

CELEBRATE

EASTER



SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CONNECTPOINT

March 16, 2022

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

TOP NEWS & EVENTS

- EASTER & LENT EVENTS
- CONFIRMATION
- PRAYER LABYRINTH
- LENTEN DEVOTIONALS
- OUTREACH FOCUS: EPWORTH CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

CONNECT WITH US



When we follow Jesus, abundant life becomes more than a desire, it becomes reality! This is all possible because of Easter. It's living proof that God can do the impossible. We can't wait to celebrate Easter with you!



EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 17

9:30* & 11:00 am | Modern | Mid-County
9:30 & 11:00* am | Traditional | Mid-County
11:00 am | Modern | South-City

**Livestream online at saalemstlouis.online.church*

Lenten Prayer Labyrinth | March 30 | 7:00 pm | Mid-County Site | Join Pastor Deborah LeMoine to learn more about the spiritual practice of walking a labyrinth. An indoor labyrinth will also be available for guests to use that evening and through the week from March 27 - April 3 when the building is open.

Easter Hop: April 9, 9:00-11:00 am | Mid-County Site | Register Online | Get your photo taken with the Easter Bunny, enjoy an Egg Hunt, make a craft, participate in a service project, and listen to a short, kid-friendly message about the hope we find in Jesus' Resurrection. Cost is \$10 per family.

Holy Thursday Worship: April 14, 7:30 pm | South-City Site | Remember Christ's Last Supper as we join together in prayer, music, and Holy Communion. All are welcome. Nursery care will be available.

Good Friday Worship: April 15, 7:00 pm | Mid-County Site | Join us for prayer, scripture, and music featuring the Chancel Choir and Salem Chamber Orchestra. Nursery care will be available.

Easter Hop: April 17, 10:00 -11:00 am | South-City Site | Register Online | Enjoy an Egg Hunt and make a spring craft. Event is free.

LEARNING TO TRAVEL LIGHT

- REV. TERRI SWAN



When I'm stressed, I clean. So, I've cleaned a lot during the last two years. When my mind is buzzing and I am trying to clear my thoughts, my office is really clean! But when I clean like this, I am doing it both literally and figuratively. As I go through papers and throw out what is

no longer needed, I am examining my heart and considering how I can clean things up on the inside.

During Lent, it is common to give things up with a goal of growing closer to God. We consider what obstacles are keeping us distant from God and look for ways to remove them.

So, as we begin this season of lent it might be helpful to first look at everything in our hearts and ask these questions:

1. What do I need to remove from my life?
2. What brings joy in the presence of God that I can increase?

The first best spiritual practice we can take on for Lent in a troubled world is to converse with God every time our hearts are muddled by our fears or anxiety. When the news is devastating, pray. When fear seems overwhelming, talk to the Lord. When sadness sets in, cry out to God.

But it is not the last spiritual practice we should take on. We give things up during Lent so we can take on other things. We prune dead branches so better fruit

can grow. As prayer helps us to declutter our hearts, what are we called to do with that space?

In his book *Give Up Worry for Lent*, Catholic author Gary Zimak starts with conversing with God, but by the fourth week of Lent he is encouraging his readers to be moved to action by prayer. "Once you encounter God and experience his peace," Zimak says, "You must be willing to share it with others. It's important to remember that others are struggling and are searching for peace too. Jesus wants to help us, but he also expects us to help those around us."

During Lent our Sermon series is called "traveling light" and we are following Jesus' travels as recorded in the Gospel of Luke as He "sets his face toward Jerusalem." Jesus traveled light, not weighed down by the worries of the world, so He could focus on what really mattered. Helping. Healing. He would get sad sometimes on that journey. He'd get angry and turn over some tables. He'd pray to God, and He'd stay true to his mission. When we study the life of Jesus, we can learn so much from Him.

As we travel together in this Lenten season, I pray we will turn toward the light of the world, reflect upon his light, and soak in His Word so we might be changed and transformed, and so we can share the peace of Jesus with others.

Blessings,
Pastor Terri

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS LENTEN DEVOTIONALS



SCAN ME

Lent is an important time in the Christian year when we can prepare our hearts and spirits for Jesus. As Easter approaches, we draw nearer to the cross where Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice. Our Lenten Devotionals offers ideas for focus and preparation for each week of Lent, and it includes a Bible reading plan for each day of Lent. We pray the devotionals will help you to center your heart and mind on God each day and become new in Christ this Lenten season. Printed Lenten Devotional Guides are available at both sites. To experience the devotionals online scan the code or visit our website at salemstlouis.com.

PRAY

SERVE

THANK

GIVE

WORSHIP

THE LABYRINTH AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PATH

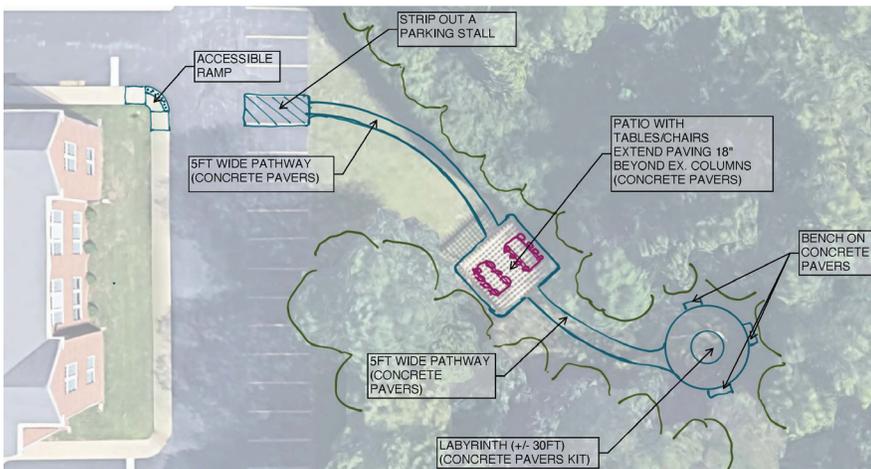
- REV. DEBORAH LEMOINE



As we enjoy an increasing "return to normal" in terms of the pandemic we love seeing more of you inside the building again--on Sundays and throughout the week! We are also thinking about ways to honor what the church accomplished during the pandemic by learning to worship wherever we were: inside, outside, at home, at church, in a parking lot if needed. We remembered that God was everywhere, ever present and always with us. For many of us it has been a time of deepening our spiritual practices, trusting God with an uncertain future, and centering ourselves in God's love and hope.

To remember and celebrate these places of growth, and to continue them into the future, Salem will be installing a labyrinth prayer walk in the rear yard this spring. At first glance a labyrinth looks like a garden maze, but it's not. It is "unicursal," meaning there is only one path to the center and back out again. There are twists and turns, but you can't get lost, as long as you keep walking. It is thus symbolic of our spiritual journeys toward God. The act of praying while walking a set path has helped many to search for meaning, seek discernment, contemplate God's grace, and heal. There is no "right" way to walk a labyrinth but a good way to start is to think of releasing things on the walk in--shedding those distractions that are keeping us from God. In the center, think of receiving--resting in God's presence and listening for God's voice. Finally, think of returning refreshed on the walk out--discerning God's call for us in this world.

If you would like to learn more about the labyrinth, please join me in the Fellowship Hall at the Mid-County Site on March 30 at 7:00 pm for a talk on the history and uses of the labyrinth as a prayer practice and to walk an indoor labyrinth Salem will have temporarily installed that week. The indoor labyrinth will also be available for guests to use when the church building is open from March 27 through April 3.



CONFIRMATION 2022

- REV. NICK SAVAGE

A new confirmation class started at Salem in January. During this important time in the spiritual journeys of our youth, we invite young members of the congregation who were initiated into the new covenant of Jesus at baptism to dive into the truths of the faith and to become active disciples of Jesus. For youth who have not been baptized, we provide an opportunity for them to receive baptism at this time as well. It is exciting to watch these students as they begin to grasp all that is available to them through Christ.



This year, we have been hosting confirmation in-person and online. Pastors Terri, Tim, and Deb as well as Steve Jacobs, Emily Smith, and Jacob Davis are collaborating to teach alongside me to bring to bear a depth of insight and a wealth of experience as members of the body of Christ.

The Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday, May 22 at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary at the Mid-County Site, and it will also be available to view online. Students and their families will celebrate together on Saturday, May 21, in the Great Room at Mid-County. As our students prepare for Confirmation, join me in praying for their faith to be kindled, and for them to know the blessings of life with Christ as we pass on our faith tradition to the next generation.

OUTREACH FOCUS: MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This month's outreach focus is with our partners at Epworth Children & Family Services. You can make a difference! Volunteers are needed to help organize clothing for the Clothing Boutique (contact I DeDe Jacobs) and to cook meals for the Drop-In Center (contact I Amy Milton).

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. For more information on how you can get involved contact Roy Jones by email at roy@salemstlouis.com or all (314) 991-0546.



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Parents Night Out // March 25 // 6:00-9:00 pm
Mid-County Site // Register Online
Join us for our monthly Parents Night Out program. Children ages six weeks to 12 years old are invited to join us for dinner, games, specialty classes, and age-appropriate activities. Cost is \$30 per child (includes dinner and all activities).

IMPACT! // March 26 // 6:30-8:30 pm
Mid-County Site // Register Online
Students are invited to this fun-filled monthly event featuring special activities such as: inflatables, 9-Square, Free, but donations are welcome.

SHARE A PRAYER REQUEST



Did you know you can share prayer requests with our staff and prayer team? We regularly share a prayer list with our prayer team and staff, who will pray for your request, and will contact you if your request follow up care.

SCAN ME

MID-COUNTY 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63131 (314) 991-0546 salemstlouis.com	SOUTH-CITY 6701 Virginia Avenue St. Louis, MO 63111 (314) 256-0545 theconnectionstlouis.com
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PLEASE SEND ALL MAIL FOR BOTH SITES TO THE MID-COUNTY ADDRESS. THANK YOU!

WORSHIP IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

In-Person Worship Schedule
Mid-County: 9:30 am - Modern Worship (Multipurpose Room)
Mid-County: 11:00 am - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
South-City: 11:00 am - Modern Worship (The Connection Sanctuary)

Online Worship Schedule Sundays or Anytime On-Demand
9:30 am - Modern Worship Livestream
11:00 am - Traditional Worship Livestream

**YOUR GIFT
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE**

Together we can make an impact in the lives of our neighbors and continue the ministry of spreading the extravagant love of God to all people.

- 1 WEB: SALEMSTLOUIS.COM**
- 2 TEXT: "GIVE" TO (314) 888-9160**
- 3 APP: SALEMSTLOUIS**
- 4 MAIL: TO THE SALEM CHURCH OFFICE**

