

Changes In The Air



I am acutely aware that change is in the air. Changes in our nation, changes in our economics that change many of our lives, change in our church. Some of this change is exciting, others terrifying, others simply part of life. We at Salem have gotten quite accustomed to change: new spaces, a the rhythms of congregational life shared with Lyndale UCC. This month, though, it is becoming more real: Lyndale's boxes, discussions about what we'll need to adequately teach Sunday School and what we can store or pack or pitch or sell. With every box, every conversation, change is coming. When? Lyndale UCC anticipates closing on the sale of the building at 31st and Aldrich on March 31st. Why now? Selling this building is essential for Lyndale to bring forward their portion of the costs of the renewed ministry center we'll share at the 28th and Garfield. In a market like this, we're thrilled that they have a purchase agreement and move toward closing—that's good news! Together the churches are negotiating a rental contract with Intermedia Arts at 2822 Lyndale Avenue for worship and office space for the next year and a half until we move into the redeveloped ministry center. Intermedia Arts is a great arts organization in the neighborhood and in the city, well known for its partnerships, theater and gallery, and integrity of work. We believe that sharing space for a time will enrich our ministry. We anticipate a move at the very end of March.

Also, there are big changes in the air for my family; I want you to be aware and I covet your prayers. Anticipating a baby this spring, my spouse Jane will complete her ministry as a pastor at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ on March 1st. After 8 1/2 years, this good bye is bittersweet, for she loves this congregation and they have cared for us greatly. A baby? We hope! We are becoming foster parents for infants through Hennepin County as part of a neat program called Foster Care Adoption Option where foster families work for reunification, but when it is not possible, make a commitment to adoption. We look forward to welcoming children into our home and life for shorter and longer periods of time—yes, I trust you will get to know them, too!. Along with parenting and hanging out with the Salem community, Jane looks forward to a part-time organic farming internship. She hopes to discern creative ways to combine parish work with a ministry related to food and farming. In the meantime, bring on the potlucks! Please know that I remain committed to and excited by the ministry we share together here at Salem. I look forward to the amazing ways God is calling the Salem community to grow and stretch!

—Pastor Jen

Annual Meeting Highlights—January 25th

- Received the reports of officers and staff for 2008.
- Reviewed the 2008 financial report noting income was nearly \$20,000 more than budgeted and expenses roughly \$9000 less than budgeted.
- Heard from Bob Larson about the Mission Endowment Fund noting that again this year we intentionally drew from the fund and, like most investments, it has lost value in these economic times.
- Approved a budget of \$210,060 for the 2009 year.
- Discussed contingency plans and named excitements and concerns of our partnership with Lyndale UCC.
- Re-elected five members to Congregational Council: Mary Johnson, Sarah Kunze, Gene Sandler, Reva Swanson, and Myra Urness (with Claire Kirchhoff, Ana Menk, Tom Pieper, Diann Uzelac, and Paul Wharton continuing).
- Re-elected Paul Livdahl and Pam Schwartzrock to the Nominating Committee (with Dona Varns).
- Elected Megan Wolle to the Audit Committee (joining Barb Livdahl and Mary Patterson) and Jeremiah Menk to the Mission Endowment Committee (joining Chuck Sasse and Bob Shorten).
- Thanked many, many people for their service over the last year; sang and prayed!
- The Council held a brief meeting following the Annual Meeting re-electing the officers to continue: President Paul Wharton, Vice President Sarah Kunze, Secretary Ana Menk, and Co-Treasurers Myra Urness and Diann Uzelac. Myra Urness will Co-Chair the Partnering Team along with a Lyndale UCC leader.



Salem News

ReDevelopment Update

- At the Forum on January 25th the Salem and Lyndale community met the staff from Brighton Development (www.brightondevelopment.com) Peggy Lucas, Alexis Racciatti, and Jesse Osendorf and LHB Architects (www.lhbcorp.com) Kim Bretheim and Andy Madson. This was a chance to hear plans directly from the developers and architects, ask questions, and review the process.
- The spring will be a busy one as funding, numbers, and the city and neighborhood processes are finalized.
- Demolition is anticipated this summer and move in is still on schedule for August/September 2010.
- The granting process continues with funds focused on the affordable housing aspects of the project. Last issue we celebrated a large Livable Communities grant from the Met Council. We've also heard good news from the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- Phase II Environmental testing took place in January. Along the parking lot area by Lyndale Avenue, where houses once stood, and in the playground, holes were dug ten feet deep to allow for samples. These will be tested to determine if any environmental clean up will be needed as construction begins. The holes were re-covered and an extra pile of dirt awaits any settling that may happen as spring comes.
- Also, a large tank (see the picture) was removed from behind the garage. This tank likely held fuel/oil over the years. Some soil was contaminated near the tank and the EPA is involved to clean this up for the future. Funds cover the costs of this clean up.



Moving Ahead—Contingency Planning

- ◆ Lyndale has a purchase agreement with New Wine (a church currently in the midway area of St. Paul) for the Lyndale UCC building here at 31st and Aldrich. The real estate closing for the Lyndale UCC building is scheduled for March 31st.
- ◆ The contingency planning group (including Linda Hanson, Joyce Battcher-Malchow, and Pastors Don and Jen) and then the Partnering Team have looked at a number of properties, five in particular. Needs have been honed: accessibility, parking, visibility, nearness to our current neighborhood, scheduling, space for worship and offices, ability for outreach, and more.
- ◆ Intermedia Arts at 2822 Lyndale Ave (www.intermediaarts.org) is our likely destination and negotiations and details are being arranged. They are ½ block south of the Salem site at 28th and Lyndale and are a strong and progressive arts organization with lots of neighborhood and city partnerships. Intermedia has recently announced cost-cutting measures to remain vital: changing the use of their gallery, reducing staff, and adding renters. Salem and Lyndale would be renters at Intermedia Arts for 1½ years until we could move into the renovated Ministry Center.
- ◆ In the Intermedia Arts building, two spaces would be available for worship: the theater and the gallery. There is additional space for education, children, fellowship, meetings, offices, and some storage.
- ◆ Final services at the Lyndale UCC building will likely be in late March, beginning at Intermedia Arts in early April.
- ◆ Cleaning, packing, sorting, storing...this has already begun for Lyndale. Salem's work is less, but still significant. Dona Varns is taking the lead for Salem. She may be calling you!
- ◆ ReDevelopment Forum on February 22 at 9:40am.



More News ... **Welcome New Members!**

On December 14th, Salem welcomed a great crew of folks who were ready to make public witness of their commitment to being part of this community. It was a joyous day of celebrating together the varied gifts and rich experiences of each of these people. Here's a snapshot of who they are...with the promise that a good conversation will yield so much more! Welcome to all!

Emily Chesley

(sponsor Sarah Kunze)

"I grew up in the Lutheran church as a PK (pastors kid). As an artist/musician I am interested in how the arts can contribute to worship. In my personal work I create portraits as a study and celebration of human nature and struggle. I look at themes of light and dark, depression and hope—this is how I show God's presence in our human life."



Kimberly Johnson

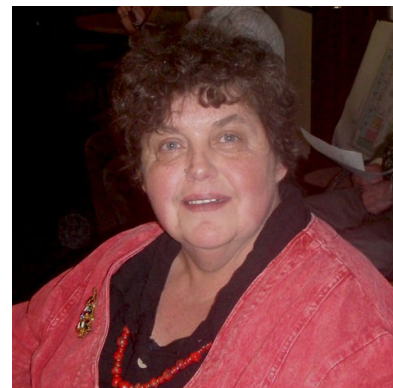
(sponsors Paul and Jill Livdahl, Quinn and Li)

"I'm very excited to be a member of Salem. I feel very welcome here and enjoy worship and sharing stories with everyone. I'm a trained journalist, publicist and photographer. I keep myself busy with work, my family, travel and my other passions. I'm an adoption advocate and look forward to starting a family some day."

Paulette Krohn

(sponsor Gene Sandler)

"I enjoy cooking, long walks enjoying the scenery and people along the way, and volunteering with the kindergarten class at Jefferson School. I'm retired, having worked 28 years as a receptionist and now have time to write and journal."



Sherry Kilburn and Lynn Mickelson (associate member)

(sponsors Deb Geelsdottir and Barb and Roger Livdahl)

Sherry writes, "I love cooking and entertaining with my life partner Lynn. I also enjoy travel and learning new things. I love basset hounds and adore our 10-year old hound named Kirby. My career was in Human Services. I have a passion for prayer."

Lynn writes, "My passion lies in helping people with chronic disease and disability, especially HIV. I have been legal services manager at the Minnesota AIDS Project since 1995. I love spending time with my life partner, Sherry. We celebrated our 14th anniversary on October 28, 2008. I love basset hounds, mysteries, and the internet. I've worked for full inclusion of LGBT people in the Lutheran church, especially ordination, for 24 years."



New Members Cont...



More News ...

More New Members! Welcome!

David Pena, and Luke and Jacentia

(sponsors Kathy Sievwright, Corinn and Cassie)

David writes, "I am a single parent with two kids, Luke (eight years old) and Jacentia (seven years old). We enjoy weekends especially, and often go play football, basketball, tag and other games at the park. We do our shopping together." David and his kids have been familiar faces around Salem for a couple years. They are living in north Minneapolis. David has worked around the Salem building preparing the grounds for winter and the kids participate in Sunday School.



Chris Nordeen (reaffirming his membership)

A number of years ago as a student at the U of M, Chris Nordeen found Salem and joined the church. Now some years later and having trekked across vast expanses including the Pacific Rim Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and trails overseas, Chris is back in Minnesota waiting tables and worshipping with the Salem community. The journey continues. Welcome back.

Congratulations, Negsti Zere!

On January 14, Negsti became a US Citizen at a beautiful ceremony at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. This ceremony follows citizenship classes, lots of paper work, and a long, long journey of moving family and children to the US to be together with husband Girmay. We give thanks for Negsti and celebrate with her! Negsti staffs the Food Shelf at Simpson United Methodist Church, works at Rainbow Foods on Lagoon, and is mom to three: Alexsander, Luna, and Fili.



Our sympathy

Salem member James Kelley passed away on December 18, 2008 in Florida where he'd recently moved with his wife Adelaide to be closer to family. Unbeknownst to the Salem community at the time of the move, Jim suffered from terminal lung cancer. If you'd like to reach out to Adelaide and family, notes and cards can be sent to Adelaide Kelley, c/o Susan Kelley Lang, 45 Broadriver Road, Ormond Beach, FL 32174. In these months, Adelaide has dealt with a broken hip and a fracture. When she is able to travel, the family expects to bring Jim's ashes to rest at Lakewood Cemetery. We extend our prayers and love to Adelaide and her family, and we give great thanks to God for Jim, his years, his faithfulness and service, and his care for so many.



Reaching Out

Service, Justice, and Outreach Opportunities

Simpson Women's Shelter

Our next opportunity to serve the evening meal at Simpson Women's Shelter will be Wednesday, January 28. Sign up at church today if you could bring or serve an element of this meal. Please contact Bonnie with questions: 612-810-8333.



Families Moving Forward—February 15-21

The Families Moving Forward program hosts families experiencing homelessness in churches around the twin cities a week at a time while they seek more stable housing. Volunteers are needed to provide meals, to stay overnight, and to assist with childcare.



Folks from Lyndale UCC know the ropes and there are clear instructions available. Could you assist during the week of February 15-21? The families will be staying at Union UCC in St. Louis Park. On the Lyndale sign up table there are a number of sheets with details of roles and time slots needed. Please sign up soon.

Bread for the World

- 50 years ago 33% of the world's population suffered from hunger while today that has decreased to 17%, **BUT**, we are hobbled in our development work by the outdated Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.
- U.S. assistance today is making a difference in millions of lives around the world, **BUT**, our government's global development policies and programs are scattered across 12 departments, 25 agencies, and nearly 60 government offices.
- A new U.S. president and Congress present a once in a generation opportunity to make our foreign aid more effective, **BUT**, we need to elevate development as one of our national priorities and give it resources equal to the task.

Come for information and engagement; leave with purpose, plans and passion!
More bang for your buck--Reforming Foreign Aid



- West Metro: Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, 9am registration, 9:30-noon workshop at Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina.
- East Metro: Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009, 2:30pm registration, 2:45-5pm workshop at Macalester Plymouth United Church in St. Paul.

breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



Feed My Starving Children

Sponsored by the Christian Ed Committee, this is a great, hands-on, intergenerational activity of packing food that is sent all over the world. We'll be packing at the Chanhassen location (carpool available) on Saturday, February 21st, 11:30-1:30pm. We've committed to a lot of hands! Please sign up now.

Workers Interfaith Network

Workers Interfaith Network's (WIN) first General Assembly will be held on February 8th from 2-4pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran, 2730 31st Street, Minneapolis. Part of the event will be planning in small groups for a weekend in March during which WIN hopes that 40-50 community forums will be held throughout the metro area educating folks about immediate labor issues such as trying to balance the budget by cutting wages and benefits of public employees and health care workers. You are invited to participate in the assembly, be part of planning a forum for Lyndale and Salem, and get involved. If you have questions, talk with Antone Melton-Meaux.



Youth Ministry News

Erin Davis, Youth Minister

If you have questions about any of these events, please contact your Youth Minister, Erin Davis, for more info at 612.991.1607 or salemlyndaleyouth@gmail.com.

Check out the Trinity of Giving table after church to see how you can support the youth group! Be a sponsor, buy a share, or join club 52. It's up to you! Have questions? Ask Erin!

February is 30-Hour Famine month! What is 30-Hour Famine? To raise awareness for hunger, youth groups around the area, state, and even the world will fast for 30 hours. The youth will be attending the metro-wide 30-Hour Famine overnight event on February 6-7. It is hosted by St. Andrew's Lutheran church in Eden Prairie, and the theme is Will Starve for Food. Attendees will pack meals for Feed My Starving Children, participate in activities musical and not, and get to know other youth from around the area!

Get connected! Do you have an open basement or a large dining room? Do you want to know your youth better? Let's help each other out! The youth group is looking for places to host their events! If you want to host a movie night or dinner, contact Erin! It's a great opportunity for you to connect with the youth and for the youth to connect with members of their congregations. We want to know about your gifts! Please share!

Temple Israel

On Friday evening March 6 a group from Salem is scheduled to attend Temple Israel, the Jewish synagogue near Hennepin in Uptown. Prior to the service, a docent will tell us what to expect in the service, talk with us about the building and the tradition. The confirmation students are going and we open this event to a wider Salem group. If you'd like to experience a service at the synagogue, this is a good opportunity to learn more about our sisters and brothers of the Jewish tradition. Mark your calendar and watch for more details to come.

Wow, What a Christmas Program!

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Christmas Program a stunning success. As one member said, "That was the best Christmas pageant ever!" We marched, we danced, we celebrated Jesus' birth. Thanks to our kids and youth, their faithful teachers, their parents, Melissa Anderson for special coordination, and Michael Vanderford of Lyndale for directing!



Thank You

"We will pass on our gifts to the Heifer Project to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth." --the Sunday School kids, thanking the congregations for supporting their Christmas craft sales. The kids will give proceeds to Heifer Project.

Youth Group

We give thanks for an anonymous gift of \$1000 that arrived this Christmas. The Salem Lyndale Youth Group is planning to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July. This gift seeds their fund raising efforts. Thank you!

Polar Bear Picnic

Come join the winter fun at the Polar Bear Picnic.
Lowry Nature Center Carver Park
Saturday, Jan 31st meeting at church at 11:00am
Returning at 4pm.
Sign up for car pooling.



Activities include sledding and kick sledding, ice golf, snow snakes, quince, ice castle building, and a bon fire and s'mores. Sounds like fun!!

Feed My Starving Children

Check out the announcement on the Reaching Out page for our next chance to pack food. This opportunity is sponsored by the Christian Ed Committee.



CALENDAR

Week of February 1

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| Sunday | 2/1 | 8:30 am | Traditional Service |
| | 2/1 | 9:15 am | Sunday School & Youth Group |
| | 2/1 | 9:40 am | Adult Ed: Book of Faith |
| | 2/1 | 10:30 am | Jazz Service |
| Tuesday | 2/3 | 7:00 pm | Transformation Team: meeting with St. John's |
| Wed. | 2/4 | 7:00 pm | Confirmation |

Week of February 8

| | | | |
|---------|------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday | 2/8 | 8:30 am | Traditional Service |
| | 2/8 | 9:15 am | Sunday School & Youth Group |
| | 2/8 | 9:40 am | Adult Ed: Book of Faith |
| | 2/8 | 10:30 am | Jazz Service |
| | 2/8 | 2:00 pm | Workers Interfaith Network |
| Tuesday | 2/10 | 6:00 pm | Partnering Team Meeting |

Week of February 15

| | | | |
|----------|------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday | 2/15 | 8:30 am | Traditional Service |
| | 2/15 | 9:15 am | Sunday School & Youth Group |
| | 2/15 | 9:40 am | Adult Ed: Book of Faith |
| | 2/15 | 10:30 am | Jazz Service |
| Tuesday | 2/17 | 12:00 pm | Christian Educational Meeting |
| Wed. | 2/18 | 7:00 pm | Confirmation |
| Thursday | 2/19 | 6:00 pm | Executive Council Meeting |
| | 2/19 | 6:30 pm | General Council Meeting |
| Saturday | 2/21 | 11:30 am | Feed My Starving Children Event |

Week of February 22

| | | | |
|--------|------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday | 2/22 | 8:30 am | Traditional Service |
| | 2/22 | 9:15 am | Sunday School & Youth Group |
| | 2/22 | 9:40 am | ReDevelopment Forum |
| | 2/22 | 10:30 am | Jazz Service |
| Wed. | 2/25 | 7:00 pm | Ash Wednesday Service |

Adult Ed

Sundays, 9:40am-10:15am

- February 1 Book of Faith Study
- February 8 Book of Faith Study
- February 15 Book of Faith Study
- February 22 ReDevelopment Forum

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time of preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday this year is February 25. We will hold a service with the imposition of ashes at 7pm. Our weeks of Lent will include Wednesday evening services. Watch for more details to come.

Friendship Sunday

We had a great time celebrating relationships on Friendship Sunday in early January! Thanks to all who greeted and brought treats, to the friends who attended, and to everyone who invited a friend or two to come. The goal was to practice inviting people to join us in worship and to celebrate the people in our lives. With these two goals, the day was a success and the Transformation Team will discuss plans to host another Friendship Sunday in the coming months.

Giving Statements

In mid-January, 2008 giving statements were mailed out. Please look these over as you prepare for tax time. If you expected to receive one and didn't, or if you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch with Co-Treasurer Diann Uzelac at uzelac1026@netzero.net or 612-728-3782. Also, if you would like to make a pledge for 2009 giving, Diann Uzelac has the forms available. In these trying times, we give thanks for your generosity. The church recognizes that sometimes we need to amend our intentions; if you need to make a change or are simply concerned about this, please talk with Diann so she can take this into account as the congregation lives within its budget.

Thanks...

- "I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your generous checks for \$565 in November and December, and the grocery deliveries. Wow! Your gifts given to us through the year will go a long way in helping others." --Simpson Food Shelf.
- "Thanks to Pastor Jen and the Salem Family for your sympathy and prayers in our loss of our brother Earl. Greatly appreciated. Thank you!" --The Giinther Family