

Exploring the Mystery

I wasn't home on the warm March afternoon when Jane decided it was time to drag out the "cold frame" and kick off the gardening season. As she recounts the event, sticks and leaves were cleared, a bit of last year's compost added, the dirt was loosened and turned by the shovel, and finally the crumbly earth smoothed by hand. I can picture Jane engrossed in the seed packets, reveling in visions of lovely spring salads, completely unaware that Eliza had crawled right up to the edge of the garden. Too late she saw Eliza's hand proceeding from soil to mouth. Eliza laughed, chewed, and proudly stuck out her dirt-encrusted tongue.



Why not eat dirt?! Long ago we answered that question for ourselves; Eliza hasn't, and she assumes almost nothing. Her whole world is continually new and she explores it relentlessly by mouth and knee!

Over these weeks of Easter (remember, it's a whole season) we get to explore the mystery of our faith. Amid the realities of crucifixion and resurrection, death and life, we sit like children with soil encircling our mouths. We don't understand—we may never fully grasp—what it all means...and we don't have to. Like the witnesses to the empty tomb, we know what it's like to experience life even in the places where sorrow holds us. The mystery of our faith goes on and we can't help but explore it.

I've been witnessing this mystery in around Salem and Lyndale UCC these last days. The wrinkles in our redevelopment process threaten to delay us; we write more about this later in the Scene. At the same time, we've received word from two partnered churches (Advent Lutheran and Broadway UCC) in New York City that at the occasion of their partnership's 10th Anniversary in April our young partnership is being honored. Listen for more of this life-giving story in the coming weeks. This Holy Week and Easter season, may we dare explore boldly the mysteries of our faith. And may we trust the resurrected one who knows so intimately death to lead us—yes, even us—into life! Holy Week and Easter blessings to you.

—Pastor Jen

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

8:30 am and 10:30 am, March 28.

Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm, April 1, at Intermedia Arts.

Maundy comes from the Latin word "mandatum" a command: eat, drink, love.

So, on Maundy Thursday we eat and drink together at the Lord's Supper and have the opportunity for experiencing service love through the washing of feet. Come and be part of this sacred night.

Good Friday

7:00 pm, April 2, at Intermedia Arts.

On Good Friday, through reading of the crucifixion accounts, hymns, prayers, and contemporary contemplation, we enter into to that powerful last day.

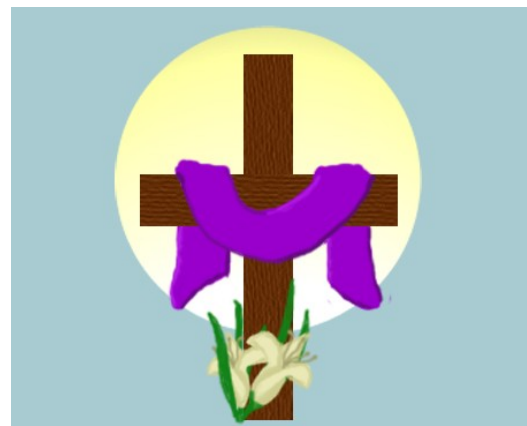
Easter Sunday

Come and celebrate Christ's resurrection and life that triumphs over death.

Traditional Easter Worship, 8:30am.

Easter Breakfast, Between services in the Café, served by our youth.

Jazz Festival Easter Worship, 10:30 am.





Salem News ...

Development Update

- We have been hoping for the official “go ahead” word, which would have meant demolition and redevelopment beginning ideally in late May. A relatively small continued funding gap for the affordable housing is slowing down the project. This funding is important, for it is the sale of our land to Brighton (for affordable housing and retail) that will give Salem the revenue to pay for our 50% of the renovation of the ministry center with Lyndale UCC.
- This week Salem and Lyndale received word that our redevelopment project is further delayed. We are all very disappointed, but remain hopeful.
- The city is working hard to help Brighton fill the gap for the affordable housing, but things are not yet complete. We now hope for demolition in August. This is a very hard time to be doing this type of development work, but Brighton and the city remain committed to finding a way to make this work.
- Salem and Lyndale leaders will discuss this situation and our response in the coming weeks.
- A ReDevelopment Forum is scheduled for March 28 and then again on April 25, both at 9:40am.
- Design Team continues to work hard to design a ministry center that is wonderfully functional and within our budget.
- Sub-Committees are organizing to assist with specific needs for the design. If you can be part of one of these sub committees, talk with Paul Thuras or Paul Livdahl. Over the next month, the groups will meet together to begin addressing questions. In early May, they will gather all together over a meal to catch the synergy of our many needs and solutions. Again, if one of these captures your attention, please jump in!

Worship—How will worship space be arranged and used?

Community Life—What are the needs in the gathering spaces? Accessibility? Recycling?

Kitchen—What are the needs of our kitchen space and how will it match our ministry?

Furnishings, Lighting, and Reuse—How many? What type? What can be cost-effectively reused?

Education—What is needed for classrooms, child care, and gathering space?

Music and Acoustics—How will instrumentation and sound systems best fit?

Office Needs—How will the allotted space fit for volunteers and staff?

Technology, Phones, Security—What are the day to day needs?



Transformation Team

Hint: The answer is “e”

What does this team want to share?

- We’re the new transformation team, following the Spirit’s lead to transform the Salem community.
- Pictured here: Pr. Jen, Paulette Krohn, Chris Wogaman, Jon Hanke, Claire Kirchhoff, and Paul West.
- We’d welcome more people to the Transformation Team—would you like to be part of it?
- We often meet at people’s homes, apartments, or favorite coffee shops—it helps us get to know each other. Try it!
- All of the above! Amen!

Deepening the Welcome

Reconciling in Christ congregations like Salem are invited to participate in a workshop on April 17, 8:30am-2pm at Edina Community Lutheran Church. Beyond the statements of welcome, how do we go deeper expressing and living with gospel hospitality? During the workshop times, Salem members will be part of a panel addressing “what it means for an organization to come out publicly.” Sign up now to participate.



More News ...

Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly

The Minneapolis Area Synod will gather for assembly on Friday evening, April 23 and Saturday all day, April 24. Paul Wharton and Pr. Jen will attend the business sessions from Salem. All are invited to a festival worship service on Friday evening beginning at 7:30pm at Central Lutheran (downtown). Bishop Craig Johnson will be preaching.

Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters

You are invited to participate in Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters, the biennial assembly of Lutherans Concerned / North America and Reconciling in Christ conference. Let Justice Roll will be held at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, July 7-11, 2010. A group from Salem plans to attend. Talk with Pr. Jen now if you'd like to participate. Details available at: <http://www.lcna.org/news/ljr>.

Celebrating our Generations—May 16

Mark your calendar and plan to be part of our next Celebrating our Generations worship and fellowship.

Who: All ages with special invitation to our homebound members

When: Sunday, May 16, 2pm

Where: Walker Care Center Chapel, 3737 Bryant Ave. S.

What: Worship and fellowship

Why: Because worship and time together strengthens our body of Christ.

How: Would you like to attend? Call the church office at 612-872-4650.

Help needed in preparation: Invitations, reception hosting, rides, choir, worship planning.

A Note from Youth Minister Erin Davis:

I think I've heard somewhere that once you're in the wilderness, you're inevitably going to encounter more wilderness. I've also heard that the more lost you begin to feel, the more you simply need to give it up to God and put your trust in a higher power to sort things out. With this in mind, I'm sad to say that I will be leaving the position of youth minister at Salem and Lyndale at the end of this Sunday school year. I've found myself (like so many others) in the midst of job loss, and for many financial, emotional, spiritual, and logistical reasons, have moved to Rochester. I've realized during this transition that it is near impossible to be a strong, faithful member of a church community from 85 miles away. So with great sadness, I'm moving on from a position that has been a gift to me for the past year and a half. I want to say thanks! And know that even though I am gone, I will always consider Salem and Lyndale a part of my life. Feel free to stop me after church and ask questions. I know the Youth Advisory Team is working hard to figure out the next steps for youth ministry in these vibrant congregations. Peace, Erin

Editors note: We give thanks for Erin's ministry at Salem and Lyndale! May 23rd will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks together.

Congratulations, Mark!

Salem staff member Mark Zahlin graduated on March 27 from The Art Institutes International Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science in interactive media design. Congratulations!

Baptismal Prayers

Sarafina, daughter of Miriam Awate, was washed in the waters of baptism and welcomed as a child of God on February 28 at a service in Sioux Falls, SD.

Graduating this Spring?

Are you or someone from our community graduating this spring? Let us know so we can honor them.

The Directories are HERE!

Grab a Salem directory today—use 'em, love 'em, communicate with the body of Christ! Directories will be delivered or sent to Salem's homebound members in the coming weeks.

Directories Corrections

A few directory corrections have already arisen. Please make these changes in your directory now:

June Hanson (correct phone number): 651-628-3575

Kimberly Johnson (accidentally left out): 123 W. 26th St. #7 Minneapolis 55404 612-272-9300 kjohnson4316@comcast.net.

Tom Buchner (correct e-mail): solaregg@netscape.com

Claire Kirchoff (correct zip code): 55412

Other corrections? Contact John Rader.



More News ...

Serving Dishes and More

On the counter in the kitchen, there is a collection of serving dishes that have been left at the church over the last months. Take a look and retrieve what is yours.

Sunday Flowers

Thanks to Elly Wagner who often brings flowers for Sunday worship. If YOU are interested in bringing flowers on a particular Sunday (in honor, or memory, or just because), talk with Elly at 952-922-7703. Elly will coordinate dates and dedications. Ideally, please bring flowers for both Lyndale and Salem services. Would you consider Easter Sunday flowers?!

Easter Caroling

Want a chance to sing some of those favorite Easter hymns? Would you like to meet a few of Salem's amazing elders who are homebound? Plan to go Easter Caroling on Sunday, April 11 following a light lunch, leaving shortly after noon and done no later than 2pm. Sign up if you'll attend.

Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit

We're working to schedule an opportunity for the Salem community to together view the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Science Museum in St. Paul. Group rates are reduced somewhat and this is a once in a life-time opportunity to see these ancient writings of our faith. Watch for details.

Experiencing Haiti

Salem Contextual Education student Katie Emery was in Haiti for an interim course when the earthquake struck. Come, see Katie's photos and hear her reflections on the strong people of Haiti, the media's response, and this faith-shaping experience in her life. Katie will share on April 11 during Adult Ed time at 9:40am AND again at 11:45am following jazz worship.



Reaching Out *Service, Justice, and Outreach Opportunities*

Whittier Alliance May Soiree

The Whittier Alliance May Soiree/Fundraiser will be on May 6th at The Blaisdell Manor. It's a fun night of food, entertainment, and auctions. Please join us!

We are looking for \$ donations for a basket of food/gifts to be made available for auction that evening. We'll display a sign indicating "Donated by Salem Lutheran Church." The Whittier Alliance appreciates any contribution we make as a church group, but we may also contribute individually. You may make a financial contribution (in the offering, noting "Whittier Soiree"), or you could give us a hand with making some decorations. If you are interested in more information about that, please contact Bonnie Ford at 871-4240.

ELCA Disaster Response

We include in our prayers the people of Chile and Haiti recovering from earthquakes. Some avenues for giving:

1. Call ELCA Disaster Response at 1-800-638-3522
2. Go to: www.elca.org/chiledonate,
3. Give via the Sunday offering, memo: ELCA Disaster Response.

Children's Book Drive

We are collecting new and gently used kids (children and teen) books at church. These books will be given away free to families and children through the North Side Achievement Zone (an 18 block area of north Minneapolis targeted to close the achievement gap). Bring them in now. Thanks!



Reaching Out *(cont. ...)*



Looking for ways to pray?

Sometimes we could use some direction for our prayers, sometimes we're looking for a new way to engage with the spirit, sometimes we might not be sure where to start, sometimes maybe we don't know what to pray for....

The Transformation Team invites you to PRAY! We've got two suggestions if you're looking for ways to deepen your relationship with God and our faith community:

Praying the Directory

New directories are here! Maybe you know nearly everyone, maybe only a few... but praying for those listed in the directory can be a way to help structure your prayer life, and maybe

even get to know a few people who are "new to you." Even if you don't know someone, general good wishes are always welcome! There are any number of ways you could structure this – here are just a few suggestions:

- Each night of the week, pray for those whose last names start with A. Move on to B next week... you get the idea.
- Every Thursday morning, pick a name at random (maybe check it off to keep track) and pray for that person.
- Pick a person from the directory (you could do this in alphabetical order or not), and think about that person or family a few times during the day. A new person could be selected daily, or weekly, or every few days.

Prayer requests

Watch for more on this soon.... We often share desires for special prayers during our Sunday services. We will soon have an opportunity to share those joys and concerns in a different way. Have you ever seen penny jars near the check out at a store? ("Need a penny? Take a penny...") Do you have a prayer? Leave a prayer.... Do you want to pray? Pick up someone else's prayer request, and pray that request for at least one week (for joy, thanksgiving, blessing, healing, sorrow, or whatever it might be). More details coming up!

ZOOM House Fundraiser

The ZOOM House fundraiser is coming up on April 17 at Jax Café in northeast Minneapolis. There are a variety of ways for Salem folks to be involved:

- Attend! Let's have a Salem table. Invitations are now available.
- Donate a bottle of wine or two for the "wine-pull".
- Donate items for the silent or live auction (artwork, time shares, tickets, baskets, services, etc.). Turn these items in at church as soon as possible.

Beds Needed

ZOOM House recently welcomed a number of new families. Additional full, queen, and twin size beds are needed. Call the church if you can help.

Sunday School News

Day Camp This Summer June 14-17

Save the dates: Our shared Day Camp will be Monday June 14-Thursday June 17, approximately 9am-4pm. Registration materials and flyers will soon be available. Families, make plans for your kids to attend.

Sunday School Celebration

The last day of Sunday School this year will be May 23. Watch for details and plan for a celebration service at 10:30am with Salem and Lyndale, followed by a picnic meal.



Folk dancing fun in the theater in March. Thanks to leader Robin Nelson and the many (of all ages!) who participated!



Sunday School News *(cont. ...)*

Kathy Hayden, SS/CE Chair

Stay tuned and read in the May newsletter how children and families enjoyed our March folk dance activity.

There will be no Sunday school on April 4th, Easter Sunday.

The April rotation focus is the story of Doubting Thomas from John 20:24-29. Believe in Jesus and receive his peace! God sent Jesus to the disciples. He told them, "Peace be with you. Now it's your turn to go tell the rest of the world about me." Jesus breathed on them and said, "With this breath, I will always be in your hearts, even when I am in heaven." Thomas was not there. He did not believe until he saw and touched Jesus. Jesus said "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." What things do you believe in even though you've never seen them?

Family prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for giving us your peace. Thank you for calling us to tell your story all over the world. Amen.

End of Sunday school celebration will be May 23th.

Needed: Snacks for Sunday School

Could you donate snacks for Sunday School? The children enjoy eating healthy foods such as simple crackers or fruit. Please drop off any donations in the kitchen marked "Sunday School." Please contact April Conlee at conlee2@earthlink.net or 612.724.7142 for more information.

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.

Happy Easter! We hope you enjoy the delicious cinnamon rolls served on Easter Sunday by the youth group. This is a grand new tradition that works in any space! Thanks to everyone who helps knead, bake, chop and wash fruit, and serve. It is definitely a team effort!

On an opposite note, we had the pleasure of participating in a 30-Hour Famine with the youth group from Parkway UCC in north Minneapolis. A big thanks to those who were able to come! And I'm glad we got the opportunity to get to know some new friends.

Coming in April we'll be doing a variety of things on Sunday mornings. Depending on the weather, we'll don our gloves and trash bags to clean up the neighborhood, check out brunch at The Egg and I (or Sunnyside Cafe), and visit Bryant Square Park. You don't want to miss these exciting mornings! Also, keep Sunday, April 18th after church open. There'll be something exciting. Stay tuned.

We'll kick off May with a Lock-In on May 1-2. Can you help? We are in need of chaperones who are willing to work shifts throughout the evening and then at least one other adult who's willing to stay over with us at Intermedia Arts. In addition, we need FLEECE for no-sew fleece blankets. It's on sale at most craft stores right now, so here's how you could help us: Buy TWO yards of ONE pattern and ONE solid fleece that match. Then bring it to church and we'll take it from there. These will be donated to a local children's hospital so be sure to pick some colors kids will enjoy. If you want to help but don't want to shop for fleece, an average blanket will cost about \$20-\$30, so feel free to donate what you can and we'll do the shopping! If you have any questions, check with Erin. Our goal is to have enough fleece to make 20 blankets.

Thanks to the new members of the Youth Team (from Salem, Emily Chesley and Matt Darling)! With their great ideas and experiences, I know this support network will be valuable to youth ministry in the Salem and Lyndale community. Bravo!



CALENDAR

Week of March 28—Palm Sunday

Thursday 4/1 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
at Intermedia Arts

Friday 4/2 7:00 pm Good Friday Service
at Intermedia Arts

Saturday 4/3 1:00 pm Youth Group Roll Making

Week of April 4—Easter Sunday

Sunday 4/4 8:30 am Traditional Service
4/4 9:30 am Easter Breakfast
4/4 10:30 am Jazz Service
4/4 11:30 am Fellowship

Monday 4/5 7:00 pm Design Team

Tuesday 4/6 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting
4/6 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

Wed. 4/7 7:00 pm Confirmation Class

Week of April 11

Sunday 4/11 8:30 am Traditional Service
4/11 9:15 am Sunday School & Youth Group
4/11 9:30 am Fellowship
4/11 9:40 am Adult Ed / Experiencing Haiti
Presentation

4/11 10:30 am Jazz Service
4/11 11:30 am Fellowship
4/11 11:45 am Experiencing Haiti Presentation
4/11 12:00 pm Easter Caroling
4/11 2:30 pm Assembly Gathering
at Mount Olivet

Monday 4/12 7:00 pm Partnering Team at Pastor Jen's

Saturday 4/17 8-2 pm Deepening the Welcome
at Edina Community Lutheran

4/17 6:30 pm Zoom House Fundraiser
at Jax

Week of April 18

Sunday 4/18 8:30 am Traditional Service
4/18 9:15 am Sunday School &
Youth Group

4/18 9:30 am Fellowship
4/18 9:40 am Adult Ed
4/18 10:30 am Jazz Service
4/18 11:30 am Fellowship

Monday 4/19 7:00 pm Design Team

Wed. 4/21 7:00 pm Confirmation Class

Friday 4/23 7:30 pm Synod Assembly Worship
at Central Lutheran

Saturday 4/24 7:30 pm Synod Assembly
at Shepherd of the Lakes
Lutheran

Week of April 25

Sunday 4/25 8:30 am Traditional Service
4/25 9:15 am Sunday School &
Youth Group

4/25 9:30 am Fellowship
4/25 9:40 am Adult Ed:
Redevelopment Forum

4/25 10:30 am Jazz Service
4/25 11:30 am Fellowship

Monday 4/26 6:00 pm Transformation Team
at Bad Waitress

Saturday 5/1-5/2 Youth Group Lock-in
at Intermedia Arts

Book Group: Reason for Hope

You're invited to read Jane Goodall's Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey. We'll gather for a book discussion on Monday, May 15 at 1:30pm, location TBA. Claire Kirchhoff will lead this discussion. This book was published in the late 1990s and is widely available new and used. Ideas for our next book group read? Talk with Pr. Jen.

Adult Education

Sundays, 9:40-10:15am

April 4—No Adult Education, Easter

April 11—Experiencing Haiti, Katie Emery

April 18—Beyond Assumptions—
Race, power, privilege

April 25—ReDevelopment Forum

Remember Me: Voices of the Silence in Columbia

Lutheran World Relief invites you to a traveling art exhibit created and inspired by victims of violence in Columbia. It is called Remember Me: Voices of the Silenced in Colombia.

The exhibit opens at Central Lutheran Church (333 S. 12th Street) in Minneapolis on April 18, 2010 and runs until May 3 during regular building hours. To learn more about the "Remember Me" exhibit, please visit www.remember.lwr.org.

By and large, the stories of victims go untold. Truth is silenced with fear and deadly oppression. But to achieve peace, these voices must be heard! We cannot change the painful history of Colombia, but together we can change the future.