

## “Tell Us What God Is Up To”

Hello from Chris Kramer. I promised I'd pass the greeting and didn't want to forget. Some of you remember Chris. Beginning eight years ago or so, Chris was a Luther Seminary Contextual Education student who chose Salem as his “context.” Over his years of preparation to become a pastor, Chris and his family worshipped with the Salem community, and Chris preached, taught, visited, produced the Salem Scene, and researched the changing demographics in our area of the city.



Now Chris is a pastor in a smaller town outside of Portland, Oregon. He returned to the Twin Cities last week to interview potential interns for next year. The intern would serve a nearby Methodist congregation, linked to the Lutheran church where Pastor Chris serves. Chris called me ahead wondering if we could visit while he and the Methodist lay leader were here: “Do you have time to tell us what God is up to at Salem, Jen?” Now, you have to remember Chris is an enthusiastic, passionate guy, excited about ministry in Oregon and Minneapolis, and in between. Who could pass up an invitation like that?

We checked out the affordable housing peering into the big hole where the walls of the underground parking are taking shape. We looked at the architect's design for the Ministry Center at 28th and Garfield. We explored Intermedia Arts and the amazing joys and challenges of “doing church” in a theater and art gallery. We drove by Lyndale's former building at 31st and Aldrich and talked about the ways the neighborhoods change as we go west and south. Chris and the Methodist leader explained how the Lutherans and Methodists in The Dalles, Oregon are getting acquainted, figuring out sustainable budgets, sharing resources (like an intern), crossing cultures, and reaching out.

Chris remembers some of the tougher times at Salem even before Pastor Pete and I came, and we both remember the life or death decision that the Salem community faced head-on, choosing the Spirit's life... and here we are today! We marveled at the resilient faith of our elders, the persistence of our leaders, the transformation of the congregation's ministry, and the way kids grow. I marveled at how this one-time student at Salem had become a leader not only in The Dalles, but in the wider church in Oregon.

Tell us what God is up to at Salem. I'll begin the list, and you can add on. Affordable work force housing that we can actually see taking shape. A sustainable Ministry Center that is environmentally wise and works in our congregational budgets. A strongly Lutheran identity and a joy in our ecumenical and interfaith learning. A passion for justice, welcome, and health for all. Vocation lived out at work, through studies, music, parenting, volunteering, and weathering the uncertainties of life. A model of creative partnering that is peaking the curiosity of folks like Chris.

As we move into Lent and look toward Holy Week and Easter, we journey again with Jesus from death to life. We know this journey, and yet we trek again, and again, walking together, sharing our stories of what God is up to. What a privilege!

—Pastor Jen

### Get into Lent:

- Get dusty. Mark the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday worship and confession on March 9.
- Attend Wednesday evening services at 7pm throughout Lent.
- Join in a Wednesday evening study (7:45pm) based on Enough for All.
- Grab a devotional book at church.
- Take time for brief bible reading.
- Strengthen a ritual of prayer.
- Volunteer. Exercise. Refocus.
- Rearrange your life to make room for God.
- Attend Sunday morning Bible Studies (9:40am) led by Rev. Catrina Ciccone around biblical stories of wilderness.<sup>1</sup>

### Lent at Salem

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on March 9. There will be a 7pm Ash Wednesday Service (possible mid-day service; watch for information).

**Wednesdays in Lent** there will be a 7pm Wednesday evening service based on Holden Evening Prayer and incorporating testimony, Taize chants, and the weekly Lenten focus “Encountering Christ.” All evening services will be at IA in the Gallery.





# Salem News ...

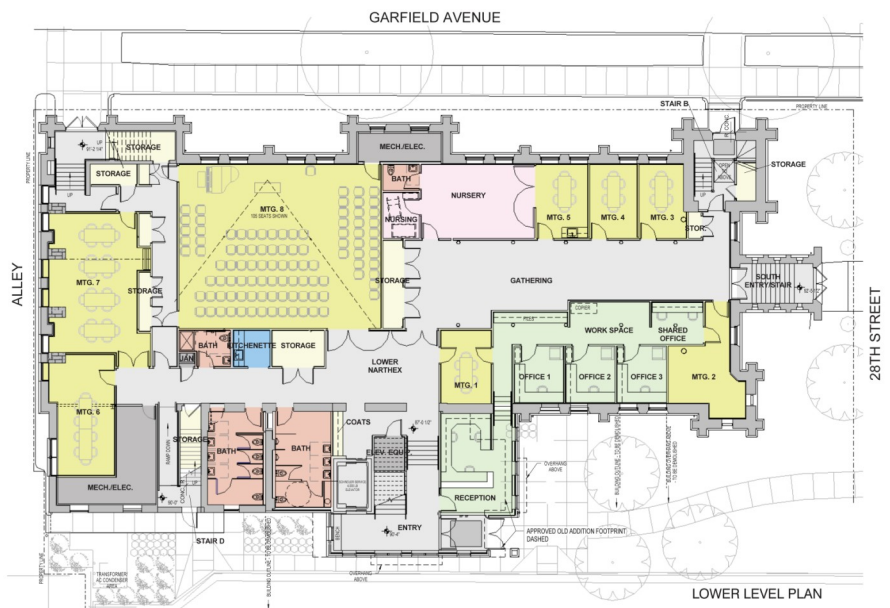
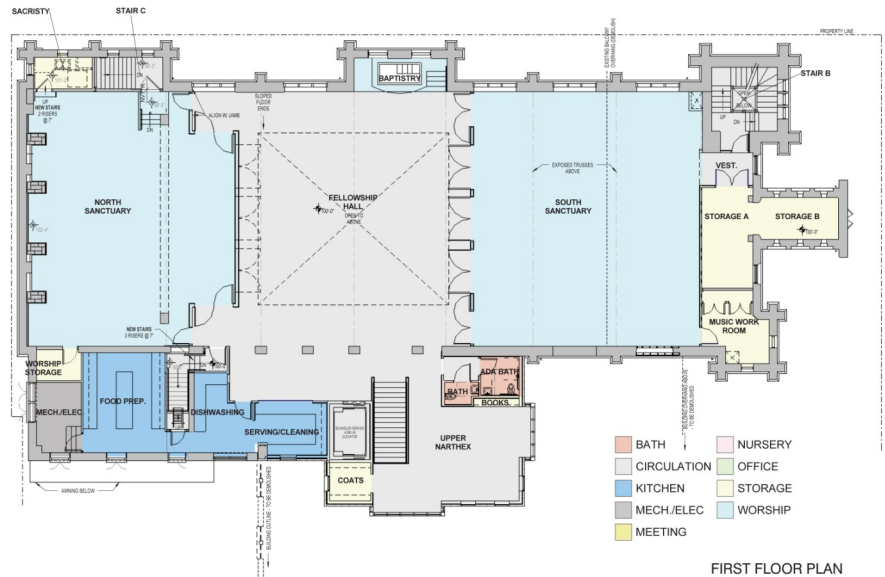
## Development and Partnership Update

The leaders of Salem Lutheran Church, Lyndale UCC, and First Christian (Disciples of Christ) have been busy during February.

- Details of an interim Ministry Center covenant are being drafted.
- Each congregation will have three people representing it on the Ministry Center Board.
- Decisions about equal financial contributions have been made.
- We are moving toward the approved transfer of land so that each congregation will own 1/3 of the site at 28th and Garfield.
- Insurance is being arranged.
- The plans for the Ministry Center have been re-worked efficiently and are currently being priced by Watson Forsberg, our general contractor. These designs are available for your review at church, or can be sent to you (contact Paul Livdahl at Paul@designqanda.com).
- In early March, the final interior demolition will be done (the extended balcony will be shortened).
- Soon renovation on the Ministry Center will move forward again.
- We anticipate move-in in November 2011.
- If you haven't driven by 28th and Lyndale lately, do! The hole is huge, and the pile of dirt is massive.
- The underground parking for the workforce housing is being built by Frana Construction.
- The next RDF will be Sunday, March 13 at 9:40am.



Standing at 28th and Lyndale facing east, northeast with The Greenleaf construction sign in the foreground, and the Ministry Center beyond.



**RDF**  
Our next ReDevelopment Forum will be Sunday, **March 13** at 9:40am. This is our chance for updates and conversation.



# More News ...

## Annual Meeting Outcomes

On January 30, Salem congregation gathered for worship, a meal shared with Lyndale UCC, a joint meeting of the two congregations, and then the Salem Annual Meeting. At the Salem Meeting we:

- Gave thanks for God’s hand in all that has happened during the last year.
- Received reports about ministry and our finances.
- Approved the 2011 budget of \$196,279.
- Thanked those concluding terms on Salem’s council: Reva Swanson, Gene Sandler, and Sarah Kunze, and welcomed new council leadership: Nick Allen, Jon Hanke, and Antone Melton-Meaux.
- Began the process to change our constitution to allow for mailed-in ballots in congregational votes.
- Affirmed First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a third partner in the ministry center, contingent upon legal, property, and financial agreements.
- Copies of the Annual Report are available at church. To request a copy be sent to you, call the church office at 612-872-4650.

## Salem’s 2011 Lenten Theme is “Encountering Christ” Lenten Study: Enough for All

Each week we will explore how the biblical characters and we encounter Christ in our wilderness times. A small team is planning our Lenten journey considering the use of visual images, music, and the biblical story.

**Lent 1** – Wilderness of Alienation: Meeting Truth in Temptation  
(The temptation story and the devil’s alienation from God).

**Lent 2** – Wilderness of Doubt: Meeting Light in the Night  
(Nicodemus’ questions)

**Lent 3** – Wilderness of Isolation: Meeting Abundance on the Fringe  
(The woman at the well)

**Lent 4** – Wilderness of Brokenness: Meeting Healing in our Blindness  
(Illness and healing)

**Lent 5** – Wilderness of Loss: Meeting Life in Death  
(The death and raising of Lazarus)

This is a discussion guide for people of faith developed by Minnesota Without Poverty, a statewide movement to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020. This Lenten Study will focus on the meaning of Enough in relation to some basic areas of life. Ryan Birkman and Kara Wiechmann will guide our study each Wednesday evening at 7:45pm.

- Enough of the Basics in Life
- Enough and Creation and Environment
- Enough and the Economy
- Enough and Equality and Community
- Enough and Time
- Enough for All.

## ISAIAH’s Leadership in Action Day—March 5

**March 5, 9am-2pm, with an action from 11am-1pm**  
**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (285 N Dale St, St. Paul)**

During the fall, Salem focused on issues of race, power, and privilege through 3 house meetings. On December 5th, some attended a meeting with then-Governor-Elect Dayton to request dramatic public investments to advance racial equity. An opportunity to continue this powerful conversation is coming up on March 5 when results of a health assessment about the proposed Central Corridor will be presented. Studies show that the Central Corridor area is already worse off as a whole than the rest of the county. The light rail can either exacerbate these disparities or help solve them. Unless we demand strong policies to advance racial equity now, the Central Corridor will become another Rondo. We have the opportunity to set a different precedent for future public investments, including the Southwest and Bottineau light rail lines that will come through the western suburbs and Minneapolis. On March 5, white people and people of color will together demand that public officials commit now to ensure racially equitable development and preserve minority-owned small businesses along the Central Corridor. More information at church.



# More News ...

## Thank You, John!



At the beginning of March, John Rader will conclude more than two years as Salem's Church Administrator. Our thanks to John for his diligence and care to keep us moving through challenging times. John leaves this position in order to have time enough for his studies and work in accounting.

## Interfaith Seder on March 27

Our neighbors at Temple Israel invite us to an Interfaith Seder on Sunday, March 27 from 1-4pm. Those who have attended this special Passover meal in years past have enjoyed the time and learned much. Temple Israel presents this as a teaching opportunity to share of their tradition with people from churches and other religions. Please consider attending. You must sign up by March 2 to attend (call the church 612-872-4650, x2).

## Welcome, Church Administrator Laurie Zaepfel!

Laurie Zaepfel is pleased to be joining Salem's staff and is looking forward to getting to know the congregation. She has worn a number of hats since college-- catalog librarian, seminary student, and mom. She is also a singer, and is currently a member of the *a capella* vocal ensemble InVocation, of which Catrina Ciccone is also a member. Laurie lives in St. Paul with her husband and two daughters. Laurie will be in the office primarily on Monday OR Tuesdays, and Thursday and Friday, from around 10am to around 2pm.



## Time Capsule!

An original Salem time capsule (probably from around 1904) was found in the deconstruction. Between services on **March 13**, we'll "crack" the capsule (it's a metal box soldered shut) and see what history can share.

## Memorial Gift

A \$5000 Memorial has been given by Jim and Betty Hesselgrave in memory of Betty's mother and long-time Salem member M. Marie Weintz. This gift is dedicated to the worship spaces in the renovated Ministry Center. Marie's spirit lives on in this generous gift. Thank you, Jim and Betty.

## Congratulations, Chuck!

Chuck Sasse has been teaching firearm safety at Ballentine VFW since 1961 when he was commander of the post. From the Department of Natural Resources of Minnesota Chuck recently received a 50-year award as an instructor. During the 50 years he has been teaching, more than 2,000 students have graduated from this program through Ballantine post. Way to teach, Chuck!

## Our Congratulations and Prayers...

On February 12, Myra Urness and Scott Rusten were married at Scott's congregation, Peace Lutheran Church in Plymouth. We celebrate with Myra and Scott and hold this new marriage in our prayers.

## Our Sympathy

- ♥ To Rae Buzzell and her family celebrating the life of Rae's grandmother and marking her passing.
- ♥ To the Wetzler family, marking the death of John Wetzler at 87 years old. Brother Robert Wetzler contacted Salem to tell us of John's passing. Robert wrote that John had been widowed for 15 years and living in Jackson, Minnesota. John was a signalman on ships in the Navy in World War II. John is the son of Rev. Paul Luther Wetzler, Salem's pastor for 42 years from the late 20s to the early 70s.



# Reaching Out *Service, Justice, and Outreach Opportunities*



## Simpson Shelter Meal on March 2

Salem and Lyndale's next opportunity to serve the meal at Simpson Shelter is Wednesday, March 2 at 5:30pm at Simpson Methodist Church at 28th Street and 1st Avenue. Sign up at church; or email Robert

Frame fram0004@umn.edu. Looking ahead: April 7 and May 4 we will also serve.

## Feed My Starving Children

An intergenerational group from Salem and Lyndale (and hopefully First Christian, too) will serve at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhasseen on Saturday, **March 26** from 9-11am. Sign up at church and indicate if you will need a ride.



## ZOOM House Fundraiser

Saturday, March 26, 6pm

Metropolitan Ballroom in Golden Valley

## ZOOM House Help Needed

ZOOM House is being renovated! While renovation occurs, families will need to temporarily move out of their apartments. Many hands will be needed to pack up, move, and store their belongings, and then to assist as families move back into completed apartments. Watch for details in the church bulletin or e-blast, and keep an eye on ZOOM at 33<sup>rd</sup> and Blaisdell to see the action. Some is exterior and visible like a new roof and entrances, and some is interior such as kitchen cabinets, flooring, and windows.

You are invited to attend a special evening celebrating more than a decade of Investing in Futures and Transforming Lives at ZOOM House. The ZOOM House Fundraiser is coming up on Saturday, March 26. You are invited to come for the dinner, as well as live, silent, and fund-a-need auctions. We hope to have a table from Salem. More information is available at church. ZOOM House provides safe, affordable housing for families transitioning toward self-sufficiency by building community, offering educational opportunities, promoting family and economic stability, and fostering spiritual growth. Contact ZOOM at 612-825-2825 or [www.thezoomhouse.org](http://www.thezoomhouse.org).

## Bread for the World

### Global Poverty Summit

Saturday, April 2, 2011 in the Twin Cities

Rev. David Beckmann, winner of the 2010 World Food Prize (the Nobel equivalent for food and agriculture) will be a featured speaker and the summit will include work with:

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- The 1000 Days Campaign, which addresses children's health from before birth through the first years of life.
- The reform of U.S. foreign assistance.

More information at [breaddmn@bread.org](mailto:breaddmn@bread.org)



breadfortheworld  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

## March is Food Share Month

**Did you know?** In 2010, there were more than three million food shelf visits statewide.

**Did you know?** It is estimated that the number of Minnesotans without enough food is now 14 percent.

During March we give to Minnesota Food Share bringing non perishable food items to place in the "food basket" at church AND/OR donating financially (checks can be written to Salem, memo: Food Shelf) to assist in the bulk purchase of food (a big value for food shelves).

## Malaria Focus

**Did you know?** Malaria has caused over half of ALL human deaths since creation. Through Minneapolis Area Synod, the ELCA, and countless organizations around the world, new focus is being placed on malaria prevention, education, treatment, medicine, and the associated poverty. During February, Salem and Lyndale joined the fight against malaria in Africa. We learned about bed nets (one net costs \$10 and lasts for years). Our kids made cards and families and many others baked up a storm. Lots of people showed up for the Bake Sale and Card Sale and you were generous. At "press time" we had raised \$410 for malaria and more is expected. We pray for the eradication of this preventable and treatable disease that kills so many people.



# Reaching Out *Continued...*

## Taking Root

Members of Salem Lutheran, Lyndale UCC, and Carmel Mall Mosque (on 29<sup>th</sup> Street, east of Salem) will team up to form a Taking Root group. Together the team will welcome a refugee family setting into Minneapolis. Taking Root is a Muslim Christian volunteer opportunity designed to get us working together across lines. Applications for Taking Root are available at church. Fill one out if you would like to be part of a team in the future. Taking Root is sponsored by Minnesota Council of Churches.

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## Sunday School News

### Sunday School Updates

Kathy Hayden, Sunday School/Christian Education Committee Co-Chair

The children worked hard making cards and selling baked goods. Our faith community is amazing. We collected \$410, enough to provide 41 mosquito bed nets. Thanks to all who **helped** and all who **donated**. We especially thank Rae Buzzell and Kathy Sievwright for helping with the sale, and Maya, Kerry, and Rhiannon for their help with the card making on Sundays.

Our next service project is **Feed My Starving Children** on Saturday, March 26, from 9-11am at the Chanhassen location. We will invite First Christian to join us. Please sign up on the sheet. Let us know if you need a ride or are willing to drive others.

**March 6 and 13** the children will continue focusing on the Bible story Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42. This is a story of hospitality and welcoming. The children's last story was about Moses and the 10 commandments. They created their own rules for living in community while at IA. One of their commandments was to be friends and to welcome new kids. March 20, 27, April 3, and 10 they will focus on the Prodigal Son from Luke 11-32. Like the prodigal son's father, God welcomes us all home.

### First Communion Class

Children at Salem often receive communion when they are quite young. When they reach their early elementary years, we host a "First Communion Class" to teach more about what Holy Communion means and why we share this holy meal. During Lent, the kids and a parent or other caring adult will meet for the class. On Maundy Thursday, April 21, we will mark their learning in our Maundy Thursday evening service. Speak with Pastor Jen if you'd like your child to participate.



### Summer Day Camp June 20-24

Mark your calendars: Day Camp will be **June 20-24**, 9am-4pm, at Zion Lutheran Church (33rd and Pillsbury) with **off-site adventures** at the Blaisdell YMCA, Redeemer Care Center, a nature center and more. Children 4 years old to 6th grade are invited to participate. **Volunteers** (adults and youth) will be needed throughout the week. Jillian Emery is integral to directing this **creation care** day camp that Salem sponsors in coordination with more than six other congregations. Registration information coming soon. Invite friends, family, and neighbors to attend.

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## Youth and Young Adult Ministry

A note from Youth and Young Adult Minister, Jillian Emery:

### Youth & Young Adult Outing

**Timberwolves Game**  
**March 20**

More information coming soon.

Any questions contact Jillian:

[jemery001@luthersem.edu](mailto:jemery001@luthersem.edu) or 612-723-3356



### Theology Uncorked—Young Adult Gathering

The young adults are gathering on Thursday, March 10 at 7pm at Uptown Cafeteria (3001 Hennepin Ave—enter on Lake, between Hennepin and Girard). Feel free to bring a friend. Questions? Jillian - [jemery001@luthersem.edu](mailto:jemery001@luthersem.edu), 612 723 3356.



# CALENDAR

## Week of February 27

Wed.	3/2	5:30 pm	Simpson Shelter Meal
Thursday	3/3	6:30 pm	Taking Root Orientation at MCC
Saturday	3/5	9:00 am	ISAIAH Leadership in Action Day at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, St. Paul

## Week of March 6

Sunday	3/6	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	3/6	9:15 am	Sunday School & Youth
	3/6	9:30 am	Fellowship
	3/6	9:40 am	Adult Ed—Bible Study
	3/6	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	3/6	11:30 am	Fellowship
	3/6	12:00 pm	Christian Ed Meeting
	3/6	12:00 pm	Youth Ministry Advisory Team
Wed.	3/9	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday
Thursday	3/10	7:00 pm	Theology Uncorked—Young Adults at Uptown Cafeteria

Saturday	~~REMINDER~~ Clocks Spring Ahead Tonight		
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## Week of March 13

Sunday	3/13	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	3/13	9:15 am	Sunday School & Youth
	3/13	9:30 am	Fellowship
	3/13	9:40 am	ReDevelopment Forum
	3/13	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	3/13	11:30 am	Fellowship
Wed.	3/16	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
	3/16	7:45 pm	Lenten Study

## Week of March 20

Sunday	3/20	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	3/20	9:15 am	Sunday School & Youth
	3/20	9:30 am	Fellowship
	3/20	9:40 am	Adult Ed—Bible Study
	3/20	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	3/20	11:30 am	Fellowship
	3/20	TBA	Youth and Young Adult Outing—Timberwolves Game

Tuesday	3/22	6:00 pm	Executive Meeting
	3/22	6:30 pm	General Council Meeting

Wed.	3/23	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
	3/23	7:45 pm	Lenten Study

Thursday	3/24	7:00 pm	Ministry Center Board
Saturday	3/26	9:00 am	Feed My Starving Children
	3/26	6:00 pm	Zoom House Fundraiser

## Week of March 27

Sunday	3/27	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	3/27	9:15 am	Sunday School & Youth
	3/27	9:30 am	Fellowship
	3/27	9:40 am	Adult Ed—Bible Study
	3/27	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	3/27	11:30 am	Fellowship
	3/27	1-4 pm	Interfaith Seder at Temple Israel
Wed.	3/30	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
	3/30	7:45 pm	Lenten Study

### Intermedia Arts Renovations

- IA is installing new phone lines and technology.
- With the support of Target Foundation, on March 21 and 22, IA will be the site of a huge blitz of volunteer effort working on the building. Work will especially be focused in the kitchen. Watch for it!

**Congratulations, Intermedia Arts!**

### Adult Education

**Sundays, 9:40 am in the Cafe**

**March 6—Bible Study**

**March 13—ReDevelopment Forum**

**March 20—Bible Study**

**March 27—Bible Study**

### Wanted:

Someone willing to paint over graffiti on the Ministry Center building on a warmer day in March. Talk with Paul Livdahl or Pastor Jen if you can do this!

SPRING FORWARD

March 13



**Clocks Turn Ahead!**

### Feeding Those Who Feed Oskar and Henry

If you are able to provide a meal to Jess and Mitch Helle-Morrissey as they juggle the twins, see the electronic calendar link below or talk with Pastor Jen.

<http://www.foodtidings.com/SignUp.aspx?ScheduleGuid=e7431023-71a1-4264-91fe-bcbf722f7cd1>