Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced smot tattooed plain rich poor short tall average fat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender slow quick employed freelance not working retired unemployed gray lesbian liberal conservative using recevering homeowner renter homeless ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker cough potato reader writer greeky technological analog innocent guilty agressive passive no confrontational peacemaker challenger explorer Single married partnered diverced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid pograndparent 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 he ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog in

Salem English Lutheran Church

April-May 2024

The Holy Becomes Real



Being a pastor takes me to lots of different places and spaces. In just over a month I will be in the highest incorporated city in North America, ON a train, going around a mountain, presiding over a memorial service. Yes, lots of different places and spaces. With this in mind, I am struck by some of the spaces I found myself in over the last 2 weeks.

First, I went to visit Bob Shorten in his transitional care setting and while I'm not sure how it happened, I ended up at lunch with Bob and 3 of his neighbors eating the best sloppy joe I've ever had. Even better than the meal

though, were the stories shared at the table. Most of them came from LaVon, who turned 103 this month and can tell a tale. It was in the midst of the stories that came from a combined total of almost 400 years of life lived, that I realized our lunch table had become holy ground. In the stories God showed up and the holy became real.

A few days later, I found myself in the ICU at HCMC sitting with Roger after he was hit by a car on his evening walk. Now, you all know I don't believe in a "magic wand" God. However, I feel like maybe there could be a little divine protection for a guy like Roger. So, I told him I had "words" with God. I knew he was as ok as could be when he threw his head back and laughed, responding, "Who won?".

As I think about the time spent with him in the hospital, I am struck by the stories we have shared. A hospital tends to bring out the stories we've never gotten around to sharing and those that fill our spirits. The ICU is always holy ground. It is in this space and through the stories that become important to share there, that God shows up and the holy becomes real.

Four days later I found myself in a giant Zoom meeting, moderating a Candidate Forum with the nominees for bishop. About halfway through, it hit me that one of the candidates will likely become my new "boss." More importantly though, I became very aware that the Minneapolis Synod is the largest synod in the ELCA and EVERYONE will be watching as we elect our next bishop. So much has happened and so many things have changed since we last elected a new bishop. I think this bishop election will be more important than we can even know right now.

What was amazing to me was that in the midst of this crazy Zoom, where I was juggling a timer, signs, questions, and names...I was moved by the stories being shared. Even on Zoom, the Holy Spirit can stir us and in their stories, God showed up and the holy became real.

Finally, last Sunday I found myself on a Sacred Sites Tour with Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (founder of "Healing Minnesota Stories" and Director of Racial Justice for the MN Council of Churches.) He took us to Fort Snelling State Park, the Internment Camp after The Dakota–US War, and Pilot Knob Hill–a traditional burial ground, and through storytelling shared our Minnesota history from a native perspective...and the ground became holy. When we take time to listen to the stories of those whose voices have historically not been heard or simply ignored, God shows up and the holy becomes real.

As a pastor I am privileged to enter into many spaces. One of the things Rev. Jim Bear shared keeps coming back to me. In the native experience stories are held in places...they cannot be separated. I think that may just ring true for all of us. These four places struck me as particularly holy...but it was really in the stories shared in those spaces that that God showed up and the holy became real.

The stories we hold are important and sharing them is vital. This is why our Livdahl Living Legacy campaign is not just about fundraising...but also includes stories. In sharing some of Roger's stories and stories from ELCA World Hunger, our space becomes sacred, God shows up, and the holy becomes real. It seems to me that we should be sharing more of our stories with one another–creating holy ground along the way.

On June 1, I will board a train in the highest city in North America to preside over my aunt Jane's memorial service. I guarantee there will be stories shared in that space and God will show up and the holy will become very real.

Blessings, Pastor Rhonda

Salem News

Special Pentecost Worship

Make sure you are with us on Sunday May 19 for worship. Not only will we celebrate Pentecost (the birthday of the church and the Holy Spirit among us), we will also be capping off our Living Legacy Campaign for



ELCA World Hunger in honor of our very own Roger Livdahl.

This campaign has been an overwhelming success so far and we are looking forward to bringing it to fruition on Pentecost Sunday with celebrations in worship honoring our hunger work and Roger's legacy and ministry. Come hear stories, tributes, and our final update on our fundraising efforts for ELCA World Hunger.

Following worship we will join in the gathering space for a reception with cake (as is our Lutheran tradition) and other desserts!

We hope you will be able to join us for this very special day!

Summer Sermons

Summer is right around the corner and with it comes a break in the narrative lectionary.



This summer watch for a

series based on the book that book club has been discussing—"God's Monsters", the book of Daniel, and possible potpourri sermons. In addition, watch for some guest preachers to bless us from the pulpit.



Narrative Lectionary Scripture Calendar

4/28: Church at Thessalonica-Acts 17:1-9, 1 Thess. 1:1-10

5/5: Church at Corinth-Acts 18:1-4, 1 Cor. 1:10-18

5/12: Death Swallowed in Life-1 Cor 15:1-26, 51-57

5/19: Gifts of the Spirit-Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor 12:1-13

5/26: Holy Trinity Sunday

BOOKCLUB

Monster Conversation Concludes

Join us for the last 3 short chapters of our God's Monsters book club on Sunday April 29 and Sunday May 4. We have all been dying to know where the author will end

up taking us...join us to find out!

Join us Sundays: 4 pm - 5 pm on Zoom

Sunday April 29: Chapters 8 - Shades, Ghosts, and Other Living Dead and Chapter 9 - Giants

Sunday May 5: Chapter 10 - The God Monster





Summer Worship in the Park

It's that time of year! It's almost time to gather in the park for worship. We will gather once a month this summer at <u>Wabun G</u> for worship. Remember–due to park hours and logistics–<u>all park worship is at 10:30 am</u>. So mark your calendars and plan to join us for some outdoor worship!

Sunday June 23

Join us for Coffee and Donuts after

Sunday July 28

Join us for LUNCH after

Sunday August 18

Joint SpringHouse Worship

All Park Worship at 10:30 at Wabun Pavilion G

More News





Caritas Vocal Ensemble 2024 Concert

Sing, My Soul: Love in Heaven and the Sky

Caritas Vocal Ensemble is dedicated to sharing meaningful music performances to benefit the community. This concert explores the counterpart to earthly, bodily love: transcendent, sublime, heavenly love. The overwhelming feelings of human connection, spiritual fulfillment, and comfort in the belief in powers greater than ourselves. The program will include music by Duruflé, Shara Nova, Paulus, Dawson, and more. This concert will benefit Salem Lutheran Church's Community Meal Program.

Let's Go See a Concert-Salem Group Outing!

Our very own Laurie Zaepfel, Salem's Office Administrator Extraordinaire and SpringHouse Bookkeeper, has been part of the Caritas Vocal Ensemble for years and last year we took a group outing to one of their concerts. It was fantastic! So, we are going to do it again. This outing will support Caritas and Salem's Community Meal Program...and will give us a chance to hear great music!

Sunday June 2-3:30 pm

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

(one of our FP&NP cohort partner churches)

4150 Dupont Avenue North–MPLS, MN 55412 Cost: Free Will Offering

We will plan to meet in the parking lot at the concert venue (Salem north side), but if you would like to carpool from SpringHouse, sign up on the clipboard in the sanctuary and we will put some groups together.

Council Corner

Council has begun meeting on Sundays after worship so they can be in person more often. There have been two in-person Sunday meetings so far, and it seems to be a successful change. Highlights from the April meeting:



- We want to use only compostable (or washable) supplies for coffee hour. We have switched our communion cups to biodegradable.
- SpringHouse is putting together a team of people to brainstorm creative ways to increase income to replace rental income that is gone after Covid. They will work on ideas to leverage our assets (the building for example) for other revenue.
- Synod Assembly is May 2-5. Pastor Rhonda and Antone Melton-Meaux will be our voting members. A new bishop will be elected for the MPLS Synod.

Gardeners Needed

SpringHouse is sending out the call for volunteers who like to garden.



There are TWO tasks which need our attention.

- 1. The indoor plants have been lovingly cared for by First Christian folks for 10+ years, but due to "retirement" we are seeking others that are willing to care for these plants. A group of folks are planning which plants to keep, which plants to give away, and which to discard. Some will need to be repotted. Some will need to be fertilized regularly. Would you like to contribute your ideas and opinions to this group?
- 2. The outside gardens at SpringHouse have been maintained by members of the Landscape Committee and the Green Team. We would welcome more gardeners to help with this task. Generally, we meet twice a month on a Saturday morning for a couple of hours.

If you are able to help with either of these tasks, please contact Mary Vanderford, <u>mandmvanderford@gmail.com</u>, or Wendy, <u>wendye@fccmpls.org</u>.

ELCA World Hunger

ELCA World Hunger-Our Approach

For 50 years, generous people of faith have enabled ELCA World hunger to connect with local partners in **67 countries** around the world, including the United States. Working with local churches, we encourage efficiency and empower communities to tailor solutions to their specific challenges.

This work includes:

Agriculture and nutrition: Soup kitchens, food pantries and meal programs provide immediate support to those in need. Community gardens and agricultural programs help families grow food to nourish their families and communities for the long term



Water and sanitation: Water for drinking, growing crops, sanitation and hygiene is paired with ongoing health education, training and maintenance to create healthier families and stronger economies.

Health care and disease prevention: Clinics and community health programs provide health education and medical assistance to people in poverty and work to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and water-borne illnesses.

Income and savings: Microloans and income-generating activities help families start or upgrade their small businesses and pay for such essentials as food, medical treatment and school fees.



Education and training: Removing

barriers to education – such as school fees and uniforms –



can give children the chance to attend school and increase their future earning potential. Literacy training, vocational education and other such programs help teens and adults secure jobs and better opportunities for the future.

However, our commitment to fighting hunger goes beyond funding. We are a publicly engaged church, working for lasting, systemic change. Our teaching, organizing and mobilizing play critical roles in supporting and amplifying our hunger work at the grassroots level.

Through these projects and more, and with the support of many across this church, ELCA World Hunger gets at the many root causes of hunger and poverty.

Livdahl's Living Legacy

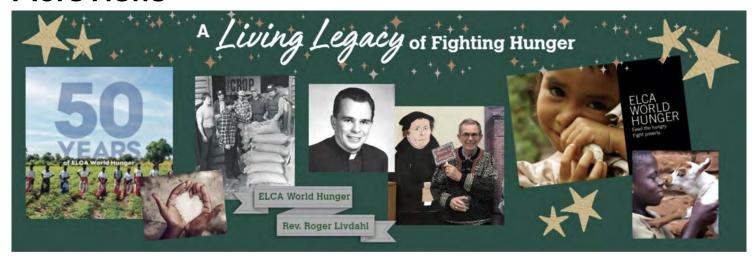
What a wonderful campaign this is turning out to be! After an amazing launch on Easter Sunday, complete with some of the local Livdahl family in attendance, we have continued to celebrate Roger, his ministry, and the ministry of ELCA World Hunger. With a goal of raising \$5K in honor of Roger for ELCA World Hunger, we began with long-time member Linda Hanson offering a \$1K challenge match if we could raise \$1K in the first seven days of the campaign. Well, we met that goal in just a few days. Since then we have continued to see the incredible generosity of our faith community and all those who love and support both Roger and the work he has been so passionate about for so long.

As of 4/25 our total raised was \$7686...and that number will have already changed by the time you read this...and will continue to climb! What a testimony to Roger and our commitment to God's work.

Keep your eyes open for the latest campaign news and fundraising efforts on our Facebook page, in e-blasts, and announcements. Then plan to join us Pentecost Sunday, May 19, for our grand finale celebration. (There will be cake!)



More News



A Few Messages from Roger (and Barb) Fans

Thanks be to God for your ministry, Roger!
- Pastor Jen Nagel

What a joy to celebrate this pillar of faith and a HUGE partner in global ministry, certainly with GHM, but also through many roles and agencies throughout his decades of servant leadership. Praise God!

- Pastor Doug Cox (Executive Director Global Health Ministries)

Thank you for honoring Roger. We met him in 1992 on a trip to Central America and he's been an inspiration ever since.

- Deacons Michael Troutman and Amy Blumenshine

Dear Roger and Barb, with great thanks for you and the love you have brought into the world. Blessings,

-Pastor Chris Wogaman

Excerpt from a Letter...



Hello Dear Friends in Christ!

As a member of one of Pastor Roger Livdahl's former congregations, I want to join in the celebration of his legacy. Pastor Livdahl served here in Tofte, MN, from 1968 to 1975. It was a time of real spiritual growth here in our small town and the surrounding area. (Pastor Roger also served the congregation in Lutsen in the same time period.)

Pastor Livdahl preached a good sermon, and he wasn't afraid to take risks. One particular Sunday I remember well, although I couldn't tell you the date, was when, at the end of his sermon, he told us to be sure to come

the next Sunday, for he had something very special for us. Well, what in the world could that be?, I wondered. The next Sunday, he read through a little pamphlet called THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS. Now, in those days, that wasn't a very "Lutheran" thing to do! But he obviously saw the value in that little pamphlet, We had each received one so we could follow along as he read and explained. I would say that was a real milestone day.

Pastor Livdahl was very much a pioneer, in that he was always thinking of new ways in which to propagate the gospel. One very significant thing that he initiated was the summertime early Sunday morning beach service near the Father Baraga Landmark in Schroeder, MN. This service continues on in 2024, and has been a real blessing to thousands of people over the years!

I feel I have only scratched the surface in telling of the wonderful deeds the Lord accomplished through His servant Roger Livdahl, but these are some things for which I and others will be eternally grateful. Roger and Barbara proved to be servants who really cared about the people here. Thank you Roger and Barbara with all my heart, for taking risks and letting god work through you!

- Marcia Hansen (Zoar Lutheran Church, Tofte MN)

May is Mental Health Month



Mental Health and the Church

"Physical and mental health is an essential component of a Christian vocation and is God's intention for every human being." (ELCA Bishop Eaton) For too long the church has perpetuated a stigma around mental health causing the vulnerable to hear that mental illness is a result of sin or not enough faith.

Throughout May and beyond, we must seek ways to erase the stigma surrounding mental illness and continually love all people as beloved. Our faith teaches that caring for health is a shared endeavor and that being the body of Christ means carrying one another's burdens. This May we will lift up

resources and strategies that we can use as we strive for our own wellness and the wellness of our neighbors in the body of Christ.

Let's talk about mental health-From the MN Department of Health

- We all have mental health. Mental health is our ability to engage with our emotions, thoughts, interactions with others, and the world around us. Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act every day. The best way to protect mental health is to pay attention to it even when you're feeling ok. Just like with our physical health, we can do things that make us mentally healthier and happier.
- Creating positive habits is a great way to support your mental health. Mental health plays a big role in overall well-being. When you feel mentally well, you're more able to enjoy life and the people in it, feel better about yourself, keep up with fulfilling relationships, and manage stress.



- Experiencing poor mental health is not the same as having a mental health condition. A mental health condition, or mental illness, refers to a set of symptoms that have been identified by a health provider. We all have tough days and weeks, and everyone manages their mental health every day. People with mental health conditions experience change in emotions, thinking, and/or behavior. For some, this means extreme and unexpected changes in mood. For others, it means not thinking clearly, pulling away from people & things, or hearing voices that others do not. Mental illness is treatable and is not always a permanent state of being.
- The opportunities and resources we have available in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and communities impact our mental health just like they impact our physical health. Mental health is not just about what we do as individuals. For example, when organization and policies support belonging and connectedness, they promote mental health.

You are Not Alone

If you or someone you know is in need of mental health support or resources...

- The National Lifeline for Crisis: Dial 988 for 24/7 free & confidential support. You can also text 988 or go to <u>988.lifeline.org</u> to chat.
- NAMIMN (National Alliance on Mental Illness-Minnesota). For crisis resources go to the NAMIMN crisis page <u>HERE</u>. For general mental health resources go to <u>www.namimn.org</u>.

Watch throughout the month of May for more resources in our bulletins and e-blasts!











in mental health.

SpringHouse News & More

Grief Groups to meet again at SHMC

Beginning May 4, 2024, First Christian will host the Downtown Coalition for Grief Support groups in the lower level of SpringHouse every Saturday for four months.



The participants gather at 10 am to

hear a speaker, and then break into discussion groups for family loss, spouse loss and child loss after the speaker's talk.

Please contact Ann Wolverton (651-276-9855) if you can help or need more information.

Volunteers are needed to set up at 9 am, help with refreshments (or donate for weekly treats), display library resource books, and help with registration and greeting.

Call for Artists!

We are looking to liven up our office space with art from our community! If you



create any kind of wall-mounted work that could fit in our office, this call is for you! Submit an application online or pick up a printed form at SpringHouse. The deadline for submissions is Friday, May 31 at 11:59 PM. Please reach out to Allison Jones, Building Coordinator, at SHCoordinator@fccmpls.org with any questions.

ZOOM HUSE

Zoom House Transition

Salem has supported the Zoom House ministry for many years. We learned in the last several years that this facility would transition to a different model for affordable housing, and that is now being finalized. The leadership has sent this message to supporters of Zoom House:

Dear ZOOM House Community-

As we wind down operations of ZOOM House, the ZOOM House Board wishes to extend its heartfelt appreciation to our supporters, funders, volunteers over the past 27+ years. We feel proud to be part of a collective legacy of helping individuals and families out of homelessness and into a brighter, more secure future.

Our transition strategy started in July 2022 and set out to do two things: 1) ensure current residents were not displaced or disrupted, and 2) protect the supply of affordable housing in south Minneapolis. We accomplished both. In December 2023, we completed the sale of our building to Global Health Link, an organization with the resources and commitment to support affordable housing and supportive services for the long term. We wish them and the residents of 3244 Blaisdell Avenue the very best.

With gratitude,

The ZOOM House Board of Directors

Simpson Shelter Meals Are Back!

Salem members have volunteered along with Lyndale UCC at Simpson Shelter for years before the pandemic. Lyndale has been a meal provider for over 20 years at Simpson Shelter, and they generally like to have a team of 10 volunteers. Please consider whether you can be a part of our team. This opportunity takes place at the former Zion Lutheran Church, 128 West 33rd Street in Minneapolis (temporary location for Simpson Shelter while their new shelter building is being built.) Volunteers meet at 5 pm and prepare the meal there, serve at 7:00 pm and clean up after dinner, finishing by 8:15 pm. If your work schedule makes that 5:00 start time difficult, some volunteers come later and work a 6:30 - 8:15 shift. For more information or to sign up, please email Mary Vanderford if you are available. mandmvanderford@gmail.com



Upcoming dates are April 30, June 18, August 20, October 29 and December 3.

The group always has a good time together, serving and participating in fellowship with folks who are temporarily unhoused.

Youth, Children, & Family News



Totally Fabulous, All Generations Queer Prom 2.0

You are invited to the second annual Queer Prom. Sponsored by The Center for Sustainable Justice and hosted at SpringHouse, this is an inclusive event open to all as we launch into PRIDE month. Watch for more info to come.

May 31 from 7 pm to 10 pm at SpringHouse Ministry Center

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 9:00-10:00 am 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!



South MPLS Building Beloved Community Day Camp

New Dates - New Location

August 19 - 23, 9 am - 4 pm

(Early evening celebration on

Thursday for families!)

Diamond Lake Lutheran Church



Adult Volunteers Needed



Day Camp only happens if we have enough adult volunteers. This means we need YOU. Whether you can help all day every day or just for a short time on one specific day...we can use you. 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! <u>Click the link HERE</u> or in the eblast to be part of this amazing week of kids and fun.

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 <u>click the link HERE</u> or in the eblast to apply!



Day Camp registration for K-8th grades is open... *REGISTER NOW*! Right click on the link below or see the eblast for details and a link to register.

Register NOW

More News

Senior Community Services



Senior Community Services, a local organization, pro-SENIOR vides a variety of opportuni-COMMUNITY ties for seniors, as well as SERVICES volunteer AND paid posi-

tions in the organizations.

Tech help: If you are over 60 and would like assistance with using or connecting your tech devices, you can call 952-888-5530 to learn more and schedule an appointment.

Spring Chores / Snow removal: If you would like to assist others with seasonal outdoor work, you can either volunteer or apply for a paid position to assist seniors

Volunteers: visit seniorcommunity.org/volunteer

Paid positions: visit seniorcommunity.org/employment to see the full job descriptions and apply.



Roger was celebrated at his retirement in 1995!

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 Study on ZOOM, concluding May 5

Tuesday

8:00 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.

LaVina Giinther - 5/6

Emily Chesley - 5/12

Scott Rusten - 5/12

Frank Buzzell - 5/17

Chris Nordeen - 5/19

Avery Melton-Meaux -

5/20

Rae Buzzell - 5/23







610 West 28th Street Minneapolis, MN 55408

shcoordinator@fccmpsl.org Building Coordinator Allison Jones rjamesb49@gmail.com Rick Bowman Building Manager: springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org Chelsea Boyden Youth Ministry thomas.pieper@wayzata.kl2.mn.us Tom Pieper :DisuM office@discoversalem.org Laurie Zaeptel Office: revrhonda@discoversalem.org Rhonda Hlavinka

Salem English Lutheran Church
is a Reconciling in Christ
(R.L.C.) Congregation
We are a Spirit-led, welcoming, and bold
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grandparent nice cranky queer pierced virgin tattooed plain rich poor short tall average tat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender controntational peacemaker challenger explorer Single married partmered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geed Phrasas Onlite Cache Calo Westernon telited unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter ho tattooed plain rich poor short tall average tat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender slow quick employed treelance not working Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced smo ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog in quick employed treelance not working retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced smo brown red yellow white Told direction the state of the controntational peacemaker challenger explorer Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid pa old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog innocent guilty agressive passive no refired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter homeless ambitious content devout seekin tattooed plain rich poor short tall average tat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender slow quick employed treelance not working 2ingle married parmered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced smo