SALEM SCENE

Salem English Lutheran Church September-October 2026

Sundays and Seasons

On a beautiful Sunday morning in mid-July, we celebrated the beginning of Pastor Rhonda's blessed sabbatical season. It's hard to believe that this special occasion and send-off occurred over five weeks ago. I promised myself that I would not disturb Pastor Rhonda during this sacred time (which I have not!). She, however, has been kind enough to send me and the other SpringHouse clergy a few updates along the way about her adventure. Needless to say, she is having the time of her life and is fully embracing this time of renewal and growth.

For Salem, we have been busy as a congregation leaning into God's call to reimagine what it means to neighbor and to be the people of God in this place and in this time. Here is a quick recap…

Our worship services have been Spirit-filled, with time spent exploring what it means to be called through the stories of Abraham and Philip the Deacon. We have also celebrated God's creation through joint worship with our SpringHouse friends on a magnificent Sunday at Wabun Pavilion.

Our friends from Faith & Neighboring Practices at the Minneapolis Synod (Nick, Grace, Mercy, and Matthew) led us in two wonderful workshops. The first workshop introduced us to asset mapping, which is the practice and process of discovering the gifts, strengths, and assets of a community. Led by Grace and Mercy, Salem and our friends from Lyndale and First Christian put pen to colorful Post-it notes and wrote down hundreds of assets that we have seen in the community (e.g., community gardens), as well as assets that we have as SpringHouse (e.g., an industrial kitchen). We then placed those Post-it notes on one of the large walls in the gathering space, creating a beautiful rainbow of assets that made known the bounty of gifts and resources that are just steps away from our church. We concluded the workshop with a small-group exercise of taking three random assets and imagining how they could be brought together to create something impactful for SpringHouse and the neighborhood. There were several creative ideas!

In our second workshop, Nick led us in learning more about the types of neighboring and how to start conversations with our neighbors. It is no secret that Salem has a reputation for having introverts, but that doesn't mean that we can't equip ourselves to get to know our neighbors and have authentic conversations! This work culminated with us gathering in small groups and taking a brief neighborhood walk. It was magnificent. Please take a moment to read Maria's reflection on her neighborhood walk experience later in the Scene! We will continue to build upon this wonderful foundation with more neighborhood walks, adding more assets to our wall, and planning for an awesome neighborhood party. **I strongly encourage you to keep showing up and being engaged** as we lean into this blessed opportunity to build authentic and enduring relationships with our neighbors.

Personally, I am so grateful for the love and support that the Salem community has shown me as I have taken on the Interim Pastor role. Your prayers, kind words, and encouragement have truly lifted me and serve as a wonderful reminder of what makes Salem so special. I have also been embraced by my fellow clergy at SpringHouse, who have been so gracious in their support. As we continue to walk together as a church in this sabbatical season, always remember that God's hand is leading us and Christ's love is guiding us!

Pastor Antone

Special Sundays!

Be sure to join us this **Sunday, September 6**, for a brief service followed by a neighborhood walk and brunch at a local restaurant. We will use this time to notice the gifts of our church neighborhood!

Gathering Sunday with all of SpringHouse is **September 13**! Plan to attend as we worship together, and bid farewell to FCC Interim Pastor Ben Masters with a special fellowship time after the service.

Salem News

Faith & Neighboring Practices Neighborhood Walks

By Maria Thieling

On August 23 we were joined again by Nick, Grace, and Mercy with Faith and Neighboring Practices. This time, our workshop focused on neighborhood walks; an intentional, spiritual practice rooted in community. Members of Springhouse split into groups of four or five, and spent the next hour walking within a few blocks of each other and discovering new and familiar places. Community gardens, neighbors, local businesses, pets. Nick described these walks as viewing your neighborhood through a "Lectio Divina" lens, taking time to notice signs of gathering, creativity, celebration, and joy. He explained that often, churches focus on what's "wrong" with a community, instead of what is "strong".

When we met again in the Spring House gathering space and shared what we learned from the experience, it became obvious that our community has so much to offer, and that we are truly seen by our neighbors. Nick encouraged us to add our neighborhood's assets to our asset map on the gathering space wall, with the promise of a gift basket featuring goods from local businesses in our neighborhood to whomever can name the most. Whether you joined us on our neighborhood walk last Sunday or not, you are welcome to add our neighborhood's gifts to the asset map on the back wall of the gathering space this week, and we look forward to another workshop with Nick, Grace, and Mercy on September 20.

Salem's Welcome Statement

Following the call of Jesus to practice radical welcome, we truly believe that diversity makes us stronger and we invite you to help us grow in who we are. We celebrate and advocate for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of all LGBTQIA+ people. We explicitly welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions into the full life and ministry of our congregation. Rooted in a history of being a congregation of diverse backgrounds, we boldly commit ourselves to the ongoing work of anti-racism and racial equity. Whether you are Black, Brown, Indigenous, a Person of Color or none of those; whether you are single, partnered, divorced, a single parent, tattooed, poor, or rich; young or old; eccentric or conventional – God loves you and so do we.

COMING UP

The Sundays of Sabbatical Time

So you don't miss any of the amazing Sundays coming to Salem, here is a schedule of what's happening Sundays during this season of renewal.

9/6: Labor Day Weekend: Brief Service followed by neighborhood walk and brunch at a local restaurant.

9/13: Joint SpringHouse Gathering Sunday (Farewell to Pastor Ben Masters)

9/20: F&NP Team Preaching and helping lead worship. Workshop #3 after worship!

9/27: Rev. Antone Melton-Meaux Preaching

10/4: Rev. Antone Melton-Meaux Preaching

10/11: Guest Preacher! Seth Anderson-Matz (multi-traditional community minister and queer public theologian AND FCC administrator)

10/18: Rev. Antone Melton-Meaux Preaching

10/25: Joint SpringHouse Worship to hear Bishop Yvette Flender (Open & Affirming Ministries) Preaching and Welcome Back to Pastor Rhonda

Pastor Rhonda Returns October 25

Save the date to welcome Pastor Rhonda back from sabbatical with a special event.! Exciting plans are afoot– watch the eblast and announcements for more information coming up.

Wine & Jazz Returns This Fall!

Our popular Wine & Jazz event is in the planning stages, and you can help! If you would like to be part of the planning team during late September-November, please talk with Tom Pieper or Maria Thieling. Watch for more information about attending this wonderful event.

Faith & Neighboring Practices

To our friends at Salem English and SpringHouse from the Faith & Neighboring Staff

In August, we introduced Neighborhood Walks as a powerful practice for engaging and immersing ourselves in the neighborhood. Several of you walked together up and down the blocks around Springhouse Ministry Center, discovering signs of welcome and safety, community solidarity, and talking with neighbors. Over the next couple of weeks, you are invited to keep finding opportunities to walk the six or so blocks closest to Springhouse, and to pay attention for signs of community, signs of pain, signs of hospitality, and signs of God's activity.

Neighborhood Walks can be meaningful practice for small groups ***and*** for individuals. There will be opportunities to walk the neighborhood with other Springhouse members in the coming weeks, and we would also encourage you to find opportunities to walk on your own. Remember, these walks are also a kind of contemplative prayer, where we open ourselves to the activity of God happening in the neighborhood all around us.

Just as with a group, begin your solo walk with a short prayer, asking God to expand your attention and to provide opportunities for learning and connection. As you walk, practice intentional curiosity, and reflect on what you are learning about your neighbors and your neighborhood by simply moving through it and observing. If you feel comfortable, introduce yourself to a neighbor – say hello and ask them something about the neighborhood. As you end your walk, consider visiting a local business, coffee shop, or café where you can spend a little money and let the staff know that you are glad to be their neighbor.

Like all practices, neighborhood walks take…practice! The more time we spend in our neighborhoods, the more we notice and the more connections we are able to make. So, over the next couple of weeks, challenge yourself to step out into the neighborhood, ready to discover something meaningful about this place where you have been called to be church. Amen.

Nick Tangen led one of the first workshops

Members took a neighborhood walk as part of our workshop

FP&P Gatherings You Should NOT Miss!

Funded by the generous Clergy Renewal Grant in conjunction with the Lilly Foundation, these events will be led by the FP&P Team from the Minneapolis Area Synod. If you are in town and able–please come and be part of this simple and yet revolutionary work!

Workshop #3

Sunday September 20, 11:30 am–1 pm

Being Good Neighbors, Meaningful Event Planning, Connecting for Ministry Purposely in THIS Place, and More

Local Food/Treats Provided!

Join the FP&P team as they continue to lead us in fostering meaningful relationships with people and organizations in our neighborhood. Help us plan a neighborhood event for the beginning of October!

SpringHouse Asset-Mapping

Faith and Neighboring is inviting everyone at SpringHouse to explore the gifts and strengths of SpringHouse's immediate neighborhood (within 5-6 blocks each direction from SpringHouse). In the Gathering Space there is a place to share the gifts you find on the wall. Come each week and write about the gifts discovered on the wall. **The person who discovers the most gifts each month will receive a local goodie basket!**

SpringHouse & Community News

Squiggle Space Cleanout Sunday Sept. 6

The SpringHouse Building Committee and Youth Ministry team are on a mission to create a functional space for our youth. Step 1 is to clear out items from the back half of the Squiggle Space. On **September 6**, all of those items will be moved into the Gathering Space. We'll need all hands on deck after worship to either get rid of these items or find new, long-term homes for them in the building. Anything left after that day will be promptly discarded.

If you know of any items back there that can be removed, please feel free to do so at any time. Questions or suggestions can be directed to Allison at shcoordinator@fccmpls.org.

Lyndale UCC's Center for Sustainable Justice Turns 10!

All are welcome to their celebration. Get tickets at this website: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-center-for-sustainable-justice-10th-anniversary-gala-tickets-1996053373372

SpringHouse & Community News

Sabbatical Learning Opportunity

During Pastor Dan's sabbatical, First Christian will be offering a number of presentations on the topic of resilience, both on Zoom and in person, on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. All SpringHouse is welcome to attend.

Schedule of presenters:

Weds. Sept. 16, 7 pm on Zoom:
Dr. Kelly Sherman Conroy, All Nations Indian Church, Mpls.

Sun. Sept. 20 after worship:
Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders from Luther Seminary

Sun.. Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18 after worship:
Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Theologian and Author

Weds. Sept. 30, 7 pm on Zoom:
Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnett, Philips Theological Seminary

Weds. Oct. 14, 7 pm on Zoom:
Seth Anderson-Matz, Public Theologian/Community Minister

Weds. Oct. 28, 7 pm on Zoom:
Rev. Melissa Pohlman, Central Lutheran Church

More events coming in November!

Find more info about the sessions and the presenters at https://fccminneapolis.org/sabbatical-season-2026-grounded-in-resilience/

Congratulations Pastor Dan!

First Christian Church is pleased to announce that they have called Pastor Dan Adolphson to continue his ministry at FCC as solo pastor when he returns from his sabbatical in early December. Dan has accompanied FCC Minneapolis through fourteen years of ministry, first as a student minister and since 2014 as FCC's Associate Pastor. The SpringHouse community congratulates Dan and First Christian as they move forward in ministry together.

EVERY MEAL
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Every Meal

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

Our next packing event will be in September–sign up on the clipboard in the back of the sanctuary!

Come pack with us:

Wednesday September 9: 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

Children, Youth & Family

SpringHouse Child Ministries

Children's Ministry

Lyndale pastor T. Michael Rock is leading a team which will begin work in early September to plan and implement child ministries at SpringHouse. Watch for more information coming soon!

Child Care on Sunday Mornings

Just a reminder that child care is available most Sundays in the Squiggle Space on the lower level from 9 am until after worship. Check in with Izzy Schneider, our child care provider, when you arrive.

SpringHouse Youth Ministry

Sunday Youth Group

Join the fun on Sundays at 9 am!

With all three congregations worshipping at the same time, we finally have a dedicated hour that doesn't overlap with worship, which means youth can fully participate in both.

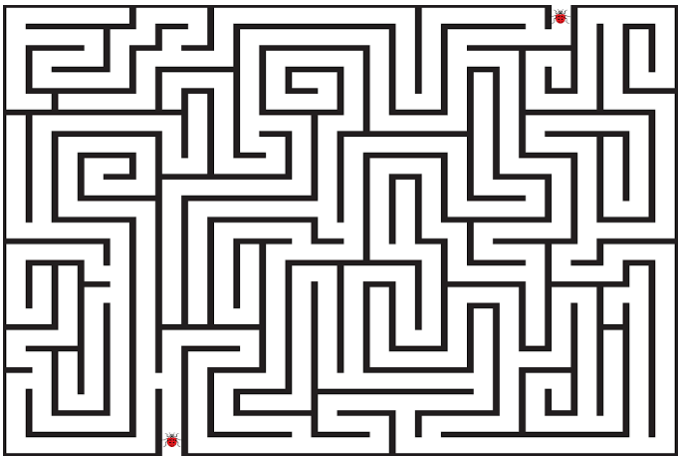
Everyone's cooperation in helping us begin right at 9:00am makes a big difference as we navigate this new and exciting change. We're excited for this new chapter and all that's ahead!

Opportunity for High School Youth and Parents

Lyndale UCC and Spirit of Peace Church, Minnetonka, are co-hosting Our Whole Lives (OWL) for senior high students. The session runs September-April, with 12 in-person, 90-minute sessions on Wednesday and Sunday evenings, roughly twice per month.

OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that addresses *all* that makes a person a sexual being: sexual identity, intimacy, sensuality, and sexualization, as well as sexual health. And it does so while centering the beliefs and ethics at the heart of the UCC's theology that all humans - no exceptions - are beloved by our creator, that our bodies are gifts meant to be honored and enjoyed, and that we have a profound responsibility to care for others through mutual respect, transparency, and compassion.

See the eblast for links to the program slide presentation and sign up form for the **required parent orientation on Wednesday, Sept. 2.** If you can't attend that meeting, or have more questions, please contact youth minister Chelsea Boyden at springhouseyouth@fccmpls for more information.



More News

Council Corner

The Salem council did not meet in August, so there are no meeting highlights to share, but watch for more news about September and October meetings in our next issue!

Flowers for Worship

If you would like to offer flowers for worship on any given Sunday, in honor or memory of a special person or occasion, we are again offering the opportunity to do so. Our own Myra Rusten, florist extraordinaire at Flowers by Myra (www.flowersbymyra.com), has offered to provide bouquets for these special Sundays.

Cost is $50 for one of her traditional sized arrangements and can be paid to Salem. You can sign up for a specific Sunday in the back of the sanctuary or by contacting Laurie in the office.

"We are a Spirit-led, welcoming, and bold Christian community, rooted in the neighborhood and striving to live faithfully in God's world."

Salem Mission Statement

Remember You Can Park at Trustone

Just a reminder that on Sunday mornings, all of SpringHouse is able to park in the Trustone lot right south of 28th on Lyndale. This is a convenient parking opportunity that allows you to use a parking lot with sidewalks that lead all the way to Salem.

Calendar

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

Sundays

9:00 am Youth Group for ages 10 and up in the Youth Room
10:00 am Salem Worship in Person and on YouTube
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.

Tom Pieper – 9/7
Jasper Hanke– 9/22
Donna Greene – 9/27
Jack Hlavinka – 10/4
Jan Olson – 10/6
Cassie Sievwright – 10/9
Jon Hanke – 10/10
Antone Melton-Meaux – 10/11
Maria Thieling – 10/15
Clark Hlavinka – 10/23
Diann Uzelac – 10/26
Naomi Nelson – 10/29
Li Livdahl – 11/1
Emma Jorstad – 11/4
Terry Giinther– 11/5
Lucas Johnson – 11/5
Emma Schmidtke – 11/14
Paul Harper – 11/14
Erica Doss – 11/16
Josh Jorstad – 11/22
Katherine Glick – 11/23
Christy Henzler – 11/24

Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid parent grandparent nice cranky queer pierced smo tattooed plain rich poor short tall average fat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender slow quick employed freelance not working retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter homeless ambitious content devout seekin old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog innocent guilty agressive passive no confrontational peacemaker challenger explorer Single married partnered divorced rich poor black brown red yellow white kid pa grandparent nice cranky queer pierced virgin tattooed plain rich poor short tall average fat thin heterosexual bisexual transgender quick employed freelance not working retired unemployed gay lesbian liberal conservative using recovering homeowner renter ho ambitious content devout seeking old young athletic clumsy doer thinker couch potato reader writer geeky technological analog in

Christ tended to attract

sOUEMSSCENE

an assorted crowd

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.
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Salem English Lutheran Church

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