ◆ Calling the Salem office at 612-872-4650



**Gather with Us at the Tomb on Easter
Sunday, April 9 at 9:30 am**
Festival Worship of Praise, Prayer, and Song
Coffee Hour with Easter Treats Following
Join Us for Our Resurrection Celebration!

More News



Book Club–Monster Conversation Begins!

It's NOT too late to join us! This book study will run from February 18-April 14. *(This builds in a couple of make-up dates with no meeting on Easter 3/31)*

God's Monsters: Vengeful Spirits, Deadly Angels, Hybrid Creatures, and Divine Hitmen of the Bible By Esther J. Hamori

Sundays on Zoom
 February 18-April 14
 4 pm–5 pm
(Zoom link in e-blast)



Tentative reading schedule would be 1-2 chapters per session. Check the e-blast and weekly announcements for the upcoming chapter(s) each week.



Annual Chili Cook-Off !

Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to everyone who made chili and stayed to eat it! This great tradition never ceases to disappoint–so start planning your

recipes for next year!



- 1st Rejene Giinther
- 2nd Rhonda Hlavinka
- 3rd Jon Hanke



Minneapolis Synod News



Announcement of Bishop nominees from Conference Assemblies

The Holy Spirit was moving through Conference Assemblies on February 10. Members of the Bishop Election Committee (BEC) are grateful for voting members' prayerful participation in the synod's election process. The BEC received the top three nominees from each conference assembly, and our Synod VP Felecia Boone called nominees to ask about their openness to discerning a call to the office of the bishop.

As of Tuesday morning, we confirmed that 14 nominees agreed to continue their discernment as candidates for the office of the bishop. Please note that nominees can withdraw at any point in their discernment process. The individual pastors are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Babette Chatman | Jen Nagel |
| Aaron Fuller | Bradley Schmeling |
| Stephanie Espinoza | Siri Strommen |
| Justin Grimm | Natalia Terfa |
| Norma Malfatti | Mark Tiede |
| Joy McDonald Coltvet | Kathryn Tiede |
| Dan Poffenberger | Megan Torgerson |

The BEC will host four candidate forums in April. Check out the dates and mark your calendars!

Sunday, April 7, 2024 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
 Location: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 19001 Jackson Street NE, East Bethel

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
 Location: TBD

Saturday, April 13, 2024 | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
 Location: Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
 Location: Via Zoom

The final slate of nominees who have submitted all forms and completed the required background checks will be posted on the Bishop Election website no later than Monday, April 1. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to contact us at BEC@mpls-synod.org or visit our web page at <https://mpls-synod.org/2024-bishop-election>.

ELCA World Hunger



Fifty Years of Impact

Fifty years ago the world was grappling with an astounding increase in hunger. Drought and rising costs, among other crises, were driving food insecurity for millions around the world. During this time Lutherans in the United States launched the World Hunger Appeals to stand with their neighbors experiencing hunger. Now a core ministry of the church, ELCA World Hunger embodies our hope in God's promise and our faith that God is revealed in the neighbors we accompany together.

Since 1974 hundreds of thousands of generous people from across this church have contributed more than \$650 million to support ELCA World Hunger. Countless more have prayed, shared, led, volunteered, and advocated. Together we have made great strides against hunger and poverty around the world.

In 2024 we have an opportunity to both commemorate the great strides we've made against hunger and poverty and boldly commit to increase our support of programs around the world. Despite the challenges we face, the story goes on. And in faith, we know how it will end: "They will hunger no more, and thirst no more ... and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:16-17). Join us and be part of the story of our next 50 years together – boldly and hopefully pursuing God's promise of a just world where all are fed.

Congregational Fundraiser Coming Soon!

As Lutherans come together to celebrate 50 years of working to address hunger in the world, we join in the party. We also want to celebrate Salem's own special connection to the work ELCA World Hunger has done – the ministry of retired Pastor Roger Livdahl, who helped to shape what this global ministry looks like and served as its director for 8 years.



Watch for information and join the celebration we will launch for the entire season of Easter. We will set aside the season of resurrection for learning about the difference Lutherans are making, sharing stories of lives that have been changed, celebrating the church's work, and setting an ambitious fundraising goal to mark our celebration in a very special way.

Stay tuned to find out about the creative and fun ways we will



be looking to celebrate and raise funds, including; giving challenges, matching gift opportunities, a fun and tangible way to keep track of funds raised in the sanctuary, and even a "Buck-a-Chick" event!

Get ready to celebrate and make a difference this Easter season!

More than
85%
of your gift directly supports
programmatic work.

Less than 15% is used for administration and fundraising.

Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You'll receive a receipt of your gift for your records. For frequently asked questions and more information on the churchwide ministries featured in this catalog, please visit [ELCA.org/goodgifts](https://elca.org/goodgifts).

Your gifts
support
work in



countries.

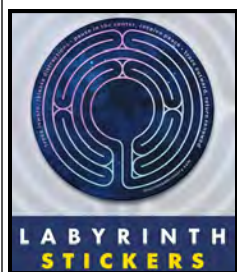
Faith Practices and More News

A Journey Through the Labyrinth

Color the labyrinth on the next page using crayons, colored pencils etc. Use as many colors as possible; this will make it easier for your eyes to follow your “walking” finger. Choose a walking finger and breathe smoothly. As you trace the path (from the outside opening at the bottom to the center, move at whatever pace feels right for you. As you do so, you may opt to:

- ♦ Quiet your mind
- ♦ Pray for yourself or someone else
- ♦ Keep a question in mind and feel the question using your emotions

At the center, pause and take several slow deep breathers (keeping your finger inside the center or place your hands comfortably on your lap). Here, many believe you are the closest to the center of your spirit and greater insight is available. When ready to leave the center, or feel satisfied (like after eating a good meal) retrace the path back out to the entrance (which now becomes the exit point). Upon leaving the labyrinth, be grateful and thankful for the opportunity to bring divine strength and insight back with you into your daily life.



BONUS! Pick up your Labyrinth Sticker in worship from Pastor Rhonda and use it everywhere you go!

Council Corner

Yay for our amazing church council! Thank you to all our returning and newly elected Salem council members who came together for the first time as our 2024 council this week. Watch for minutes from this meeting to come soon. Oh, and next time you see any of them (*listed below*), offer them a word of thanks for their leadership. .

Josh Jorstad–President
Myra Rusten–Vice President
Sarah Sinderbrand–Secretary
Maria Thieling–Treasurer
Kari Podenski
Paul Harper
Tom Pieper–SH Board Co-Cha
Mary Johnson–SH Board Mem
Jon Hanke–SH Building Comr



Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church



At the 2022 ELCA Churchwide gathering the Church Council was directed:

*“to establish a **Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church** comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church*

Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.” [CA22.01.06]

This is a churchwide initiative put forth to evaluate and make recommendations about the structure and function of the ELCA. It is meant to take a deep dive into the 3 expressions of the ELCA: Churchwide, Synods, & Congregations. The Commission will be giving a report and making recommendations for change at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

The Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church is asking everyone who is a part of the ELCA to take a brief survey about these three expressions of the church. You are invited to **use the QR code here to fill out the survey by March 15**. You can also find the survey and find more information on the CRLC at their website. Go to www.elca.org and search for CRLC or watch for the link in the eblast.

Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church Survey
Deadline: March 15

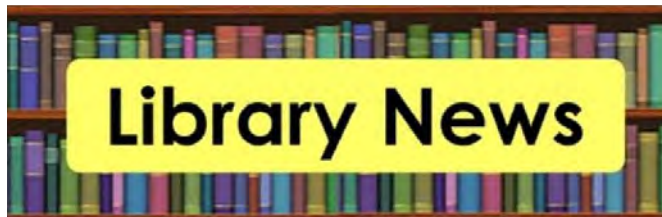


SCAN ME

Faith Practices



SpringHouse News & More



New Books in SpringHouse Library! Learning to See Strangers Through Jesus' Eyes. By Naomi Nelson (Salem Member)

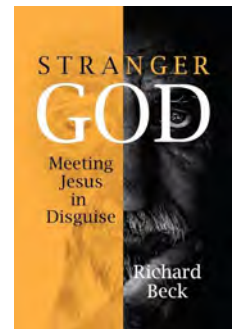
I have been asked to share a few comments on a couple of the new books added to the Springhouse Library that are displayed on the Library Cart off the sun room.

***Stranger God: Meeting Jesus in Disguise* by Richard Beck**

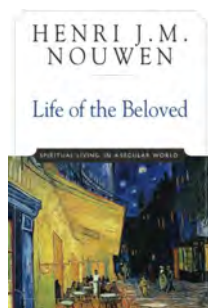
This is a book about the “strangeness of a God” who comes to us in strangers. (Matthew 25) Jesus comes to us in disguise in foreigners and refugees, in the homeless and outcasts, in the prisoner and the hungry. Beck draws on his own experiences in response to his Stranger God’s call to love and compassion for the other, the stranger.

I read this book a couple of years ago and will be reading it again and again.

The message reached down into the very depths of my soul (and in my gut). It forever changed me. I particularly saw the homeless through new eyes. I live in Uptown and am in walking distance to most places I frequent. I would encounter persons on Lyndale, Lake Street and Hennepin in particular, who would ask for money and some showed evidence they had been sleeping there. Often I felt uncertain how I should respond. With some I could but with others I was more hesitant (let’s just say it, whatever I was feeling had its roots in “fear”). I have truly believed that Jesus called me to love my neighbor and I have always felt a deep sadness whenever I have neglected to act like one. Thank goodness for God’s grace. This writer’s message has touched my heart and liberated me. I can now make eye contact, smile, ask their name, and see them for whom they are. God’s Beloved. (And their names are added to my prayer list.) That segues into the next book



***Life of the Beloved* by Henri J. M. Nouwen**



Nouwen wrote “Life of the Beloved” for the secular world at the request of a secular Jewish friend. However, it has also ended up making a tremendously deep impression on searching Christians.

Henri says, “Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the “Beloved.” Being the Beloved expresses the core truth of our existence.” And - the existence of all those strangers out there who are also His Beloved that He wants us to see.

In any Nouwen book I have read, God’s quiet voice reaches me through his words and experiences and I am changed. This one filled me with joy and peace and the embracing of His “fierce love”. (Author Brennan Manning’s expression from “Ragamuffin’s Gospel”.)

Draft Social Message on Civic Life and Faith

The ELCA is developing a social statement on civic life and faith, as called for by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. You’re invited to study the draft and give feedback by completing a survey or attending a hearing in our synod. Watch for more information to come. The survey will open at the end of September 2024 and you can read more and download the statement at: <https://elca.org/civicsandfaith>



Youth, Children, & Family News



Lock-In THANKS!

Our first SpringHouse lock-in since before Covid was a fun and successful event—and there are people to thank.

To the **adults** who made it happen—you are amazing and we truly appreciate you!

To the **youth** that attended—it was wonderful to have you and we thank you for joining us!

To the **parents** who dropped youth off and picked them up early in the morning—thank you for making our lock-in possible!



YOUTH GROUP

Sunday Morning Youth Group—You're Invited!

- ♦ Youth ages 10-18 years old.: ALL are welcome!
- ♦ Sundays from 10:00-10:40 am in the Youth Room on the lower level (Come to Salem worship and leave at 10...experience BOTH each Sunday!)
- ♦ Open Youth Room Hours: (just hang out with Chelsea and any others who are around) Sundays 9:00-10:00am and 10:40 am-12:30 pm

Come on down and see what's happening!

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.



Day Camp News!

BE NOT AFRAID

South MPLS Building Beloved Community Day Camp

Go ahead and make it official - **REGISTER NOW** and make sure you are in on the fun! Right click on the link below or see the eblast for details and a link to register.



[Register NOW](#)

New Dates - New Location

August 19 - 23, 9 am - 4 pm

(Early evening celebration on Thursday for families!)

Diamond Lake Lutheran Church

High School Youth Leaders Wanted!



9th–12th grade youth are invited to join us for a week of fun and leadership at Day Camp this summer. ***This position comes with a \$150 stipend*** for all youth who are able to commit to this week of fun!

Interested youth should [click the link HERE](#) or in the eblast to apply!

Adult Volunteers Needed

Yes, it's only February, but calendars fill up quick. If you are interested and able to help as an adult volunteer for day camp this summer, get it on the calendar and fill out the Volunteer Application as soon as you can! [Click the link HERE](#) or in the eblast to be part of this amazing week of kids and fun.



More News



It's Peeps Time!

Yay! Peeps dioramas!

Sunday, March 24 (all morning)

Join the great SpringHouse Tradition!

Easter Flowers

If you'd like to donate Easter flowers to beautify our worship space, please fill out the form in the bulletin or use this [online form](#). You many also contact the Salem office (612-472-4651 or office@discoversalem.org . **Orders are due March 3.** These flowers can be given in honor or memory of someone if you choose, and you can take them home or give them away as cool Easter gifts.



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 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
 *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

Wednesday

6:30 pm Lenten service via Zoom through March 20

**Spirit-led. Welcoming.
 Bold. Rooted.**



**Daylight Saving Time
 Begins March 10**

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour early Sunday morning, March 10.

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.

Matt Potts – 3/4
 David Seiffert – 3/7
 Sarah Sinderbrand – 3/8
 Kjell Jorstad–3/11
 Bettie Buzzell – 3/20
 Bob Hlavinka – 3/28
 Matt Giinther – 3/31
 Linda Hanson – 3/31





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

Pastor:	Rhonda Hlavinka	revhonda@discoversalem.org
Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	office@discoversalem.org
Music:	Tom Pieper	thomas.pieper@wayzata.k12.mn.us
Youth Ministry	Chelsa Boyden	springhouseyouth@fccmps.org
Building Manager:	Rick Bowman	rbowman@fccmps.org
Building Coordinator	Allison Jones	shcoordinator@fccmps.org