

Focusing and Refocusing

With dreams of pesto for supper, I ventured into the garden this week in search of some tender basil leaves. I found that sweet basil, but I also found the tomatillos growing like crazy! Not, tomatoes, but tomatillos: sweet, smaller, greenish fruits that are a staple of Latino cooking and in their own rite make a mean salsa. Admittedly I am no pro gardener, so I took my time and carefully separated the basil from the lanky, encroaching tomatillos, smelling and looking closely to find and pick the basil leaves.

Adiaphora is a word that comes to us from Greek. The dictionary has a more elaborate definition, but it basically means “the extra stuff”, not good, not bad, and not the main focus. During the Reformation in the 1500s the word *adiaphora* was used a lot. The reformers wanted to keep at our center Christ and the promise that it’s grace that saves, the rest, they said, is *adiaphora*.

As a community, and as individuals and families, keeping our focus and distinguishing what is at our center and what is *adiaphora* is vital. Now, *adiaphora* can be great fun, it can add some zest, it can even make a mighty good salsa, but it’s still wise to know what and who is at our center. As fall schedules gear up, as money worries mount, as our congregation refocuses with the news of delayed demolition, and as the ELCA lives into the welcoming decisions of the Churchwide Assembly, it’s a good time to remember again our center, and what’s *adiaphora*. Christ is our center—our healer, our teacher, our savior, the one who brings life in the places of death, the one who forgives. We’re Christ’s people, and we’re called to be Christ’s body in this world. That’s the heart of it all. There’s a lot that’ll try and compete for this center, this focus. We may need to do some serious refocusing (picking through the tomatillos to find the sweet basil). Thankfully, we don’t do it alone. I give thanks for your prayers for one another and for the church. I give thanks for your faithful stewardship. If you’ve been away, I invite you back: back to Christ’s center, back to Christ’s table, where the supper is waiting and where there is always a place for you.

—Pastor Jen



St. Francis
of Assisi
Lover of
all Creation

St. Francis Sunday and Blessing of Animals October 4th

St. Francis is remembered as a lover of all of God’s critters. During either service on October 4th you are invited to bring pets (or a picture of your pet) for a blessing. All critters welcome—really! Last year we experienced the blessing of animals at one of our services and it was a moving time for many. Please join us this year and consider a friend or neighbor with whom you can share this invitation! Invite them!

Special Services Coming Up

Reformation Sunday is October 25, the day we remember Martin Luther’s bold actions that began the protestant reformation. We give thanks for the Holy Spirit’s movement in Luther’s time and the Spirit’s reforming work still today.

All Saints’ Sunday is November 1. We’ll give thanks for the saints who’ve gone before us like family and friends who have passed. During services, we’ll name church members who have died in the last year and many more. We’ll also celebrate the saints still living who surround us in our daily lives.



Salem News ...

Development Update

- Design and development planning for the renewed ministry center for Salem and Lyndale UCC continues to progress.
- Demolition is delayed (it was originally scheduled for September) as Brighton Development seeks further funding to cover a gap in the financing of the affordable work force housing. All other projects of this type in Minneapolis are experiencing similar challenges and delays because of the economy.
- Brighton has applied for further grants from the city (Affordable Housing Trust Fund) and the state. Grants will be determined in early December and early 2010. Brighton is working with city, county, and staff to achieve this funding application and fill the gap.
- This is a set back, but Salem and Lyndale leaders are hopeful that demolition will happen this winter.
- The demolition and building of the retail and affordable housing AND the redevelopment of the ministry center are linked because of the site plan and funding (i.e.: Brighton will pay Salem for the western portion of our site, and then this money will cover Salem's portion of the redevelopment cost).
- Leaders met with City Council member Robert Lilligren in September to update him on the situation.
- Next ReDevelopment Forum in October 25—our chance for conversation and updates.
- John Rader, Salem Office Administrator, is coordinating the final clean out of the Salem building. Items and fixtures that remain are being sold and given through salvage companies, Craig's List, and more. There is often a need for extra hands at the Salem site. Talk with John (612-872-4650, leave a message) if you are interested in helping in big or small, heavy or light, ways. Thanks!

A Letter from the Synod

(Note, this assistance comes from St. John's Lutheran on Nicollet via the Minneapolis Area Synod. It was \$3000 and thankfully far surpassed the 7% gap from the ELCA. All ELCA mission starts and redevelopments experienced a 7% reduction this year and this fund appeal from the synod was meant to assist with the gap.)

"Dear Salem English Lutheran Church, Enclosed is a check to cover the 7% reduction in funding from the ELCA for the 2009 fiscal year. This money came from individuals and congregations of the Minneapolis Area Synod who felt called to give of their resources in this time of economic downturn in our economy. Thank you for your continued work to share the gospel through mission development. Your work is vital to the growth of the church and the work that God has set before us to help a world in need. Please know that you are valued in the work you do. The positive response to our request for dollars to cover the 7% gap funding is testament to this. I ask that you continue to share stories of how your ministry is touching the lives of those you serve."

Contextual Education Students

Salem is blessed by Luther Seminary Students who make Salem their church home and a learning "context" during their studies to become pastors. Kara Wiechmann and Jill Davis are both on internship this year. Katie Emery (who was around last year, too) will be a Contextual Education student and more students may be coming later. Glad you are here, Katie!

"Hi Salem friends! My name is Katie Emery. I've been around Salem for about a year now as a contextual education participant from Luther Seminary. I'm now in my second year there, so Jen decided it would be a good idea for me to formally introduce myself. Currently, I'm working as a chaplain intern at University Medical Center-Fairview for one of my degree requirements and taking a few classes at Luther. I'm originally from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, but have lived in both Eau Claire (for college) and Scotland (also college) over the past 5 years. Now I'm here in the cities working toward becoming a pastor. I've met and seen a lot of you around the church, and hopefully we will continue to grow closer as this year progresses. I'm looking forward to you all being a part of my life here as we grow together in relationship with one another and Christ. Feel free to talk to me when you see me around!

*Grace and Blessings to you all!
Katie"*



More News ...

Membership at Salem

Curious what it means to make a commitment to the Salem community by becoming a member? We'll receive new members this fall. Please talk with Pastor Jen to explore further this commitment.

Member Directory

Salem Office Administrator John Rader is coordinating a refreshed Membership Directory (not pictorial). If you have new information (phone numbers, e-mail, address) that you'd like included, please contact the church office now. Thanks! These directories will be distributed this fall.



Thank You

“Thanks for your help before the Goodsoil worship getting ready for the reception. I knew your congregation was one to be there to celebrate so would be able to help with preparation of the reception.

Blessings,
Betty Schreuder,
Bethany Lutheran”

Picture Directory for Salem and Lyndale?

Our congregations are considering doing an in-house pictorial directory. We'll need digital photographers and others willing to design and develop a directory. Up your alley? Consider being on the team? Leave a message at the church office.

Godspeed

We add our prayers of Godspeed for Miriam Awate as she moves to Sioux Falls, SD and anticipates the birth of her baby. May God grant her health in her pregnancy, safety in travel, and patience and hope as she settles into a new community and routine.

Flu Season This Year

Germ-Stoppers—From the Red Cross

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid or minimize contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissues when you cough and sneeze, or cough into the crook of your elbow.
- When sick, stay away from others as much as possible.

Some ways we can translate this into our life at church:

- All of the above, and...
- If you are sick, stay home. It's okay, really. If you have responsibilities on a given Sunday (reader, counter, SS teacher, etc.), ask someone to sub for you. If it feels last minutes, let Pastor Jen know.
- Feel free to limit hugs and handshakes, and share simply a greeting or gesture of peace; respect the boundaries of others who may be trying to have less physical contact.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the hymnal rack and on the Communion Table. Feel free to use and be assured that the one presiding will do so as well.
- Stay in touch...with one another and the church. If you become quite ill, need help (groceries, etc.), are hospitalized, seek prayers or other support, please let Pastor Jen know (Church: 612-872-4650, Cell: 612-227-9673, Home: 612-521-3930).

ELCA Missionary Sponsorship

Salem recently received information from the ELCA about helping to sponsor a missionary serving overseas through the ELCA. Missionaries do many different types of work: medical, teaching, library, development, ministry and more. Congregations as well as individuals can sponsor missionaries; sponsorship can be large or small and stretches one year or more. If you'd like more information about sponsoring a missionary, contact the church office or see: www.elca.org/missionarysponsorship.

Our Sympathy, Our Prayers

To the family of Shirley Gould. Shirley was a long time member of Salem along with her sons Bruce and Brian Tonsager. Shirley died in September after a long battle with cancer. Her husband died in July. We give thanks for Shirley's life and pray Christ's comfort for her family and friends as they grieve.



Reaching Out *Service, Justice, and Outreach Opportunities*

Zoom House Info

ZOOM House is a transitional housing program at 33rd and Blaisdell designed to provide housing as well as support to families transitioning from shelter to stable housing.



- Thank you to Kathy Nelson who has completed three years as the ZOOM House administrator. Welcome, Sara Parnell, as the ZOOM House office coordinator.
- Thanks to those who supported the annual ZOOM House Como Park picnic.

ZOOM Board is examining how we fulfill our mission. A number of new committees are being formed and members of partnership congregations and the neighborhood are invited to serve on the committees. If you are interested in serving on one of the following committees or would like more information, please contact Sara Parnell at the ZOOM House office. **Phone:** (612) 825-2825 **Email:** info@thezoomhouse.org.

- **Safety & Security:** Assists staff in monitoring safety and security issues for residents and property and recommends ways to better address these issues.
- **Finance:** Assists the ZOOM Board and staff in developing, monitoring and regularly reporting on an annual operating budget.
- **Personnel:** Work with the ZOOM Board and staff to address personnel issues.
- **Fundraising:** Work with fundraising events and assist grant writer.
- **Outreach Committee:** Build partnerships with religious and secular organizations as a way to build awareness of and support for the ZOOM program.
- **Community Life:** Support a positive environment among the ZOOM residents; planning social events, developing a culture of community, education.
- **Marketing:** Market the ZOOM program to the broader community through printed, visual and web-based materials.
- **Governance:** Work with the ZOOM Board to develop governance policies, position descriptions and effective operating procedures for the Board of Directors.

CROP Walk on October 11th

October 11th is this year's CROP Walk for local hunger organizations and the international hunger ministry of Church World Service. Will you walk? Will you support a walker? Salem often has a significant group of walkers and it's a fun

afternoon getting to know one another and enjoying a fall walk along the Mississippi River. On the 11th, the group will meet at Augsburg College for registration at 1:30pm and then the walk begins at 2pm. Sign up, get more information, and pick up an envelope at church.



Last year's Crop Walk "Crew" enjoying the experience.

Taking Heart: Muslim Christian Meal and Conversation

Come to the next Taking Heart Muslim Christian meal and conversation on Thursday, October 8, 6:30-8:30pm at Union Congregational UCC in St. Louis Park (3700 Alabama Ave. S.). The conversation focus will be: "How we interpret our Sacred Texts" (The Qur'an and the Bible). These gatherings are sponsored by The Muslim American Society of Minnesota, Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, Lyndale UCC, Salem English Lutheran Church, and Union Congregational UCC. Child care will be provided. A free-will offering will help with the cost of the meal. For more information and to RSVP please contact Allan Henden, at ajaj5520@msn.com or 612-490-8935, or sign up at church.



Reaching Out *Continued...*



Meet Bread for the World's Founder, Art Simon

Art Simon, the founder of Bread for the World, will be in the Twin Cities on Tuesday, October 6, at 7pm, at Church of Corpus Christi (2131 Fairview Ave. N—Hwy 36 and 35W) in Roseville. He'll be speaking and signing a recent book, *The Rising of Bread for the World: An Outcry of Citizens Against Hunger*. Bread for the World adds a faithful voice in the halls of power advocating for measures to stop hunger. www.breadstore.org/artsimon. To learn more about Bread's work, talk with Mary Johnson.

Bread for the World Sunday

October 18th is Bread for the World Sunday. We'll have a chance to write letters and to learn more about this important ministry. www.bread.org

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.

Greetings parents, grandparents, and friends!

Fall is here, and youth group is back. With their weeks full of football, volleyball, and lots of homework, our youth are busy and energized for the coming year. For a full calendar through December of the upcoming youth group activities, contact Erin (salemlyndaleyouth@gmail.com), especially if you know a youth who would like to get involved! Here are some important upcoming dates:

Sunday, October 4 - Social Sunday

What does this mean? It means bring your games, a favorite movie, or a ball for four square. Faith is about community, so we'll take a Sunday or two every month to build friendships.

Sunday, October 11 - Akaloo - Discovering the Bible: What's the Big Deal with the Ten Commandments?

We're using an Augsburg Fortress curriculum called Akaloo this year. The focus this fall is figuring out what the Bible and Jesus tell us about right and wrong. Check it out on akaloo.org.

Sunday, October 18 - Youth helping with Sunday school

Part of growing up in a church is becoming more involved with that church. Our youth are going to help out with the Salem/Lyndale Sunday school. They'll get to know the kids, the teachers, and a little bit more about faith in the eyes of a child. We're glad for the opportunity to let kids learn from youth and youth learn from kids.

Saturday, October 24 - Pumpkin carving

3pm-6pm at Erin's House (4225 Wooddale Avenue South, St. Louis Park, MN, 55416)

Let's carve pumpkins! RSVP to Erin. Bring \$5 for snacks, pumpkin, and tool costs. We'll get ready for Halloween and talk about teamwork as we sort seeds, carve faces, and enjoy the company of friends!

Saturday, October 25 - Akaloo - Discovering the Bible: What is the greatest commandment?

It's an important questions. The youth will find out what Jesus says! Ask them for more info.

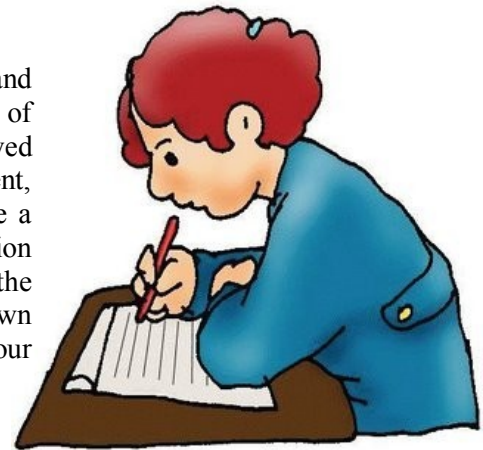
We're excited to be rocking and rolling this fall. Thanks for your ever-present support!



Youth Ministry News *Continued...*

Confirmation

Salem’s three great confirmation students (Ian Evans, Luna Gebriel, and Quinn Livdahl) are beginning their second year of studies. Affirmation of Baptism will be held in the fall of 2010 with hopes of being in the re-newed facility by that time. This year the students will: study the New Testament, Lord’s Prayers, Apostles’ Creed, Baptism, and Communion; experience a Mosque, and an Orthodox Christian service; spend sessions of conversation and service with their mentors; begin to develop a faith statement; attend the Confirmation Event with youth of both synods; and explore their own decision making as faith and life are integrated. Please pray for our confirmation students and their growth.



Sunday School and Christian Ed News

Kathy Hayden, Coordinator 612-209-9515

Rally Sunday was a success. A big thank you to all who helped: organizing the potluck (Brad McNaught of Lyndale and Matt Darling of Salem), bringing food to share, set up and clean up, worship music, and our beautiful children. Special thanks to Elly Wagner and Michael Vanderford for leading the children in music at the start of Sunday School, to Claire Kirchhoff for sharing her love of science, and to our dedicated and wonderful teachers.

What gifts do you have to share? Resource People Needed! Sunday School this year is using a “Rotation” model, focusing on a bible story from many angles (science, drama, art, cooking, etc.) over many weeks. Do you have gifts to share? Arts? Cooking? Music? Drama? Science? Carpentry? What about a snack bringer?! Our first rotation is focusing on creation. We’ve witnessed more playful interaction and physical movement in the classrooms. Hopefully the outcome will be a deeper spiritual learning by all. Our rotation curriculum is part of Augsburg’s SPARK program. Ask our 7-12 year olds what they discovered and learned as they explored science and creation with Claire Kirchhoff.

Check out our Sunday school family poster. Each week you can find questions to stimulate discussion and activities to support continued learning and spiritual growth.

Sunday School families and all are encouraged to participate in the CROP Walk and the apple picking (see other notices with details). Dates to remember: no Sunday School on Nov. 29, Dec. 27, and Jan. 3; Christmas program on Dec. 20.

It’s Apple Picking Time!



Please join Lyndale and Salem folks on our annual trip to Deardorff Orchards in Waconia on Sunday afternoon, October 11. There will be good company, plenty of apple picking (they have 13 different varieties) and a free wagon ride! We will leave after church. Here are some directions: Take Lake Street west to MN-7 west (12.2 miles). Left on MN-41 N/Hazeltine Blvd. Take slight right onto Arboretm Blvd/MN-5 west (6.6 miles). Turn right on Parley Lake Rd. 8350 Parley Lake Rd on the right. Please sign up if you’re going, especially if you need a ride or can provide a ride. For more information contact Rebecca Miller at 612 823-7503.





CALENDAR

Week of October 4—Saint Francis Day Pet Blessing

Sunday	10/4	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	10/4	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10/4	9:30 am	Fellowship
	10/4	9:40 am	Adult Ed —Book of Faith
	10/4	10:30 am	Jazz Service and Pet Blessing
	10/4	11:30 am	Fellowship
	10/4	12:00 pm	Christian Ed Meeting
Thursday	10/8	6:30—8:30 pm	Taking Heart Event at Union UCC in St. Louis Park.

Week of October 11—CROP Walk Sunday

Sunday	10/11	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	10/11	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10/11	9:30 am	Fellowship
	10/11	9:40 am	Adult Ed —Book of Faith
	10/11	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	10/11	11:30 am	Fellowship
	10/11	1:30 pm	Crop Walk
	10/11	Afternoon	Apple Picking
Tuesday	10/13	7:00 pm	Partnering Team Meeting at Don Portwood’s house
Wed.	10/14	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Thursday	10/15	6:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
	10/15	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting

Week of October 18—Bread of the World Sunday

Sunday	10/18	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	10/18	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10/18	9:30 am	Fellowship
	10/18	9:40 am	Adult Ed —Bread of the World
	10/18	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	10/18	11:30 am	Fellowship
Wed.	10/21	~ REMINDER ~ Scene Additions Due	

Week of October 25

Sunday	10/25	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	10/25	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10/25	9:30 am	Fellowship
	10/25	9:40 am	Adult Ed —Re-Development Forum
	10/25	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	10/25	11:30 am	Fellowship
Wed.	10/28	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class

Adult Education

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

October 4—Rediscovering the Book of Faith
October 11—Rediscovering the Book of Faith
October 18—Bread for the World
October 25—ReDevelopment Forum

Stewardship Giving

During the month of November, Stewardship is our focus. Weekly we’ll hear stories from one another of how we understand stewardship. We’ll have an opportunity to make giving commitments for the coming year, and we’ll renew our gratitude for and response to the gifts we’ve received. Watch for more details in the November newsletter.

Christian Education Committee

Christian Education is area of our church life that is shared with Lyndale UCC. Salem is looking for one or two more people to be part of the shared Christian Education Committee. This committee guides our Sunday School and some intergenerational activities. Talk with Pastor Jen for more information or if interested.

Piano Seeks Temporary Home

During the building process, could you store (perhaps in your living room) a console piano? It’ll need some tuning, but could be used and loved for the coming year. Talk with Paul Wharton (612-861-9590) or Pastor Jen if you are interested or able.

