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Salem English Lutheran Church

March-April 2025

Blessed to be a Blessing



At the calling of Abram and Sarai God said, “I will bless you...and you will be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2) As we find ourselves in the midst of Lent, which is a season of reflection, I have found myself struck by something Michelle Ruppert Madsen wrote in the congregation’s grant proposal for a time of renewal in 2026. As most of you know, I have been working with leaders at Salem and with several colleagues for almost a year now designing a sabbatical plan that would mean a time of renewal for me and for you as a congregation. As part of the process, congregation

members are asked to reflect on some questions and put those reflections in writing. While much of the final written proposal is a wonderful look at the ministry we do, and have done, together, one paragraph struck me more than all the rest.

Michelle writes: “On paper, our congregation should not have made it to 2025. The congregation has encountered so many barriers and challenges in recent decades that we simply shouldn’t be here—yet, here we are despite the odds! I have come to learn something very important from the Salem elders who went through the radical transformation in the early 2000s that led to our current congregation and SHMC covenant: **Spirit-led, we are here for a reason. It is as simple as that.**”

We have been blessed to be a blessing...of this there is no doubt. The past year has been a profound one for Salem...filled with moments that have testified to the fact that we are “Spirit-led” and here for a reason.

There have been big moments, like our Livdahl Living Legacy campaign where we celebrated the life and ministry of Roger and raised over \$16,000 for ELCA World Hunger. And there have been small moments, like the joy we all get watching Kjell (2) run to the communion table, desperately wanting to be first in line to get to eat with Jesus. Blessed to be a blessing.

The most profound moments though, seem to be the ones around welcome and being community for each other. Walking with Roger and Barb during his last months of life and being truly present for Barb in the months since his passing. Sharing stories around the fellowship table after worship that are real and meaningful for everyone. Members visiting each other and offering help when help is needed. All of these things are ways

this community shows up for each other in ways that make it evident there is a reason we are here. Blessed to be a blessing.

So many stories, but one that keeps coming to the surface for me—as a testimony to who we are - is the one about Don and Barb. Don and Barb came to Salem on Pentecost Sunday last year—to the Livdahl Living Legacy campaign celebration, as they had known the Livdahls most of their lives and continued to be close friends. Not being church goers at the time (who may not have had the best church experience at one time), they decided to come back the following week—just to make the Livdahls smile. Pretty soon they thought they might just come to Salem to support the Livdahls in Roger’s last months.

In the meantime, Salem did what Salem does best—we welcomed them and made them part of our community...for however long they decided to stay.

Six months later not only had they revolutionized our coffee hour with some fancy coffee making that I don’t understand and by asking their grown son, who loves to bake, to make us fresh pastries—which he now does every week...I mean, come on, right? Not only had they become beloved to everyone in worship on Sunday mornings and an important part of our fellowship...according to Barb, Salem had “sucked them in” and now, almost a year later, they just can’t seem to quit our community because church has become something good where they feel welcome, relevant, included, and loved. Blessed to be a blessing.

And if that’s not a reason for this congregation to be here...I don’t know what is. Thank you for being part of this “Spirit-led” community that has been blessed to be a blessing!

Peace, Pastor Rhonda

Faith Practices for All— Go for a Prayer Walk in Nature.



As the weather begins to feel more like spring and the sun shines longer each day, take time to get outside and make creation part of your faith practices. Notice all the sights and sounds and scents as you walk. Notice the plants, the animals, the hills, and the bodies of water. Wonder about the particular qualities of each of these along your path or in your neighborhood. Be sure to give praise to God for all of creation and give thanks to God for your shared experience.

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
(March 12 - April 9)
6:30 pm on Zoom



Palms & Peeps

Palm Sunday will be full of hosannas & Peeps. Make sure to join us for worship on **Sunday April 13** 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 Scripture Calendar

Here are the parts of the story coming up:

3/23: **Lost Sheep, Coin, Son**—Luke 15:1-32

3/30: **Rich Man and Lazarus**—Luke 16:19-31

4/6: **Zacchaeus**—Luke 18:31-19:10

4/13: **Triumphal Entry**—Luke 19:29-44

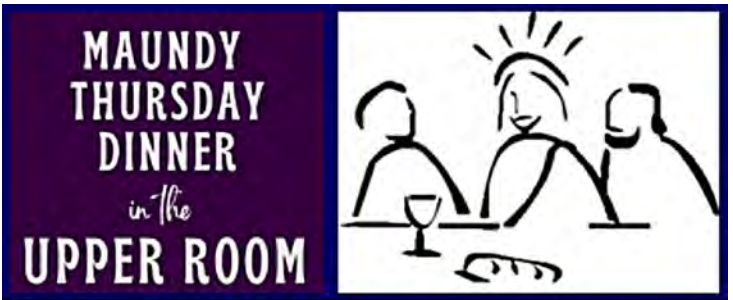
4/17: **Last Supper**—Luke 22:1-27

4/20: **Resurrection**—Luke 24:1-12

4/27: **Emmaus Road**—Luke 24:13-35

5/4: **Stephen's Witness**—Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60

5/11: **Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized**—Acts 8:26-39



Join Us in the Upper Room

Our Upper Room Meal & Worship has become one of Salem's finest traditions. Please plan to join us Maundy Thursday, April 17 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 April 17, 6:30 pm

RSVP by Sunday April 13 (Palm Sunday) by one of the following:

- ◆ Using Sign-Up Genius through the E-Blast or using the QR code here.
- ◆ 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 20 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

Salem's First Wine and Jazz Event

*You're Invited to an evening
of*



Wine and Jazz

THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH
7-9 PM

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING LOCAL JAZZ MUSICIANS:
TOM PIEPER ON BASS, PAUL HARPER ON SAXOPHONE, CHRIS
LOMHEIM ON PIANO AND REID KENNEDY ON DRUMS

AT
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH/SPRINGHOUSE
MINISTRY CENTER
610 W. 28TH ST
MPLS, MN 55408

THIS EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE - ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO LEGAL
AID FOR OUR NEIGHBORS AT SAN PAULO/ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH -
A MULTICULTURAL, BILINGUAL CONGREGATION SERVING OUR
IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY IN S. MPLS

We've been talking about it since the first year of Covid...an evening of great music from some of our amazing musicians along with good wine (as well as non-alcoholic beverages.)

This is a community event designed for fellowship and neighborng and ALL are welcome. This is a free event at which *we will be accepting a free will offering to go to one of our central conference neighbor congregations, San Pablo/ St. Paul, toward their legal aid fund that helps our south Minneapolis immigrant community.*

So join us....and BRING A FRIEND (or two)!

Thursday March 27 – 7 pm – 9 pm

Here's how YOU can be part of the fun:

Invite your friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, and anyone else who might enjoy some live music and beverages: Look for invitations to use in the sanctuary.

Volunteer: We need people to help make this event happen. **We need people for: Serving Wine, Checking IDs at the Door, Set-Up, and Clean-Up,** (*Sign up in the sanctuary or email Pastor Rhonda to help!*)

Donate Wine or Food: We need bottles of wine and Charcuterie board type food. Cheese, crackers, fruit, etc. (*sign up Sunday in the sanctuary to bring food—just drop off bottles of wine ASAP.*)

Make a Special Gift: We will need some targeted giving to cover the cost of our amazing musicians, supplies, and any wine/food we do not get donated. Mark your gift: Wine and Jazz.

Join the Fun and Attend!



Lefse Making Fun!

Well, it looks like our lefse making will take place in January moving forward. We had around 20 people show up to help make this great Scandinavian treat! Here's some of the great moments.



Live Music!



Caritas Vocal Ensemble Concerts

Caritas, a Twin Cities *cappella* chamber choir, presents a spring program– *Musical Stories: Once Upon a Song* . This joyous concert of eclectic music for all ages celebrates childhood whimsies in song, with a special emphasis on the beloved Winnie the Pooh stories of A.A. Milne. Suggested donation \$25 online or at the door to be divided between Caritas and a local nonprofit for each concert. Benefit partners this spring are Cherish All Children, which works to combat child trafficking, and Avenues for Youth, which helps youth find a path out of homelessness. For tickets and additional information please visit www.caritasvocalensemble.org or email caritasvocalensemble@gmail.com. Laurie from the Salem office sings in this group!

Saturday, April 26, 2025 AT 4:00 PM

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church
 5011 31st Avenue S.
 Minneapolis, MN 55417

Benefiting: Cherish All Children

Sunday, April 27, 2025 AT 4:00 PM

First Lutheran Church
 1555 40th Avenue NE
 Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Benefiting: Avenues for Youth



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:

April 4: 9 pm–12 am (With Tom Pieper!)

May 2: 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)

Paul will also be playing in a duo with Phil Aaron at Berlin on May 10; An intimate, European-inspired jazz club featuring state-of-the-art sound and experimental music, plus cocktails in Minneapolis. Check it out at <https://www.berlinmpls.com/>

Tom Pieper's upcoming performances include:

♦ April 6 at 2 pm at Orchestra Hall with the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra: "Transcendent Mahler".

Check out their website for more information and tickets! <https://bloomingtonsymphony.org/>

♦ April 13 at 9 pm: The White Squirrel Bar in St. Paul with the Flying T's . Check it out at: <https://whitesquirrelbar.com/>

♦ May 10, 2 pm: The Selby Avenue Jazz Fest with Loburn on Check it out at: <https://selbyavejazzfest.com/>

♦ May 16 (7:30 pm) & 17 (4 pm) with the Bloomington Chorale's "Passport to Song". Check it out at: <https://bloomingtonchorale.org/>

SpringHouse News



SpringHouse Packs Meals!

Members of all three SpringHouse congregations showed up to help pack meals at Every Meal in February! Together with a warehouse full of other great people we packed 4,680 bags of food to be put into kids' backpacks—which equals 17,938 meals for hungry kids! A huge THANK YOU to everyone who joined us. We will sign up for another shift when shifts become available for this summer.



Pastor Laurie is Retiring...

At the close of First Christian's worship service on February 16, Pastor Laurie Feille announced her plans to retire on June 1. Her last Sunday in the pulpit will be May 18.



So, Let's Celebrate!

All of SpringHouse is invited as First Christian will host a luncheon as a celebration of Laurie's career in ministry as well as a Godspeed into retirement on May 18 at 11:30 am. This will be Pastor Laurie's last day at FCC and SpringHouse. The lunch will be catered by Laurie's caterer of choice (Can you say "Fried chicken??"). **Reservations must be made through the online sign up sheet by May 4.** The caterer will need the lead time to prepare for what we anticipate will be a large number of attendees!

To RSVP click here: <https://www.fccminneapolis.org/sheet/pastor-lauries-retirement-lunch-may-18/>

Open Doors MPLS

Exciting news for SpringHouse! Thanks to Allison, our amazing building coordinator, SpringHouse has been chosen to be part of Open Doors 2025. **Mark your calendars for Saturday May 17**



from 10 am–5 pm, when the public will be invited into our building to see the beauty and history it holds. Watch for information on how each congregation will be asked to help us get ready and be part of the day.

What is Doors Open Minneapolis?

Doors Open Minneapolis, produced by Rethos, is your chance to explore the buildings that tell our city's story. From theaters to business hubs, sacred spaces to private clubs, sports complexes to engineering wonders, historical gems to not-even-open-yet buildings, Doors Open Minneapolis will give you a FREE behind-the-scenes look at dozens of exciting venues. Building owners and caretakers will provide unique perspectives that illustrate why these venues, people and businesses, are central to our city's identity.

Even More News

The Best Chilis Are...

It was another great year of chili at our Annual Salem Chili Cook Off! We had eight entries—all unique and so delicious that it was hard to judge. But at the end of the event, based on ranked choice voting, our winners were...drumroll please...



1st Place—Josh and the Jorstads

2nd Place—Rhonda Hlavinka

3rd Place—Kari Podenski

Congratulations to our winners and a huge THANK YOU to everyone who made chili and came to eat and judge our yearly competition!



Adult Volunteers Needed

Summer calendars are filling up quickly—so make sure you get this awesome opportunity on yours! South Minneapolis Day Camp **needs twice as many volunteers as it has ever needed** due to the growth we've experienced...that means we need YOU. Join us June 16-20 (M-F) from 8:30 am-4 pm at Diamond Lake Lutheran for all the fun. We'd love to have you whenever you are available...all day every day or for just a few hours one day of the week...we can fit all kinds of availability into our great puzzle of volunteers. Come and play with us! Fill out the volunteer form ASAP so we can get you plugged in. [Click HERE to sign up!](#)



Faith & Neighboring: A Calling

Lilly Endowment Sabbatical Grant Proposal

"Rev. Rhonda's leave renewal plan and the breadth of activities and leaders planned for Salem to engage in will foster continued health and sustainability for us and indeed for the broader SHMC community..."



We are excited to announce that Salem's application, on behalf of Pastor Rhonda and the congregation, to the Lilly/CTS Clergy Renewal Leave program has been successfully submitted!

After a year of planning, countless conversations, and months of writing, the final proposal, **"Faith & Neighboring: A Calling"**, was approved for submission by the Salem council on March 9 and was submitted on March 11.

The selection process will be completed and congregations notified on August 29. Until then, keep the process in your prayers. We are so grateful for the opportunity to apply for this grant and recognize that the process that both Pastor Rhonda and the leaders of this congregation have been able to engage in has been incredibly valuable.

If you have not had an opportunity to check out the proposal in its entirety, you are invited to either click the link found both [HERE](#) and in the eblast, pick up a copy in the sanctuary, or contact the office to get a copy.

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.

The Wider Church

Interfaith Solidarity Statement on Refugees and Immigrants

March 7, 2025

We stand united as people of faith in our commitments to welcome the stranger and to care for the most vulnerable—commitments rooted in our common understanding of our Creator’s love for all and call to serve our neighbors.

In these overlapping holy days of Purim, Lent, and Ramadan, we join our voices together to **express our grave concern for the individuals and families seeking refuge in this country.** We are particularly devastated and concerned for the welfare of the thousands of refugees who were approved and even ready for travel, only to have their plane tickets taken away.

For more than four decades, our faith-rooted organizations have partnered with the U.S. government to ensure that **people forced to flee their country because of conflict, violence, or persecution** are vetted and arrive legally, to be welcomed in this country with services to meet their basic needs.

The recent U.S. State Department termination of cooperative agreements with the 10 national resettlement agencies in the U.S. has made already-at-risk people even more vulnerable. **We urge all people of faith and goodwill to join us in advocating** with our elected leaders for our partnerships with the government to be restored so that we can fully work with those we are called to serve.

We invite you to join us in prayer for all people who are forced to flee home. May they know our deep and abiding commitment to their lives and well-being.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Alesia Frerichs, President & CEO, Lutheran Services in America
Myal Greene, President & CEO, World Relief
Mark Hetfield, President, HIAS
Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism
The Rev. Walter Kim, President, National Association of Evangelicals
Rabbi Hara Person, Chief Executive, Central Conference of American Rabbis
Kerry Alys Robinson, President & CEO, Catholic Charities USA
Basharat Saleem, Executive Director, Islamic Society of North America
Richard L. Santos, President & CEO, Church World Service
Ahmed Shehata, Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Relief USA
The Rev. Sarah Shipman, Director, Episcopal Migration Ministries
Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, President & CEO, Global Refuge



Global Refuge

Driven by the belief in human dignity and the intrinsic value of every individual. Global Health needs your help today to keep working with Immigrants and Refugees. Visit

www.globalrefuge.org to donate today!

For more than 85 years, Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) has provided the resources, guidance, and community to help forge a way forward for New Americans. We're committed to helping people reimagine the possibilities while providing a soft place to land.

With more than 1,000 partners and 50,000 volunteers, we are the largest faith-based national nonprofit exclusively dedicated to helping restore a sense of home to immigrants and refugees. Since 1939, we've built a legacy of compassion by walking alongside more than 800,000 new neighbors as they rebuild their lives in the United States.



Youth & Children

Important Day Camp News!



Due to the growth of South Minneapolis Day Camp and wanting to provide the best and safest week we can for kids, we will have to have a capacity limit this summer. We will be *capping registrations at 120 (K-8)* to keep group sizes manageable. We are currently at half capacity – so we are encouraging families to get registered as soon as possible.

Right click on the link below or see the eblast for details and a link to register. [Register NOW](#)

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!

Beloved Is Where We Begin

By –Jan Richardson

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.

Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.

I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:

Beloved.
Beloved.
Beloved.

© Jan Richardson.
janrichardson.com

More News

Living Lutheran Back in Print –Update

We are pleased to announce that we have 10 subscribers for the new print version of Living Lutheran. If you signed up already, we can tell you that a generous donor has covered those first 10 subscriptions. We are now waiting for information from the publishers about signing individuals up to receive the magazine. Stay tuned!



Council Corner

Your Salem council met on February 16 and did not hold a March meeting–instead deciding to wait to meet in April. There was a special vote held by email in March to approve the final Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant Application’s submission.



Minutes are available in the sanctuary or by contacting the office. Highlights from the February meeting:

- ♦ SpringHouse has finally found a new treasurer to take the wheel. We are incredibly grateful!
- ♦ Synod conference assemblies were held in February. The conference sent forth two resolutions to be presented at synod assembly and Pastor Rhonda was reelected as the conference dean.
- ♦ Sanctuary switch will take place on Sunday June 1.
- ♦ Pastor Laurie from First Christian is retiring and her last Sunday will be May 18. There will be a celebration lunch that day for all of SpringHouse.
- ♦ Synod Tool Kit is March 15, council members were encouraged to attend.
- ♦ The audit committee did an audit in February and no issues were found.
- ♦ We will host our long awaited Wine & Jazz event on March 27 from 7 pm–9pm. We will need lots of help to make it happen.
- ♦ Maria Thieling and Pastor Rhonda will attend synod assembly as our voting members in May.
- ♦ Conversation about dealing with ICE under our new administration is happening at SpringHouse

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

Wednesday

- 6:30 pm Lenten Evening Prayer via Zoom (3/12–4/9)

SpringHouse Calendar



Want to keep up with happenings at SpringHouse?

Our shared calendar is accessible for all to view! The link can be found [here](#) and on the [SpringHouse website](#). To reserve a room and get an event listed on the calendar, simply email the details to Allison at shcoordinator@fccmpls.org (allison.jones@fccmpls.org works too). Feel free to reach out to Allison with any questions.

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 | Bettie Buzzell – 3/20 |
| David Seiffert – 3/7 | Bob Hlavinka – 3/28 |
| Sarah Sinderbrand – 3/8 | Matt Giinther – 3/31 |
| Kjell Jorstad–3/11 | 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	revrhonda@discoversalem.org
Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	office@discoversalem.org
Music:	Tom Pieper	thomas.pieper@wayzata.k12.mn.us
Youth Ministry	Chelsea Boyden	springshouseyouth@ccmps.org
Building Manager:	Rick Bowman	rlamesb49@gmail.com
Building Coordinator	Allison Jones	shcoordinator@ccmps.org