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Salem English Lutheran Church

January-February 2026

Resistance Looks Like...



Resistance....what does it look like? Over the past weeks (and even longer, really) our city and our state have experienced some awful things. I don't know if there is any other way to say it.. As a native Minnesotan, I never in my wildest imagination, could have envisioned what is happening right now here in this place. The kind of occupation we are experiencing, the kind of terror people are facing, the senseless violence...well, that happens in other places, not here. And yet, here we are.

What does it mean to be part of resistance in times like these? Well, in the midst of the chaos over these last few weeks we have seen some incredible acts of resistance...very public acts of resistance. Thousands of people marching in the streets, peaceful vigils in the face of violence, peaceful protests at the airport and at Target headquarters., hundreds gathering to sing on street corners and in sanctuaries...to name a few.

I have found participating in some of these actions and supporting my colleagues in others has been profoundly moving and key in finding hope. I have been inspired by the number of people who have stepped up to use their voice or their hands and feet for the sake of the gospel and our neighbors.

But there have also been many people who have felt guilty because they have not been able to be part of these big moments of resistance. So many have expressed that they don't feel like they are doing enough.

And then I had an "aha" moment on Wednesday during a Zoom meeting....resistance isn't just marching in the streets and holding vigil or joining in a protest. Ministry in itself is resistance.

My colleague Pastor Martha and I are two of the leaders who plan our summer day camp. I fully admit that I defer to her organizational skills and she usually leads the meetings. But last Wednesday she wasn't able to be with us because she was in Washington DC with our bishop and several other clergy talking about what is happening in Minneapolis and demanding change. Since she was out of town doing that important work of resistance, I jumped in to lead our day camp meeting....which is when it struck me. Both Pastor Martha and I were taking part in acts of resistance that afternoon. Because, you see, in addition to

the big things, like marching and lobbying or protesting...the simple acts of ministry—the things we do as church every single day—they are acts of resistance in and of themselves.

One of the reasons this Scene, that was supposed to come out earlier in January is so late is because I just couldn't figure out how to write about a chili cook off in the wake of the murder of Renee Good, and then Alex Pretti, just blocks from our church.

The reality is that a big part of the resistance movement in Minneapolis right now is the fact that in the midst of the chaos, we keep doing ministry. We gather for worship, we attend meetings, we go to workshops, we make bulletins, we plan day camp, and we even have chili cook offs. All of what we do as followers of Jesus is resistance. In fact, two of our greatest acts of resistance right now could be gathering at the communion table...and then gathering at the fellowship table.

The church is counter-cultural. Following Jesus is an act of resistance...by believing in a world that leads with love, mercy, and compassion instead of power, violence, and fear...we go against what the world/empire would have us do.

The times we are in are pretty awful, we can name that. But in the midst of the awful, there have been beautiful moments of resistance, collaboration, and love. We are a people of resistance and we are also a people of hope...these go hand in hand.

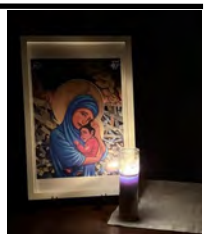
So whether you are marching the streets of Minneapolis or attending a council meeting—know that you are part of the resistance in our city. Know also that I am proud to walk with you!

Peace, Pastor Rhonda

A Reflection from Pastor Hieraal Orsoto at San Pablo/St. Paul Lutheran church

Tonight, when I entered the sanctuary, I noticed that the candle we lit on Sunday morning was still burning. I paused, in awe, watching the flame dance.

Despite forces trying to stamp us out, we continue shining. Even as my body strains under the stress of these weeks, my spirit remains strong and I have clarity about what this moment asks of us. The gospel is filled with risks, but it also offers a faithful promise of life. The community I serve as pastor continues to show up—not seeking pity, but solidarity. Deep in our bones, we know that the God we serve is with us every step. May we continue to show up, because we are brave and have agency. May we keep dancing with the Spirit, even if the night is long and troubled. Así sea. Amen.



Salem News

Pulpit Swap This Week!

Don't miss the next SpringHouse Pulpit Swap this coming Sunday, February 8. Pastor Rhonda will be preaching at FCC, Pastor Ben will be preaching at Lyndale, and Pastor T. Michael will be preaching here at Salem! While it's always great to have another voice in our pulpit, it will be special to welcome our newest settled pastor at SpringHouse to Salem for the first time. Come and welcome him into our family of faith!



Lent at Salem and SpringHouse

Ash Wednesday



All three SpringHouse congregations will join together this year for one Ash Wednesday service.. Join us on Wednesday February 18 at 7 pm for this meaningful entrance into the Lenten season of wilderness.

Come Celebrate Bob

As a way for Salem to bid farewell to our beloved Bob Shorten, we will mark his passing during our regular worship on Sunday February 15. Following worship we will gather in fellowship and celebration of his life. (Over coffee and treats to be sure!)



Lenten Evening Prayer and Soup Supper

Join all of SpringHouse on Wednesday evenings in Lent for soup supper at 6 pm and stay for worship at 6:30 pm. Watch for information on when Salem will host for opportunities to bring soup, help serve/clean-up, and/or lead worship in the weeks ahead.



New Worship Time Coming Soon!

SPRINGHOUSE COMING TOGETHER!!
WORSHIP TIME CHANGE!

Let's do this together!

Starts the 1st Sunday in Lent - Sunday, February 22
Worship Time at 10:00am (all 3 congregations)
Fellowship Following Worship

This will allow for joint adult faith formation, joint children's ministry, streamlined joint youth ministry and more!

All will change for better!
We will be changed for good!



Maundy Thursday

Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 2 so you don't miss this yearly tradition that has become one of Salem's finest traditions. Please plan to join us Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 pm. Just as Jesus and his disciples gathered, so we will gather around the table, with friends, for a meal and worship this holy night. Dinner will be catered by one of our local Greek/Mediterranean restaurants, so you don't want to miss out.

Thursday April 2, 6:30 pm

RSVP by Sunday March 29 (Palm Sunday) by one of the following:

- ◆ Using Survey Monkey through the E-Blast
- ◆ Signing up on the clipboard in the sanctuary
- ◆ Calling the Salem office at 612-872-4650

More News

Chili Cook Off

Get your recipes ready and mark your calendars - make sure not to



miss out on this always fun annual tradition! We will gather after worship, on **February 22**, (Yes, it's the first Sunday that all three congregations will be worshipping at 10 am - which means **anyone at SpringHouse can join and enter the cook off this year!** After worship we will take 15-20 minutes to set up and then gather around the crock-pots for tasting, judging, lunch, and prizes!

Sunday February 22 at 11:30 am

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place!

Everyone is welcome to join us for chili tasting and judging! (no qualifications necessary) We appreciate any hands that can help with the set up and the clean up as well. **Sign up to bring a Chili to enter or to bring toppings &/or sides in the back of the sanctuary or by contacting Pastor Rhonda!**

Welcome Baby Madeline!

With so much joy we celebrate the birth of Madeline (Maddie) Ruth Fast, daughter of Erica Larson and Shannon Fast and little sister to Wesley! Born on January 21, 2026, she is the most recent addition to our Salem family - and obviously one of the cutest!

Congratulations to their lovely family! Please continue to keep them in your prayers...that this time is filled with joy and even some peace.

Every Meal

Now a monthly event for all of SpringHouse, Every Meal packing has become a great Salem/SpringHouse tradition.

At our September event we had a great crew and packed the equivalent of 17,000 meals in less than two hours!

Each month we are getting between 15 spots for SpringHouse - and we hope you will fill one of those spots in the months ahead.

To sign up for this SpringHouse-wide event, either click the link in the eblast, click the link on the home page of the SpringHouse website, or sign up on the clipboard in the sanctuary or on the pillar in the gathering space by the food serving tables. You can also contact Pastor Rhonda for help signing up.

Come pack with us:

Monday February 23: 1 pm - 3 pm

Thursday March 12: 6 pm - 8 pm

Note: **Anyone 8 years or older** are welcome to join the fun as we pack meals for food-insecure kids all over the Twin Cities and beyond. To find out more about Every Meal go to www.everymeal.org



Synod News



Synod Welcome Fund

As we've seen, the targeting of our immigrant neighbors is only increasing. Our faith and our church's social teachings call us to respond, to stand with and support our neighbors, and to step boldly into this moment

The Synod's Immigration Task Force has developed a Welcome Fund to provide direct financial support to immigrant communities in our Synod. With generous contributions from the synod, and a couple foundations and institutions, we are thrilled to get started with over \$100,000.

The task force will begin a synod-wide campaign this month and is asking every one of the 134 congregations of the MAS to give in some capacity with the goal of another \$75,000. Watch for details to come about a special giving opportunity during the Lenten season that will allow Salem to make a contribution as a congregation.

The Welcome Fund will support mutual aid, advocacy efforts, and immigrant rights, and training opportunities. Congregations and Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities in the Minneapolis Area Synod can request funding for:

- ◆ Mutual aid: addressing basic needs for community members like rent, groceries, child-care, transportation, legal fees, and support for immigrants and those navigating the immigration system.
- ◆ Advocacy efforts related to local immigration policy: hosting town halls with elected leaders, letter writing campaigns, or community meetings.
- ◆ Training and education: legal observer training, know your rights training, education about immigration policy, etc.

Questions about the Welcome Fund can be directed to the Immigration Task Force co-chairs - [Pastor Hieald Osorto](#) and [Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka](#), or Assistant to the Bishop for Faith and Neighboring, [Nicholas Tangen](#).

Minnesota Clergy Travel to DC

Reflections from Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Bishop Jen Nagel describing what is happening in Minnesota using two words to center her reflections: beauty and devastation. 'I plead with you-do not give ICE a single dime...how could we give money to hurting and killing our neighbors? We can do better. We must do better.'



In DC with a delegation of MN faith leaders. We are getting ready to meet with Senators to demand that they not give one more penny to fund the cruelty and terror of ICE. Minnesotans, we carry you and your stories, our stories, with us. One quote from this morning's prayer service that is sticking with me from a rabbi who spoke about how loving our neighbors is our call and how it is easy to love 'humanity' but challenging to love the real person in front of you: 'Life with neighbors is hard, but life without neighbors is hell.'



SpringHouse & Community News

SpringHouse Celebrations

The leadership of SpringHouse changed things up a bit for our annual meeting Sunday. Instead of having the annual meeting and meal following joint worship, we made the annual meeting and meal part of joint worship.

We heard necessary reports, voted on the 2026 budget, installed SpringHouse board members, and even did communion over breakfast. It was a great change that offered good fellowship and collaboration at time when it was really needed.

The spirit of collaboration is alive and well among our SpringHouse congregations and we are looking forward to many more collaborative moments to come!



Food Share!

WHERE:
SpringHouse Ministries
610 W 28th St, Minneapolis, MN

WHEN:
10:30-11:00 AM
Second Saturdays and Third Wednesdays and (most) Fourth Saturdays, each month.

To learn about food share dates, contact foodshare@thewedge.org

South Minneapolis Day Camp 2026

Join us Monday - Friday June 15 - 19
9 am - 4 pm

Location: Diamond Lake Lutheran Church
5760 Portland Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Day Camp Programming for:
Rising Kindergartener - 4th grade
5th - 6th grade
7th-8th grade
High School Leaders

Adult Volunteers of All Kinds Also Needed

Register TODAY at
www.smplsdaycamp.org

Our Community

A Message From Bishop Nagel Following the Death of Renee Good in Early January

Friends in Christ, grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus, our comfort and our salvation.

As I've watched the events unfold across the Twin Cities and our state, the killing of Renee Good, and the unaccountable and indiscriminate targeting of immigrant neighbors by ICE and the Department of Homeland Security, the story of Jesus visiting the grave of his friend Lazarus has been ringing in my ears (John 11). The cry of Mary and Martha, "Lord if you had been here..." and the deep grief and weeping of Jesus for his friend feels particularly resonant.

I, too, weep for our own cities and communities in the Minneapolis Area Synod and around Minnesota. I weep for Renee Nicole Good and her family, and I weep for all who have been impacted by the chilling actions of ICE in our community – immigrant families fearful and separated and facing impossible decisions, children who have been witness to violence, black and brown neighbors unjustly profiled, congregational leaders and everyday neighbors struggling to respond to an unprecedented crisis.

This past Sunday we celebrated the baptism of Jesus and remembered our own baptismal identity as God's beloved. With this belovedness, comes inherent dignity, the knowledge that every person bears the image of God, and the power to uplift the common good and love of neighbor. In that spirit, we call for justice and accountability. We call for a thorough and impartial investigation of the shooting death of Renee Good, and we call for ICE to cease their cruel surge and leave our state immediately. We call for our members of Congress to hold the Administration accountable and exercise their oversight powers. We call on our local leaders, at the State and City level, to do everything in their power to protect **every** Minnesotan from unlawful harassment and targeting by ICE. We make these calls consistent with Scripture, our church's social teaching, and our Synod's resolutions.

Amidst this all, I am grateful, proud, and encouraged by the way neighbors across our Synod have shown up for one another through mutual aid, serving as observers on the street, and adding voices to vigils and calls for justice. Thank you. We are showing the world what it looks like to lead with love, to trust that we are better together, and to proclaim our hope for justice. We know that the targeting of our communities will continue and is likely even to intensify. In this moment, we must continue to rely on one another – to stay rooted in the resilience of community, the power of prayer, and the hope of God.

We trust that in Jesus, God comes near to us in our joys and sufferings, in the incarnation we proclaim at Epiphany, and the cross we walk toward in Lent. But death does not have the final word. Our story, rooted in Christ, is a resurrection story. We remember that while Jesus wept for his friend Lazarus, he also called him out of the grave, into resurrection life. Beloved ones, the events of these last weeks are not the end of our story. We stand firm in our faith that justice is stronger than injustice, that community is stronger than division, and that love is stronger than cruelty. We have hope that our weeping will be transformed into resurrection, and that, like those at Lazarus' graveside, we too will "...see the glory of God." (John 11:40)

In Christ,
Bishop Jen Nagel



More News



Midtown Global Market

Along with many other immigrant owned businesses and restaurants, those at Midtown Global Market are struggling in these times. If you have a chance, and are able, take time to frequent some of these neighborhood businesses—it makes a difference!

Council Corner

Your Salem council met on January 11. Minutes will be available in the sanctuary binder or by contacting Laurie in the office as soon as they are available.



Highlights from the January meeting:

- ◆ A budget draft was discussed and put forward for congregational vote at the annual meeting
- ◆ Laurie Z, Salem’s office administrator, has been very busy with year end financials and annual meeting preparation
- ◆ We asked our Thrivent Endowment Representative, Josh to join us for our annual meeting and he will be in attendance.
- ◆ We looked at the draft ballot for new council members and committee members
- ◆ Pastor Rhonda gave an update on sabbatical plans. There will be work for the council and the congregation to do in preparation for her leaving and for the time she will be gone. More information will be coming to everyone in the months ahead.
- ◆ Worship time will be changing when Lent begins. All three congregations will be worshipping at 10 am to see if our partnership will function in a more collaborative way.
- ◆ The congregation collected money for a gift for our baker Matthew and he was gifted a \$250 Williams Sonoma gift card.
- ◆ Chili Cook Off will be February 22
- ◆ We will be doing a joint SH Ash Wednesday Service

Calendar

Our calendar highlights events that take place weekly. Be sure to check the rest of the Scene for one-time events!

Sundays

- 9:30 am (through 2/15)
Salem Worship In Person and on YouTube
- 10:00 am (starting 2/22)
Salem Worship in Person and on YouTube
- Youth Group for ages 10 and up in the Youth Room – TB
- Coffee Hour in the Sanctuary following worship
- Adult Education following fellowship time.

Tuesday

- 8:00 am Lectionary Bible Study via Zoom

SpringHouse Calendar



Want to keep up with happenings at SpringHouse?

Our shared calendar is accessible for all to view! The link can be found [here](#) and on the [SpringHouse website](#). To reserve a room and get an event listed on the calendar, simply email the details to Allison at shcoordinator@fccmpls.org (allison.jones@fccmpls.org works too). Feel free to reach out to Allison with any questions.

Birthdays!

Wish these Salem members and friends a happy birthday! If you’re new to Salem and would like your birthday listed, please contact Laurie in the office.

- Ian Evans – 1/11
- Madeline Fast–1/21
- Mary Johnson – 1/28
- Paul West – 1/31
- Jimmy Henzler-Heany – 2/5
- Chris Wick – 2/6
- Axel Jorstad – 2/8
- Erica Larson – 2/15
- Ingrid Jorstad – 2/17
- Austin Tollerson – 2/18
- Solveig Tollerson – 2/22
- Mary Patterson – 2/28





610 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Salem English Lutheran Church
is a Reconciling in Christ
(R.I.C.) Congregation
 We are a Spirit-led, welcoming, and bold
 Christian community rooted in the neighborhood,
 striving to live faithfully in God's world.
 612-872-4650

Pastor:	Rhonda Hlavinka	revrhonda@discoversalem.org
Office:	Laurie Zaepfel	office@discoversalem.org
Music:	Tom Pieper	thomas.pieper@wayzata.k12.mn.us
Youth Ministry	Chelsea Boyden	springshouseyouth@fccmpls.org
Building Manager:	Rick Bowman	rjamesb49@gmail.com
Building Coordinator	Allison Jones	shcoordinator@fccmpls.org

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