

# Salem | Scene

Newsletter of Salem English Lutheran Church

Late January-February 2010

## Let It Shine!

Last Wednesday (January 6) marked the light-filled day of Epiphany when our tradition celebrates the magi's arrival. This Sunday we heard again of Jesus' baptism with that powerful declaration, "You are my beloved." These weeks to come are filled with epiphanies—big and small—revelations of God's glory made real all around us (are you watching? listening?).

Around our house there are a few songs that get much play (play, that is, from the parents' vocal cords): The Wheels on the Bus, a certain adaptation of Little 'Liza Jane, and the classic spiritual This Little Light of Mine. I've come to believe again in "This Little Light of Mine" as I sing and rock in Eliza's shadowy bedroom. My favorite verse is "All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine..." Like Eliza, I need to hear over and over again that through these dark nights, and even cold and dark days, our light still shines, or more truly, God's light still shines through us.

We at Salem await word from the city and state about grant requests for a final piece of funding needed for the affordable housing, and consequently for our ministry center to move forward as well. We'd hoped this would be revealed in January, now we're told February. These delays make me weary and I know this waiting is taking its toll on each of us. There is something right about waiting for news in a season so aptly named Epiphany. Yes, things will be revealed, not always in our time, not always in the ways we expect, but they will be revealed and God's great story of life and love will keep unfolding.

As we wait for this revealing, hum a round or two of This Little Light of Mine and take heart in that promise that we, too, are the Beloved, letting our light shine as best we can...all through the night, all around the world! See you at the Annual Meeting.

—Pastor Jen



### Annual Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>

Salem's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:30pm. Please attend the meeting as we gather to celebrate the past year and make decisions (budget, leadership, ministry plans) for our mission in the coming year. As in past years, Salem and Lyndale will share worship and a meal, then part ways for our respective meetings. Child care will be available from 10:15am-the conclusion of the meetings. Note: On January 31<sup>st</sup>, there is no Traditional Service, Sunday School, Youth Group, or Adult Ed. Here is the schedule for the day:

- 9:45am Gathering Fellowship
- 10:30am Worship in the Theater
- 11:45am Shared Meal
- 12:30pm Annual Meetings

### Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 17<sup>th</sup> and marks the start of our Lenten journey toward the cross. Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7pm in the Gallery, with a brief service at noon as well. These services will include confession, the imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion. During the weeks of Lent, we will gather for Lenten Services each Wednesday evening at 7pm. Watch for more details of this reflective time.



**Christmas Caroling**  
(See more on page 4.)



# Salem News ...

## Development Update

- We continue to await word on two particular affordable housing grants. One is from the city, the other is from the state. Monies from these grants would be used to fill a final gap in the funding for the affordable housing.
- The City of Minneapolis recently delayed announcement of these grants until February. Our project, as well as a number of others, awaits this word to move forward.
- During January, Salem and Lyndale leaders met with Peggy Lucas and Jesse Osendorf, of Brighton Development, and Kim Breithem, our architect from LHB. The meeting clarified the next steps in the process and underlined Brighton's commitment to assist the churches in completing our Ministry Center.
- If the grants come through in February, some months will be needed for more detailed architectural plans and permits. In the spring, Brighton would buy the western portion of Salem's property. Salem and Lyndale would begin abatement in the sanctuary parcel as well as structural work on the building exterior. Demolition of the western portion would make way for the new affordable housing and retail. Salem and Lyndale would begin renovation of the sanctuary building.
- With Brighton's guidance, Salem and Lyndale leaders are interviewing contractors who bid on the Ministry Center redevelopment (Watson Forsberg and Prime) and will likely bring forward a contractor for vote at the annual meeting. This decision would be contingent upon the successful grants and project moving forward.
- Salem and Lyndale's governance documents are being drafted by a small group (Paul Wharton, Linda Hanson, Michael Vanderford and Kris Maul). These will be available to the congregations for discussion in the coming month.
- The Design Team is working hard to envision how our sanctuaries will function as sacred and usable space. They've visited many churches in the area, taking pictures, learning about what is working and not working for these congregations.
- ReDevelopment Forums are scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> and February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Your prayers are vital as we seek the Spirit's way in this process.

## Giving Thanks for the Stewards!

Thanks to the many who estimated giving commitments for the coming year. In a challenging economy, we've been able to maintain our giving in a healthy way. If you did not have a chance to make a pledge and would like to, please contact the church office. Situations change and with them, sometimes we are not able to maintain our commitments as anticipated. If you need to make a change, please speak with Co-Treasurer Diann Uzelac (612-728-3782). 2009 giving records for tax purposes will be sent out during January. If you have questions or corrections, please be in touch with Church Administrator John Rader at the church (612-872-4650). Offering envelopes are now available at church. If you'd like yours sent by mail, call the church office. Thank you for supporting God's ministry through Salem.

## The Lutheran

Each month many members of Salem receive The Lutheran Magazine, a great way to stay connected to the wider ministry of the ELCA close to home and around the world. Salem values this magazine and the cost of providing the magazine is part of the operating budget for Salem.

If you aren't receiving it, and would like to, contact the church office.

If you are receiving it and would rather not, contact the church office.

If you would like to donate the cost of providing a year's subscription (at our group rate), the cost is around \$13.00; this can be given to the church, memo: The Lutheran. Thanks!

## Reconciling in Christ Festival Worship

Join other RIC congregations and Lutherans for this year's RIC Festival Worship: "Coming Whole, Coming Home" on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30pm. Worship will be held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Minneapolis; the Rev. Brad Froslee of Calvary Lutheran (Mpls) will preach. Come for the worship and stay for light supper and rich fellowship!

Will you be part of a strong Salem contingent at this service? Plan to attend! Seeking: One person from Salem to carry a banner. Talk to Pastor Jen if this is you.



### Get to Know Our New Members!

## More News ...

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Salem community welcomed a cadre of folks into membership. This was a time for these new members to publicly make a commitment to being part of God’s mission through this congregation, and for the Salem community to make a commitment to nurturing the life of faith with these members. This is a gifted and creative group and we welcome them warmly. Here is a bit of introduction to help us get to know one another better.

#### Sheena Dean and Paul West

**Sponsors: Barb and Roger Livdahl**

*Paul:* “I grew up in Oconomowoc, WI, moved to Madison, WI, and then to Minneapolis in July of 2001... I enjoy Spyhouse Coffee, video and board games, almost any form of art, listening to/playing music, reading/writing, laughing with friends... Spyhouse Mocha is yum.”

*Sheena:* “I’ve lived in Minneapolis my entire life. I spend my time acting and reading. I’ve been coming to Salem for just over a year with my husband, Paul, who I married in July.”



#### Peder Hagen

**Sponsor: Jan Olson**

“I am from Mankato, and I moved to the Twin Cities when I was 18. I lived in group homes for over four years, then I moved to a more independent location [in Whittier Neighborhood]. I draw, sing, pick berries, create worlds, and I love being with my dogs in Mankato.”



#### Javier Padron

**Sponsor: Matt Potts**

“I was born and raised in Miami, Florida. I came to the Midwest to experience new things and meet new people. I chose the Twin Cities, Minneapolis particularly, because of the healthy and rich arts scene and diversity. I found out about Salem from a friend who took me here one Sunday morning.”



#### Antone Melton-Meaux, Ava and Xavier

**Sponsors: Kathy Sievwright, Corinn and Cassie, as well as Paul and Jill Livdahl, Quinn and Li**

Antone, Ava (5 yrs.), and Xavier (5 mo.) are fairly new arrivals to Minneapolis. Antone enjoys time with his family, running, jazz music, and James Patterson novels. Ava is a budding singer, piano player, and dancer. She also is a terrific soccer player. Xavier enjoys, most of all, time with his mom and sister. The Melton-Meaux family is thrilled to be part of Salem!



#### Chris Wogaman

**Sponsors: Lynn Mickelson and Sherry Kilburn**

“Originally from East Grand Forks, MN, I moved to Minneapolis in May, 2008, after completing preparation for ministry in the ELCA at Yale University Divinity School/ Institute of Sacred Music and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. For over three years, I have been waiting for my first call as a Lutheran pastor, and I am currently Office Manager at First Christian Church, Minneapolis. I’ve lived in such varied places as Wisconsin, Germany, Manhattan, Greensboro (NC), and in Episcopalian Monastery in upstate NY. I am on the Board of Lutherans Concerned/ Twin Cities, am a singing member of the Twin Cities Gay Men’s Chorus, and I enjoy genealogy, piano, writing, cooking, and walks around the lakes.”





# More News ...

## Christmas Caroling

During December, a singing crew headed to visit with a few of Salem’s homebound members (Doris Delude, Audrey Fox, Marion Engman, Cora Peffer, and Vivian Gustner) carrying our Christmas greetings, treats, and the songs of the season.



**Audrey Fox with young Salem friends.**

## Thank You!

Thanks to all who gave an amazing \$3433 to the “Organ Fund-Raiser” during December. This will be matched up to \$1300 by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. This Organ Fund is on-going and covers the storage and care for the organ during construction and anticipated reinstallation at a later date in the Ministry Center.

## Sunday Brunch

Thanks to Kate Rime and Austin Tollerson for hosting a potluck Sunday Brunch in December. It was a great chance to get to know one another better.



## Adult Ed Details (See schedule on back page.)

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** “Listening In, Behind the Tune” David Weiss describes the writing in his new book—essays, poems, and hymn texts—as an attempt to put words to the music he hears in his heart, a clear melody that he calls “the tune of a Welcoming God.”

On Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, David will join us for a conversation about his journey as a GLBTQ ally, his vocation as a writer, and his sense of the tune that fills his heart. He’ll share some of his thoughts about the frontiers of welcome as growing edges for the church as a whole. Copies of his book, *To the Tune of a Welcoming God*, will be available for \$15. David will be our preacher that morning as well.

**ReDevelopment Forums** Our chance for updates and conversations about our congregation’s work toward affordable housing, a re-newed ministry center, and transformation.

**February** Book of Faith: Making Sense Out of Scripture. We’ll delve into another study in the Book of Faith series. This study is by Luther Seminary professor David Lose and brings us into conversation around seven big questions about the Bible. If you’d like to purchase a copy of this study book, sign up at church.

## A Note from Pastor Jen

Over these last ten months, my spouse Jane McBride, has been “between calls,” home caring for our daughter Eliza, worshipping with the Salem community, and happily teaching Sunday School. This has been a special time for our family and we’ve thoroughly enjoyed worship life together. On January 10, First Congregational Church of Minnesota, United Church of Christ (near the University) voted to call Jane as their Pastor. Jane will begin in mid February. We’re thrilled by this call and it has felt like a Spirit-led process in coming, but it means change for our routines, and change brings goodness and challenges. As for Eliza, no fears! She’ll be loved by First as well as Salem and she’ll be here (with a Sunday Nanny, of sorts) every other Sunday. Godspeed, Jane.

# Reaching Out *Service, Justice, and Outreach Opportunities*



## Serve at Feed My Starving Children

An intergenerational group will be packing food at Feed My Starving Children (the Chanhassen location) on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am-1:30pm. All encouraged to attend and friends are most welcome. Sign up at church, and contact Kathy Sievright at 651-405-3109 if you have questions or need a ride (carpooling will be available). Hope to see you there!



# Reaching Out *Continued...*

## **Taking Heart Workshops on Interfaith Civic Engagement**

Thursdays January 14<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 7:45pm  
Minnesota Church Center, 122 West Franklin Ave, Minneapolis  
(free parking in Church Center lot)

Brian Rusche, Executive Director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC), will lead two training sessions on civic engagement. We will still have food and conversation, but the conversation will be directed toward learning about advocacy. JRLC is the largest and most inclusive interfaith public interest group in Minnesota—people of diverse faiths bringing vision and wisdom to the public realm for the well-being of Minnesotans.

Brian will help participants identify an issue of concern in their own community. Training modules include:

- Introduction to the concepts of civic life and civic leadership.
- Life work exercise to clarify one's aspirations in civic life.
- Power analysis exercise; to bring democratic standards to problem solving.
- Value-driven calendar; to help leaders prioritize their work for the good of the community.
- Civic goals and standards for community work.

A meal will be served. There is no charge for the workshop or meal but we do require pre-registration and recommend that you be able to attend both sessions to get the full value. Please respond via e-mail or phone to Gail Anderson at the Minnesota Council of Churches, Gail.anderson@mnchurches.org, or 612-230-3210. Please include your religious affiliation so that we can make this a true interfaith experience.

### **Gubernatorial Candidate Forum**

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm  
Temple Israel, 2324 Emerson Ave. S.  
The Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness invite you to a Candidate Forum. The focus is “Ending Homelessness: What is the Role of Government in Meeting Basic Needs of Housing, Health Care and Jobs?” How do our values inform our response? We are members of many faith traditions, all of which call on us to care for the vulnerable in our society. Join us for a lively dialogue.

### **A Note From Simpson Food Shelf**

“Dear friends of the Simpson Food Pantry, I would like to express our gratitude for your continuous support for our Food Pantry. This fall has been busy at the pantry. The demand remains high and we’ve still maintained to serve at least 10 new families over the last two months. We gave out over 2,956 pounds of food. We would not be able to serve as many clients as we do without your kind, generous and thoughtful donations. Thank you for giving to so many who you do not know.”

*Note:* Donations to the food shelf can be left in the basket in the Café.

## ZOOM HOUSE



Thanks to all from Salem who helped to make Christmas festive this season for the families living at ZOOM House. Salem provided 18 dozen cookies for the party, gifts for each member of one of the families, mittens and gloves for adults as well as kids, and we participated in the party. (Even Santa attended!) Thanks to all! The Annual ZOOM House Fundraiser will be on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at JAX Café in NE Minneapolis—save the date!

### **Simpson Women’s Shelter**



There are two opportunities coming up to serve at Simpson Women’s Shelter (currently located at 1900-11<sup>th</sup> Ave. in south Minneapolis). Please sign up at church if you will help by preparing (or providing) an element of this meal (usually for around 25 people) and serving at the shelter.

Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Please be in touch with Bonnie Ford (612-810-8333) if you have questions.



# Youth Ministry News

*Erin Davis, Youth Minister*

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

The Christmas program was a success! I hope you were able to attend and enjoy it. Thanks to all who took part in preparing for and performing this fun play!

Now we're in the midst of planning for the second half of the year. What's on the docket? A few great things: serving at Simpson Shelter, Night on the Street, a Lock-In at Intermedia Arts, art projects, service projects, cinnamon rolls, and more. Do you have an idea for a youth group fun project or service project? Would you be willing to host a youth group event at your home? Let Erin know. You can email or call (salemlyndaleyouth@gmail.com or 612-991-1607). We're always seeking out new ways to connect with our church communities

On February 7<sup>th</sup> (that's Super Bowl Sunday), the youth group will be hosting a Souper Bowl for Caring initiative. This is a nation-wide initiative collecting dollars to feed those who are hungry. Bring your coins and dollars and look for the youth with pots and ladles. Donate and help us help others.

In addition, I'm excited to start working with the Youth Team more closely as we get this great cross-congregational group up and running!

I hope you have a restful, wonderful Christmas and New Year!

# Sunday School News

**Christmas Program:** The Christmas program "Greyhound Nativity" was a great success. The youth and children were fantastic having had a limited number of practices. Nathan Soucy was a natural as a police officer. What most of you do not know is that he added that role just minutes before our production. Thank you Nathan. Thanks to Vicki Keck, Sheena Dean, and Allan Henden for leading.



**Polar Bear Picnic:** We invite everyone to join the children for some winter fun and exercise at the Polar Bear Picnic on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00pm at the Lowry Nature Center. Last year the children rated building an ice castle as the #1 activity. They also enjoyed down hill sledding, sitting by the fire eating s'mores, creating snow people, and kick sledding to name a few winter activities. Hope to see you there!

**Feed My Starving Children:** In February our Christian Education Committee is planning a service project. This is a great opportunity for modeling stewardship with our children and youth plus having fun and socializing. The project is Feed My Starving Children on Saturday February 13<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30am-1:30pm at the Chanhassen location. We encourage you all to bring a friend. Please contact Kathy Sievwright at 651-405-3109 if you have question or if you need a ride. Carpooling will be available. Sign up at church.



## Sunday School Rotation

The next SPARK rotational curriculum will be The Last Supper (John 13:1-20, Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:10-32, and Luke 22:14-28). We will have family information flyers for you to take home and share with your children about the Last Supper. The flyers are filled with questions and activities to enhance our exploration of Bible stories and grow spiritually with our children and each other. You will also find this information on the Sunday school poster each week.



# CALENDAR

## Week of January 17

- Sunday 1/17 8:30 am Traditional Service
- 1/17 9:15 am Sunday School & Youth Group
- 1/17 9:30 am Fellowship
- 1/17 9:40 am Adult Ed—David Weiss
- 1/17 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 1/17 11:30 am Fellowship
- 1/17 12:00 pm Christian Ed
- Wed. 1/20 7:00 pm Confirmation Class
- Thursday 1/21 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting
- 1/21 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
- Saturday 1/23 4:30 pm RIC Worship at Holy Trinity

## Week of January 24

- Sunday 1/24 8:30 am Traditional Service
- 1/24 9:15 am Sunday School & Youth Group
- 1/24 9:30 am Fellowship
- 1/24 9:40 am Adult Ed—RDF
- 1/24 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 1/24 11:30 am Fellowship
- 1/24 6:30 pm Gubernatorial Conference  
at Temple Israel
- Wed. 1/27 6:00 pm Simpson Shelter Meal
- Saturday 1/30 1:00 pm Polar Bear Picnic  
at Lowry Nature Center

## Week of January 31—Annual Meeting Day

- Sunday 1/31 9:45 am Gathering Fellowship
- 1/31 10:30 am Worship Service
- 1/31 11:45 am Shared Meal
- 1/31 12:30 pm Annual Meeting
- Wed. 2/3 7:00 pm Confirmation
- Thursday 2/4 6:00 pm Taking Heart  
at MN Church Center

## Adult Education

**Sundays, 9:40-10:15am, in the Café**

**January 17—David Weiss**

“Listening In, Behind the Tune”

**January 24—ReDevelopment Forum**

**January 31—No Adult Ed, Annual Meeting Day**

**February 7—Book of Faith:**

Making Sense Out of Scripture

**February 14—Book of Faith:**

Making Sense Out of Scripture

**February 21—ReDevelopment Forum**

**February 28—Book of Faith:**

Making Sense Out of Scripture

## Week of February 7—Souper Bowl for Caring

- Sunday 2/7 8:30 am Traditional Worship
- 2/7 9:15 am Sunday School & Youth Group
- 2/7 9:30 am Fellowship
- 2/7 9:40 am Adult Ed—Book of Faith
- 2/7 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 2/7 11:30 am Fellowship
- 2/7 11:45 am Sunday School Teacher Meeting
- Saturday 2/13 11:30 am Feed My Starving Children  
in Chanhassen

## Week of February 14

- Sunday 2/14 8:30 am Traditional Service
- 2/14 9:15 am Sunday School & Youth Group
- 2/14 9:30 am Fellowship
- 2/14 9:40 am Adult Ed—Book of Faith
- 2/14 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 2/14 11:30 am Fellowship
- Wed. 2/17 12:00 pm Noon Ash Wednesday Service
- 2/17 7:00 pm Confirmation
- 2/17 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- Thursday 2/18 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting
- 2/18 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
- 2/18 ~REMINDER~  
Scene Additions Due
- Saturday 2/20 6:00 pm Simpson Shelter Meal

## Week of February 21—Friendship Sunday

- Sunday 2/21 8:30 am Traditional Service
- 2/21 9:15 am Sunday School & Youth Group
- 2/21 9:30 am Fellowship
- 2/21 9:40 am Adult Ed—RDF
- 2/21 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 2/21 11:30 am Fellowship
- 2/21 3:00 pm Central Conference Assembly  
at St. Paul’s Lutheran
- Monday 2/22 2:00 pm Scene Folders Needed
- Wed. 2/24 7:00 pm Lenten Service

## Week of February 28

- Sunday 2/28 8:30 am Traditional Service
- 2/28 9:15 am Sunday School & Youth Group
- 2/28 9:30 am Fellowship
- 2/28 9:40 am Adult Ed—Book of Faith
- 2/28 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 2/28 11:30 am Fellowship

## It’s Volleyball Time

Interested in some winter (indoor) volleyball? Want to get to know a few people from Lyndale UCC, as well as Salem Lutheran? Looking for something to keep you active on Friday evenings? Join the volleyball team! Games are Fridays beginning in January, 6:30-

8:30pm at Oxboro Evangelical Free Church, 9431 Nicollet Ave South, in Bloomington. Weekly commitments are great, but it’s okay if you can come occasionally, too. Kids are welcome and cared for. Interested? Please e-mail Kathryn Lee (from Lyndale UCC) at conlee2@earthlink.net.