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Salem English Lutheran Church

January-Early February 2025

Big Shoes, Practices, Neighboring...It's Not Nothing



Sometimes the front page of the church newsletter feels like a lot of pressure. Sometimes I have to cut my writing in half to fit it all on the page. Sometimes this space feels profound and other times it feels...well, not profound at all. But no matter how difficult it may seem sometimes...something usually makes it to the page. Today I've got nothing. So, in the interest of keeping it real...maybe I'll just sit over here and wait for the Holy Spirit to move, to breath, to do anything that will give me something instead of the nothing I've got.

Three days later...

I'm not always sure of what the Spirit is saying, but today it has something to do with the big shoes we have to fill. I think we always knew it would be the case, but the 160+ people at Roger's celebration of life service confirmed it...big shoes. Not only do we have big shoes to fill...but the time we are living in is calling us to be the kind of faith-filled and welcoming force Roger was every day.

Were you with us to see how many people came to Christmas Eve worship? We had so many people, we had to borrow chairs from other rooms just to have a seat for everyone. What I have found out over the last couple of weeks is that Salem was not unique this year on Christmas...it seems there was a bumper crop of people walking through church doors everywhere.

It is not a secret that the world is offering up lots of reasons for people to seek out the baby in a manger...and the communities of believers that gather around him. With the division in our country, uncertainty and fear around the inauguration of a new president, wildfires raging, and countless other things that cause anxiety and pain...I believe people need the church in real, palpable ways right now.

Over the last few weeks, I have not been able to help but think about Roger and his quiet, humble, ways of showing up for so many for so long. His gentle but real welcome to church is the reason many of you found yourselves part of our community. His quiet witness through his passion for ELCA World Hunger and Global Health influenced countless choices this congregation has made about its money and time. Big shoes...

A wise person recently brought to my attention that we have not talked about Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices lately. I mean, we have because it is really part of all we do...but she's right, we haven't talked about it, and it got me thinking.

While Roger's shoes may be very hard to fill, in what ways have we already been following in his footsteps? And Roger is just one of the amazing examples of faith we have had in this church family who taught us through their living what it means to practice our faith and to neighbor well. What things are we already doing that show the impact they've had on us? I wonder how their lives of faith practices and neighboring can shape our ministry as we move into this new year.

We will gather in two weeks for our annual congregational meeting. It's always a chance for us to look back and see what we did over the last year and then to envision and make some decisions about what our next year of ministry together will look like. This is an important year for us to gather...because the world is telling us people need church in ways they haven't in a long time AND it's our faith practices & neighboring practices that will help us, maybe not to "fill" the shoes of Roger and our other saints at Salem, but to follow in their steps so that we are living into the welcoming community we are and the neighboring we can do.

Well, I'm not sure if it's profound or not. It's been a busy few months and my brain is a wee bit muddled as we begin 2025. But the Spirit did move...as she always does...and it's not nothing. Here's to a new year of ministry together!

Blessings,

Pastor Rhonda

Faith Practices for All



Do 1 Thing

Small acts of kindness and compassion help us to share God's love with others and to live the way Jesus taught us to live. Kids, youth, and adults can make a habit of these acts by intentionally choosing (each day or each week) **one thing to do for a neighbor, a classmate, a coworker, a friend, a family member, or a stranger.** This is a spiritual practice everyone can do...so go ahead and try it.

Salem News

Lefse is Back on the Calendar!



Let's Roll

Who said lefse is just for December? We had to postpone our lefse making party, but we did not cancel it...and it's back on the calendar.

Please join us for this fun annual tradition at Salem—we would love to have you!

When: Saturday January 18, 9 am–12 pm (come when you can, leave when you must)

Who: ALL are WELCOME for lefse making—NO EXPERIENCE necessary! Don't worry if you haven't done it before or don't know how...we will teach you!

What to Bring: If you have a lefse griddle, lefse roller, lefse rolling board, or lefse turning stick, bring it with you. Don't worry if you don't, we will have plenty with those who do. Otherwise just bring your lefse making spirit to join in the fun!



We hope you will be able to come join our Lefse Rolling Team! Then join us Sunday morning, January 19, when we will have lefse for our communion bread. Yum!

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Narrative Lectionary Scripture Calendar

Here are the parts of the story coming up:

1/5: **Boy in the Temple**—Luke 2:41-52

1/12: **Jesus' Baptism**—Luke 3:1-22

1/19: **Sermon at Nazareth**—Luke 4:14-30

1/26: **Joint SpringHouse Worship**

2/2: **Fish for People**—Luke 5:1-11

2/9: **Healing on the Sabbath & Raising the Widow's Son**—Luke 6-7

2/16: **More than a Prophet**—Luke 7:18-35

2/23: **Forgiven at Jesus' Feet**—Luke 7:36-50

3/2: **Transfiguration**—Luke 9:28-45



Every Meal: We Have a Date!

Mark your calendars! We have a date for packing at Every Meal in their Roseville warehouse! Every Meal is a program that distributes week-end meals to school children throughout Minnesota. We have procured **20 spaces** for packing on

Monday February 17

6 pm – 8 pm

Every Meal Warehouse

2723 Patton Rd, Roseville, MN 55113

Anyone **over the age of 8** is able to volunteer for this packing shift. (kids do need to be with an adult and a parent must sign a release form)

The first 20 people who sign up will be able to join us for this shift. In January, we will open up any spots not claimed by Salem members/friends to our SpringHouse partner congregations.

How to sign up: You can either sign up on the clipboard in the back of the sanctuary, use the link in the eblast, OR the QR code here to sign up!



Once you have signed up, Pastor Rhonda will get you all the registration information you need!

For more info, go to: www.everymeal.org

Congregational Tool Kit

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 15 (8:30 am–12 pm) for the annual synod Tool Kit event. This event is a morning full of workshops for congregation member and leaders that will inspire and teach. From learning what it means to be on a church council and budgets to mental health and neighbor...there is something for everyone. Best of all—it's FREE and anyone can attend. This is a fantastic event and it would be great to have several Salem members attend! Watch for more details to come soon.



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 9, (Yes, it's Superbowl Sunday...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 9 at 11 am

Fabulous 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!



Living Lutheran is Back in Print

That's right...they have heard the people's cry and are returning with a print publication in 2025. While it will not be a monthly publication, it will be a seasonal

quarterly printed magazine delivered right to your mailbox.

Cost for the full year subscription will be \$19.95 for individuals. IF we have at least 10 people from Salem who would like to subscribe, the cost will be only \$17 per person.

If you are interested in subscribing, please sign up ASAP either in the back of the sanctuary on the clipboard, or by contacting Laurie in the office at office@discoversalem.org or 612-872-4650.

Once we know if we have 10 people, we will let you know how to make your payment.



ANNUAL MEETINGS

Annual Meeting Sunday

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 26** when we will gather for Annual Meeting Sunday.

9:00 am Gather for pastries and coffee

9:30 am Salem Annual Meeting begins

10:30 am Joint SpringHouse Worship

11:30 am SpringHouse Annual Meeting

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.



Lent Sneak Peek

Ash Wednesday isn't until March 5 this year, but here is a sneak peek at what you should know for calendaring.

Ash Wednesday Worship: March 5 at 7:00 pm (in person & online)

Lenten Holden Worship: Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 pm on Zoom only. (March 12, 19, 26, April 2, & 9)

Palm Sunday Worship/Peeps Dioramas: Sunday April 13 at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday Worship & Meal in the Upper Room: Thursday April 17 at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday Worship: Sunday April 20 at 9:30 am

Watch for more details in the months ahead!

Even More News

Exciting New Adult Study Opportunity



Join us as we dive into a brand-new resource from Church Anew featuring **local faith leaders** and great discussions called **Genesis: Belonging to God's Good**. Church Anew introduces this new resource saying, "Our premise is simple: Ignite curiosity in the Bible through generous invitation, fresh witness, and breathtaking video."

All are invited (no experience necessary) to this exciting adult study! Mark your calendars today!

We will meet on Sundays from 11 am–12 pm

(right after worship and a short time of coffee and treats)

In Person AND on Zoom

February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, & April 6

Episode 1: Leaving Eden (Genesis 3) Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson (Bethlehem Lutheran Twin Cities) Boundaries, perfection, and how God pushes us out of Eden and into the real world

Episode 2: The Breath of God (Genesis 4:1-16) Rev. Tyler Sit (New City Church MPLS) Cain and Abel: Identity, production, toxic masculinity, relationships, and connection to the land

Episode 3: The Water of Life (Genesis 6-9) Deacon David Rojas Martinez (Holy Trinity Lutheran MPLS) Noah: God in nature & creation care for future generations

Episode 4: Trusting God's Provision (Genesis 12: 1-9) Rev. Christine Belfrey (Messiah Lutheran MPLS) Abraham and Sarah: Called to new places & roots to "home"

Session 5: See & Be Seen (Genesis 16 and 21:8-21) Rev. Jenny Sung (Calvary Lutheran MPLS) Hagar: Feelings of abandonment, "othering", being claimed and co-creating

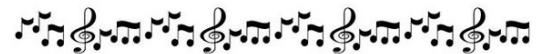
Episode 6: Jacob's Blessing (Genesis 32:22-32) Rev. Metta Herrick Carlson (Bethlehem Lutheran Twin Cities) Jacob's Blessing: Family relationships, birth order, family folklore, identity, wholeness, & keeping score

Episode 7: Dreams for Healing (Genesis 37, 45) Joe Davis - Spoken Word Artist (Your Freedom Practice & Redeemer MPLS) Joseph: God's call to healing and restoration with body, family, & community



Check Out Some Live Music

Check out where our AMAZING worship musicians are playing outside our walls and find an opportunity to go and hear some great live music in the Twin Cities!



Paul Harper will be playing saxophone with his quartet at **Volstead's (Lake and Lyndale speakeasy)** Check them out:

February 7: 9 pm–12 am

March 7: 9 pm–12 am

Volstead's Emporium–Speakeasy is right down the street from church. Entrance is at the back of the building on the southwest corner. Check out the monthly music scene on the website for this hidden Uptown gem at <https://www.volsteads.net/music> (They take reservations and walk-ins)



Tom's upcoming performances include:

◆ **The Lexington** on Grand in St. Paul with **The Joel Shapira Trio**

February 1: 7 pm–10 pm

Check out the [Lexington's Facebook Page](#) for details and go to <https://thelexmn.com/reservations> to make reservations!

◆ **The Bloomington Symphony Orchestra**

Exuberance! **February 9 at 2 pm** at the Gideon Ives Auditorium at the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center

Transcendent Mahler: **April 6 at 2 pm** at **Orchestra Hall**

Check out their website for more information and tickets!

<https://bloomingtonsymphony.org/>

◆ **The Thesis Brewery** in Rochester with **Scott Gerry Feb 19**

◆ **The MacPhail Center for Music's Concerto Concert**

Sunday March 2: 3:30 pm

Faith Practices

Intentions for 2025

Grounding faith practices for the New Year

From Living Lutheran by Kelly Mason

As we welcome the new year, it's a perfect time to center ourselves in faith, hope and action. The coming year offers a fresh opportunity to deepen our relationship with God, strengthen our communities and engage more fully with our Lutheran faith. In this article, we explore a collection of intentions to consider for 2025, rooted in biblical affirmation, service and spiritual practices.

Scriptures to guide your year:

- ◆ “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).
- ◆ “Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).
- ◆ “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

◆ Five affirmations to carry with you:

- ◆ I am loved unconditionally by God.
- ◆ Because God is ever present, I never have to face life's challenges alone.
- ◆ In all things, I strive for peace, justice and reconciliation, following Christ's example.
- ◆ God's mercy is new every morning.
- ◆ God has a plan for my life.

◆ Ways to serve your community in 2025:

- ◆ **Volunteer at a food pantry:** Partner with local organizations and encourage friends and family to donate food, time or funds.
- ◆ **Participate in outreach programs that help those struggling with homelessness:** Spend time supporting shelters or organizing drives for warm clothing and supplies.
- ◆ **Support local schools:** Offer tutoring or mentorship to students or contribute to school fundraisers and supplies drives.
- ◆ **Volunteer at a nursing home or assisted-living facility:** Help with residents' activities, write notes of encouragement to nurses and aides, or simply offer companionship to those who may be isolated or in need of assistance.
- ◆ **Get involved at your local congregation:** Find ways to serve your “home church”
- ◆ **Five conversation-starters to bring to your study group or next family dinner:**
 - ◆ How do you feel God's presence—especially when life feels hard?
 - ◆ What gives you hope, and how do you sustain that hope?
 - ◆ What Bible verse or hymn has been especially meaningful to you recently, and why?
 - ◆ How do you see Martin Luther's teachings influencing your faith journey today?
 - ◆ What role does fellowship with your siblings in Christ play in your spiritual life, and how do you nurture it?



As we step into 2025, we strive to make this year one of intentional faith, service and connection. By integrating these practices into your daily life, you'll not only enrich your spiritual journey but also inspire and uplift those around you. We pray for hope and a renewed commitment to living out our faith in action in the new year.

Youth, Children, & Family News

From Chelsea's Desk: Following the Star into 2025

So, we made it—2025 is officially here! New year, new opportunities, same slightly chaotic energy we're bringing to everything we do. Whether you're crushing your New Year's resolutions or still figuring them out, it's all good. A new year isn't about getting everything perfect; it's about taking the next step forward.



And that brings us to Epiphany, which marks that incredible moment when the Magi set out on a journey, following a star to something extraordinary. Imagine: no Google Maps to guide them, no Spotify playlists for entertainment, maybe even no snacks (hopefully they packed some food!). Just them, their animals, and a star lighting the way. Yet they still went. Why? Because they believed that something life-changing was waiting for them at the end of the journey. Spoiler alert: they were absolutely right.

Now, back to today. This new year is like your own Epiphany adventure. What's the "star" you're going to follow? What's pulling you forward into something new, even if you don't know where it will lead? Maybe it's being kinder to someone who's tough to love, stepping up to lead in a way that feels scary, or even just trying to figure out what faith really means for you.

And here's the cool part: it's okay not to have it all figured out. The Magi didn't. They just took it step by step, and trusted the light to keep leading them. That's the same invitation we have this year: follow the light, even when the path is a little blurry.

So, here's a challenge for you: take a minute this week to think about where you're heading in 2025. What's your "star"? What's one step you can take toward it? And don't overthink it—Epiphany shows us how even small steps can lead to big moments.

My hope is that we all will make this a year of discovery, growth, and maybe even a little adventure. And if it gets messy or weird along the way (because it will), my hope is that we will also remember: even the best journeys come with detours.

Wishing you all a bright, wild, and amazing start to 2025!

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday Morning Youth Group—All are Welcome!

- ◆ Youth ages 10-18 years old are all invited!
- ◆ Sundays from 10:00-10:30 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.

Come on down and see what's happening!

New Staff at SpringHouse!

You may have heard that both Lyndale UCC and First Christian Church have new office administrators. Taking over for the Lyndale office, is Cali Jirsa, who lives in the neighborhood and also runs a bike shop and volunteers with animal rescue. First Christian's new admin is Seth Anderson-Matz, who has a background in theology and also lives in the neighborhood. If you happen to stop by SpringHouse during the week, you may get to greet these two dynamic new additions to the SpringHouse family!



Day Camp 2025

June 16-20 (M-F)

9 am-4 pm

Diamond Lake Lutheran Church

Join Us On Facebook



Follow the SpringHouse Youth Ministry page on Facebook to keep in the loop! Simply search for SpringHouse Youth Ministry.

More News

Flowers for Worship

If you would like to offer flowers for worship on any given Sunday, in honor or memory of a special person or occasion, we are again offering the opportunity to do so. Our own Myra Rusten, florist extraordinaire at Flowers by Myra (www.flowersbymyra.com), has offered to provide bouquets for these special Sundays.

Cost is \$50 for one of her traditional sized arrangements and can be paid to Salem. You can sign up for a specific Sunday in the back of the sanctuary or by contacting Laurie in the office.



Council Corner

Your Salem council met on December 8, after worship. Minutes are available in the sanctuary or by contacting the office. Highlights from the December meeting:



- ◆ Conversation about the SpringHouse proposed budget for 2025 was had. The council voted in favor of the budget moving forward with hopes that next year costs will be less and budgeting can be even a bit less padded.
- ◆ The Salem 2025 budget was discussed. Because we were still waiting on more concrete income numbers, it was not finalized, but good headway was made. The budget will be finalized at the January council meeting ahead of the annual meeting.
- ◆ Huge THANK to everyone who helped make Roger's memorial service a meaningful and successful event at Salem. A special thank you to the members of FCC who helped in the kitchen, as well as Kathy S, so that Salem members could simply attend the service.
- ◆ Chili Cook Off will be February 9
- ◆ Council discussed moving back to intinction for communion and decided to move forward with instructions for the congregation on using hand sanitizer, especially during RSV season. Intinction is a much more environmentally and fiscally responsible option for communion.
- ◆ Nominations were discussed ahead of the annual meeting to make sure the ballot will be complete.

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
- 10:00 am Youth Group for ages 10 and up in the Youth Room
- 10:30 am Coffee Hour in the Sanctuary

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.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ian Evans – 1/11 | Erica Larson – 2/15 |
| Mary Johnson – 1/28 | Ingrid Jorstad – 2/17 |
| Paul West – 1/31 | Austin Tollerson – 2/18 |
| Jimmy Henzler-Heany – 2/5 | Solveig Tollerson – 2/22 |
| Chris Wick – 2/6 | Mary Patterson – 2/28 |
| Axel Jorstad – 2/8 | |





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*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.*

Pastor: Rhonda Hlavinka
Office: Laurie Zaepfel
Music: Tom Pieper
Youth Ministry: Chelsea Boyden
Building Manager: Rick Bowman
Building Coordinator: Allison Jones
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rjamesb49@gmail.com
shcoordinator@fccmps.org

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an assorted crowd

Christ tended to attract