

Of Worms and Ants, Summer and Space

In a moment of great spontaneity, my three year old and eight year old neighbor boys helped plant cosmos seedlings in the front flower bed on Memorial Day. There I was weeding a bit, slowly pondering what I'd put where when boundless energy bounded over and together we were clearing away a bit of last year's mulch and digging five holes.

That's about the time they spied a worm surfacing in one of the holes and a few ants scampering near another. "Should we take them out?!" As we left the worm and ants happily productive—if not a little shaken—in their soil home, my young neighbors and I talked about how important these littlies critters are for keeping the soil aerated and making it rich. Their question, "Should we take them out?" has stuck with me.



Pentecost this year lands on May 31st. We hear the story of the Holy Spirit's arrival in the early community with wind, flame, and the hubbub of diverse voices. Pentecost is one of my favorite days in the church year, for I love the power of the Holy Spirit to break in on our routines and surprise us with new possibilities. As the summer months stretch before us, the "green" season of "Ordinary Time" or "Time after Pentecost" takes root. The colors in our worship are green, growth is a focus, and the stories we'll hear follow suit: the tiny mustard seed's amazing growth, Jesus calming the storm, healing, feeding and more feeding.

These summer weeks with our sporadic schedules, time away with family or friends, weddings, camping, gardening, and more offer many a slower pace—or at least a different pace—so needed. "Should we take them away?" No! Please, no! With the Spirit's help they infuse space and freedom into our souls, they make life rich and full, they revive! For this I am grateful and for this, with many of you, I look forward to summer. I'm enjoying the change of pace in my life during this part-time family leave as I spend more time at home with our ever-growing Eliza.

Please join us in worship when you are in town so that together we can hear the stories and taste the bread of renewal. The Salem's redevelopment with its housing, retail, and ministry center need much attention even in these quieter weeks. Plan to come to the Whittier Alliance Community Issues meeting on June 8th, help out with the Sale on the 13th, get to know our partners in Lyndale UCC, and pray for the Spirit's creative, sustaining energy in this project. As exciting as these times are (with demolition possible later in the summer or early fall), they are precarious. Your prayer and presence and continued generous support are vital, for this I give thanks.

—Pastor Jen



Feasting after the Celebration of Sunday School





Salem News ...

Transformation Team

- Annually ELCA Evangelical Outreach reviews grants given to new ministry starts and redevelopment/transformational congregations (this is what Salem is). In late May, Rev. Sue Tjornehoj (ELCA Mission Director in our synod), Rev. David Wangaard (synod staff), Rev. Mary Halvorson (Central Conference Dean), and Susan Masters (a colleague in a neighboring parish) met with Sarah Kunze and Pastor Jen. They reviewed the report of the congregation and looked over financial statements, offering much affirmation and thoughtful questions to encourage Salem onward.
- We have received word that all ELCA grants for fiscal 2009 are reduced by 7% due to decreased giving and budget cuts in the ELCA. With this notice, the Minneapolis Area Synod Council responded that they will work to raise the approximately \$26,000 reduction synod wide (affecting 26 ministries). We give thanks for this support of the wider church and body of Christ.
- Matt Potts and Kathy Sievwright will represent Salem at an RIC (Reconciling in Christ) banner-raising at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Minnetonka on May 31. Salem and St. Paul's are partners in the transformation process. We add our prayers and thanksgiving for this bold step by the St. Paul's community.
- BBQs and summer outdoor events are in the works, watch for details.

Development Update

- The architects and Salem/Lyndale Design Team continue to hone plans for the redeveloped ministry center working to keep costs low while upholding our core needs.
- Sustainability is being discussed.
- The re-zoning process is underway offering an opportunity for further conversations with neighbors and others who must sign off on zoning changes.
- **IMPORTANT:** At the June 8 Whittier Alliance Community Issues meeting the Salem and Lyndale project (housing, retail, ministry center) will be discussed. Please plan to attend (the meeting begins at 6pm, our time on the agenda TBA) in the multipurpose room at Whittier International Elementary School at 26th and Grand.
- Also at the June 8th meeting is a request by the Marathon station across from the church to sell liquor. There is some concern that in Minneapolis liquor cannot be sold within a number of feet of a church. Listen for more details about this issue.
- Salem and Lyndale UCC will meet together for **Ministry Center Forums** on May 31st and again on July 12th. On both dates, two forums will be held: at 9:30am and 11:45am. Please attend whichever is convenient. These are designed to offer people of both congregations opportunity to hear updates and talk together with the design team.

Next RDF

Aka: ReDevelopment Forum. Our next Salem RDF will be June 14 at 9:40am.

Pipe Organ News!

The Salem Council decided to work with Hendrickson Organ Co. to preserve Salem's pipe organ. The console will be removed and stored for future upgrading and reinstallation (possibly several years down the road). The pipe chamber can be sealed and kept safe during construction. The total cost for removing, storing and assessing the console and sealing the pipe room is approximately \$3500. The Council voted to approve this plan with an eye toward the future presence of an organ in our worship space and protecting the investment we already have in this instrument. –Claire Kirchhoff on behalf of the Council.



More News ...



A Note from Contextual Ed Student, Jill Davis

The saying goes, "All good things must come to an end." Really? As a Christian I find that hard to believe. It's Easter and in this season in particular we celebrate the love God has for us all through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Forever we are united with Christ and live confident in God's promise that for all who believe there is eternal life. This relationship is a very good thing; there is no end to it.

I have just finished my last official class at Luther Seminary and shortly I will start an eight week program in hospital chaplaincy. September will mark the beginning of my year long internship at Oak Grove Lutheran in Richfield; I'll still be on Lyndale Ave., just farther south. These commitments will certainly curtail my involvement at Salem but I refuse to believe that this good experience must come to an end.

You have been a most gracious congregation allowing me to be in ministry with you. Time and again your stories and reflections opened my eyes to see the work of the Holy Spirit in new and exciting ways. And as you have discerned where and what the Spirit is calling you to be as a congregation and as individuals, your faith has kept your ears and hearts open to do God's will.

Thank you for letting me stay around for so long. It has truly been an honor to be in ministry with you. I'll be praying for you and you'll be in my thoughts as you get ever closer to completing the circle and returning to 28th and Lyndale. If you are ever in the area of Oak Grove, please stop in for a visit.

In Peace,
Jill

Thank You!

Eliza Grace and her moms wish to thank the Salem (and Lyndale) community for the marvelous baby shower in May. Thank you to all who organized and those who attended and partook in a beautifully decorated cake complete with lots and lots of pink booties, fun conversation, and a little extra time with baby Eliza. She (and her parents) are feeling greatly showered with the love and support of this community.

Many thanks for the warm and generous welcome.
- Pr. Jen, Jane, and Eliza

Announcement...

I'm very pleased to announce my marriage! My partner, Matt Hunstiger (fellow U of M grad student and occasional Salem BBQ attendee), and I are making things "official" on June 20th. We're celebrating in Milwaukee, WI, my home town. Thank you, my Salem family, for all your love, support, and prayers during this important transition and always!

~Claire Kirchhoff (yep - still Kirchhoff....)

Congratulations, Doug Holtz!

On May 24th, Salem Contextual Education student Doug Holtz graduated from Luther Seminary. Doug and his family were at Salem for a morning service including prayers of Godspeed. On May 31st, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Albrightsville, Pennsylvania votes to consider a call to Doug as their pastor. An ordination is anticipated soon! We give thanks for Doug's gifts and learning in our community (aka: our context) and pray for what is to come for Doug and Betsy, along with their children Karl and Olivia.

Our sympathy

We include in our prayers Jill Livdahl and her family as they mourn the death of her Grandpa Reuben and celebrate his years and unique character.



More News ...

Art Car?!?

The kids explore one of the world-famous Art Cars parked in front of Intermedia Arts for the Lyn Lake Street Fest on May 17th.



Sale on June 13th—HELP NEEDED!

Plans are underway for the big Sale at the Salem building at 28th and Lyndale. Salem and Lyndale UCC will both be selling items no longer needed including (and certainly not limited to) some tables, folding chairs, wooden chairs, pictures, fabric, baby swings and nursery items, other furniture, kitchen items, large gallery professional frames, pews of assorted sizes, and much, much more. Ads are running in the local papers and on line. Here are the details:

- Sale on Saturday June 13th, 9am-2pm.
- Set up on Friday June 12th

Augsburg College alumni services will assist with the pricing for the sale (they have a group with much experience running estate sales), but many volunteers are needed each day for smooth operation. Some larger items may be sold directly to a church salvage company. Salem and Lyndale leaders are coordinating this sale. From Salem, Jim Anderson (jimea01@hotmail.com) and Matt Potts (612-849-3916) are taking the lead; from Lyndale it is Mary Vanderford, Janet Skidmore, and Robert Frame. There will be opportunities for Salem members to see the church and sale items early in the process. Please sign up at church or be in touch with Jim or Matt if you have questions. How can you help?

- Tell your friends and family, advertise in your circles
- Bring newspaper, bags and boxes for packing sold items
- Sign up to help with set up and/or the sale day-more hands still needed!
- Plan to help with clean up.



Honoring Our Elders

Seated, left to right: Doris Delude, Marion Engman, Mayme Larson, and Audrey Fox.

Standing, left to right: Bob Shorten, John Giinther, LaVina Giinther, Orpha Rustebakke, Myrtle Johnson, and Kathryn Patterson



Reaching Out

Service, Justice, and Outreach Opportunities

Churchwide Assembly—August 17-23

The 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly comes to the Minneapolis Convention Center August 17-23. There are two good avenues for volunteering at the assembly: 1. Be an ELCA volunteer through the synod, or 2. Be a volunteer with Goodsoil, organizing specifically for inclusive change in the church. Here are the details:

ELCA Volunteering

More than 1,000 volunteers are needed to assist during the churchwide assembly, with everything from worship support to hospitality to registration to serving as pages, ushers, and door monitors. Volunteer as an individual or gather a group from your congregation! This is an opportunity to learn about the many arms of the ELCA and to meet and greet ELCA Lutherans from around the country and the world! Please note that volunteers are responsible for their own transportation, parking, and meals. Register to volunteer by July 1, using the online form at www.mpls-synod.org/news/elca_assembly.html or talk with Pastor Jen

Goodsoil Volunteering

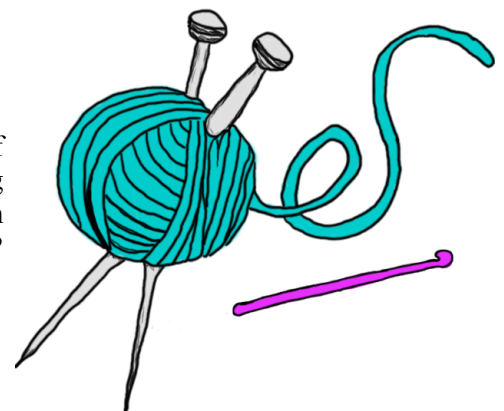
As a member of a Reconciling in Christ congregation, volunteer with Goodsoil. Goodsoil is a collaboration of organizations working for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their families in the full ministerial and sacramental life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Goodsoil works to reconcile our church's policies and practices regarding same-gender marriage, blessings of covenanted unions, and the rostering of partnered LGBT ministers, harmonizing these with our shared values of faith, trust, commitment, monogamy, mutuality, and dignity. Volunteer information and registration is available at www.goodsoil.org, or talk with Pastor Jen.

Goodsoil Worship

Mark your calendars: There will be a large Goodsoil worship service during the assembly on Wednesday, August 19 at Central Lutheran Church. This promises to be a large, festive service. Plan to attend!

Calling all Knitters and Crochet-ers!

You are invited to create a prayer shawl in support of the decisions of the Churchwide Assembly this summer in support for a welcoming church. Shawls are being collected at church and will be dedicated in August prior to the assembly. Patterns are available. Questions? Talk with Kathryn Patterson at 612-825-3837.



50 Days of Prayer

As the assembly draws close, we will begin 50 days of prayer for the assembly. Beginning on June 29th, individuals, groups, and congregations are invited into daily prayer. Watch for information.



Reaching Out (continued...)

Pride Parade

Want to join a Salem group marching in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28th? Watch for details of the parade (Salem typically marches with other RIC congregations) and possible participation in an information booth.

Serving at Simpson Women's Shelter

Our next opportunity to prepare and serve the evening meal at Simpson Women's Shelter will be on Wednesday June 24th at 6:15pm. Please sign up to participate. Questions? Talk with Bonnie Ford (612-810-8333).



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.

May 17th marked the last regular Sunday youth group of the year, so naturally, it's time to fill up the summer calendar. Here is a list of dates to keep in mind:

- **31 May:** Youth Group breakfast - The Egg and I, 9:15 AM
- **13 June:** Meal, movies, and games - Location TBD, 6:00 PM-closing time
- **6-10 July:** Art Slam - the details to come
- **12 July:** Bowling - After church, bring your family and friends!
- **21-27 July:** Trip to New Orleans
- **9 August:** New Orleans storytelling, snacks, and thanks - 4 PM

One more event to be announced is the youth group's "Rent-a-Youth" fundraiser. Do you need some housework done? Room painted? Windows washed? Lawn mowed? Our youth are here to help! For a reasonable price, you can rent one, two, three, or more youth to take care of that putzy stuff around the house! Stay tuned for more details.

Save the Date: Day Camp

Salem is once again partnering with other local congregations (Zion Lutheran, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Calvary Lutheran, Lyndale UCC, Little Flock and others) to sponsor a day camp for children of the congregation and neighborhood. Do you know a child who would enjoy this experience? Registration forms available at church.

- July 13-16, 9am-4pm
- At Calvary Lutheran, 39th St. and Chicago Ave.
- Four years old-completed 6th grade
- Families may choose to send youngest for morning only
- Morning program led by Luther Crest Bible Camp staff
- Afternoon excursions
- Lunch included
- \$10 per child per week (scholarships available, donations welcome.)
- Volunteers needed!

Sunday School

Parents: Watch for a date for a Circle Forum this June. Salem and Lyndale parents are invited to a conversational forum designed to share what has worked for our Sunday School program and our kids in this new space at Intermedia Arts, and what still needs attention. Space, child care, classes, identity and more may all be talked about. After the move there has been some concern that our children are struggling in this new space. Time may alleviate some of these concerns, but there is always room to strengthen our program. Details to come.



CALENDAR

Week of June 7

- Sunday 6/7 8:30 am Traditional Service
- 6/7 9:30 am Fellowship
- 6/7 9:40 am Synod Assembly Update
- 6/7 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 6/7 11:30 am Fellowship
- Monday 6/8 TBA Whittier Alliance Meeting
- Tuesday 6/9 7:00 pm Partnership Meeting
at Intermedia Arts
- Friday 6/12 Setup for Sale
- Saturday 6/13 9 am - 2 pm Sale

Week of June 14

- Sunday 6/14 8:30 am Traditional Service
- 6/14 9:30 am Fellowship
- 6/14 9:40 am ReDevelopment Forum
- 6/14 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 6/14 11:30 am Fellowship

Week of June 21

- Sunday 6/21 8:30 am Traditional Service
- 6/21 9:30 am Fellowship
- 6/21 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 6/21 11:30 am Fellowship
- Monday 6/21 11:45 am Christian Ed Meeting
- Wed. 6/24 6:15 pm Simpson Shelter Meal
- 6/24 ~ REMINDER ~ Scene Additions Due
- Thursday 6/25 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting
- 6/25 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

Week of June 28

- Sunday 6/28 8:30 am Traditional Service
- 6/28 9:30 am Fellowship
- 6/28 10:30 am Jazz Service
- 6/28 11:30 am Fellowship
- 6/28 12:00 pm Pride Parade
- Monday 6/29 Start of 50 Days of Prayer

Church Camping

Mark your calendar: Church Camping with Lyndale UCC will be July 17-19 at a local regional park. This is a great opportunity for overnight camping or a day excursion with others from church of all ages. More details to come.



Thank You, Counters!

Austin and Kate are two of the newest members of our counting team.



Honoring Our Elders

Lily, Orpha, and Kathryn catch up after the Honoring Our Elders Service.



World of Whittier Family Fair

Paul, Sheena, Erin, and Nick staff our info table.

Contact Information

Please note the address change for the church:

Salem English Lutheran Church
2822 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Phone remains: 612-872-4650
Web remains: www.discoversalem.com

For pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Jen at home 612-521-3930 or cell 612-227-9673.