



SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TRUNK OR TREAT AT SALEM

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
CONNECTPOINT
NOVEMBER 16, 2022

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

TOP NEWS & EVENTS

- CHRISTMAS OUTREACH
- GOD'S BIG TABLE
- PRAISE AND PRAYER: LEADERSHIP BOARD UPDATE
- MEET SALEM'S NEW YOUTH PASTOR

CONNECT WITH US



YEAR-END LEARNING AND FUN FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES AT SALEM

- EMILY SMITH, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

I love the joy and excitement that Advent and Christmas brings to us all. It is a special season in the life of the church, and we have many special events planned through the end of the year.

In November, students are learning about Esther in our Unit "Behind the Scenes" we have been digging into the story of Queen Esther and her family and making connections about how God works "behind the scenes" in our everyday lives. The most important character in Esther's story isn't always center stage but can often be found behind the scenes working, helping, giving support, and giving peace. Over the last few months, Kids Connect classes have set aside the Sunday at the end of each unit for service--a special day where all age levels work together to use their spiritual gifts to serve others. This month Serve Sunday falls on November 27. Through their Bible lessons and acts of service, our students are beginning to see that helping others goes hand in hand with faith.

December kicks off the Advent season with our Christmas Unit, "City of Angels." In this four-week series, kids will explore the foundational stories of Jesus' birth with a focus on the angels who were there to witness them! They will learn that Jesus is God's plan, He calms our fears and makes everything new, and God's love is for everyone.

Our second annual "Flapjacks and Flannels" event is on Saturday, December 3, from 9:00-11:00 am. Bring your family, friends, wear your favorite flannel, and enjoy pancakes, crafts, games, and a visit from Santa.

The culminating event of our advent unit will take place through an exciting, interactive, and charismatic Christmas Eve program during the 3pm service at the Mid-County Site and at the 8 pm service at the South-City Site. Children will be practicing during Kids Connect time, so be sure to have our stars present! I look forward to continuing to work with all your precious children. It is a blessing to see them grow in their relationships with Jesus.

GOD'S BIG TABLE

- REV. DEBORAH LEMOINE



*God, who gets invited
to dinner at your place?
How do we get
on your guest list?*
- Psalm 15 (The Message)

I have been reading a Psalm a day from *The Message*, and Psalm 15 struck me as especially relevant as we prepare for Thanksgiving. "God, who gets invited to dinner at your place?" Who is eating where is always a topic of conversation at my house this time of year. Are the kids coming home? Or, are we visiting them? Dinner at our house or at my mom's? And, perhaps most important, how many pies am I making? I like to think about meals, and the Bible makes it clear that I am not alone. In the New Testament, there are many passages about the meals that Jesus ate, and who got invited. The invitation lists were often surprising, including both insiders and outsiders. The sinners and tax collectors were often right there with the religious elite. Jesus calls us to set a big table, and to issue invitations far beyond our immediate family. Salem does this so well. Each year we reach out to more people than the year before.

Our online worship services and programming expands. The music school, Freedom School, and our special events welcome new families. Our nutrition and literacy programs feed people physically and spiritually and set kids on the path to find their own gifts and calling.

Your giving allows us to set this big table and make the big invitations. The day after Thanksgiving we will turn on the Christmas lights at Salem, and Advent begins that Sunday. It will be a festive blur of concerts, music, and programs through the end of the year. And everyone is invited, thanks to you. For those of you who will be making year-end gifts to Salem's ministries I thank you in advance. For those of you considering giving for the first time, I welcome your questions. Every gift makes the table a little bigger and extends the invitation a bit further. For those of you working with tax or estate professionals to make your giving more effective, know that I am happy to work with your team to make your vision a reality. Reach out to me directly if you'd like to talk about your giving strategy or the ways your giving is being put to work to connect all people with God's extravagant love!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Pastor Deborah LeMoine

PRAISE AND PRAYER: BOARD UPDATE

- LORI HAMBRICK (SALEM LEADERSHIP BOARD MEMBER)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom . . . My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever. - Psalm 145: 2 & 21

In October, the Salem Leadership Board gathered to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and to identify the next steps for the year to come. During our time of together, we identified ways in which Salem expanded outreach and ministry in a number of areas, including:

- Nutrition ministry with LifeWise, Epworth, Freedom School, The Holy Smokers, and Haven Street.
- Education ministry with LifeWise, Epworth, Freedom School, and Saint Louis Public Schools
- Music ministry with the creation of an on-site music school in partnership with The Third Viennese School of Music

Salem also provided numerous opportunities to support identification of unconscious and potentially systemic biases to enable stronger and deeper connections across all people through small groups and special events.

The Board also began to work on identifying goals for next year. As we reviewed our goals from the past five years, we were pleased to discover not only success in reaching those goals, but the realization that our goals expand and build on key themes every year—nutrition and literacy, outstanding music and worship, inclusivity, and welcome. Please join me, the Salem staff, and the Salem Leadership Board in praising God for all that the Salem faith community has accomplished in the past year and in praying about the goals for the year to come. While the Board sets goals for each year, we know we none of the goals can be achieved alone. The contributions of so many—your gifts of time, talent, prayers, service, and resources are what allows Salem to reach out into the St. Louis community to connect all people with God's extravagant love.

Show me your ways, Lord; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. -Psalm 24:4-5

MEET SALEM'S NEW YOUTH PASTOR ELISABETH DANIELSONS

My name is Elisabeth Danielsons, and I am a United Methodist provisional deacon and your new youth pastor! I have a self-proclaimed love of youth, especially middle schoolers. My goal as a youth pastor is to journey alongside the youth, allowing them to form and adjust their own theology. Wondering and questioning in faith can be scary, but it is essential to growing deeper in relationship with God. Providing a safe space for students to do this in community allows a deeper faith that will carry youth into adulthood. I am excited for the opportunity to build connections among the current students and to reach into the larger St Louis area. Youth ministry is present within the church building on Sundays, but it can also be found on the soccer field on Saturday afternoon or via text chat at 9:00 PM on a weeknight check-in. With two different sites, Salem provides a unique opportunity to be in ministry within the church building and out in the community, and as a deacon, I'm excited to help connect the church to the world.



I have always felt a call to ministry in some way and knew I wanted to serve, but I was never quite sure where that path that would lead. In 2012, I accepted a call to be a US-2 missionary through Global Ministries of the UMC, landing me in Dallas, Texas, to serving as the Curriculum Coordinator for Project Transformation. It was in the heat of Texas that I finally accepted my call to be a UMC Deacon, knowing that I wanted to help people connect their faith in practice in the world.

I assumed I would work in a nonprofit like what I enjoyed during my time as a US-2. But sometimes God laughs at the ultimatums we make, and that was the case for me as I found a position in a local church, where I was in charge of all Christian education and outreach. Leading the youth was the best part of my job. I found a love of working with young people during a critical time of life, and now I can't imagine anything I would rather do!

Working with youth is my passion. I think this chapter of life is often awkward and rough--it was not easy or enjoyable for me. I love being able to journey alongside students during this time of great transition from childhood to adulthood, from depending on parents' beliefs to forming their own opinions. Working with youth isn't always the easiest role in the church, but it is one of great privilege to help shape disciples of Christ. I look forward to beginning my work with you on December 1!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS CHRISTMAS

Celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season and make a difference in the life of a family. There are several ways you can get involved by giving of your time and resources. As you prepare for Christmas, we invite you to consider a special gift to the Christmas Eve offering in celebration of the love of Christ that is for all God's children.



Christmas Eve Offering: Provide Produce Boxes for Children in Costa Rica

This year our Christmas Eve offering will be designated for Nutrition and Literacy programs in 2023 and the first \$12,000 donated to Costa Rica Mission Projects to provide supplementation nutrition for all 20 of the families served in their day care center. The produce boxes include fresh fruit and vegetables, plus a monthly allocation of rice and other staples.



LifeWise STL Holiday Market

The Holiday Market offers low-cost, carefully curated NEW household and clothing items, as well as age-appropriate toys to families in St. Louis. You can help by donating new and unwrapped items. Donations can be dropped off at Salem and LifeWise STL through December 2nd. The Holiday Market will run from December 2-9, 2022 at the 12th and Park Recreation Center. You can also help by volunteering your time.



**Visit salemstlouis.com
for more information
or scan the qr code.**



1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131

Phone: (314) 991-0546
Fax: (314) 991-1242
Web: www.salemstlouis.com
Email: info@salemstlouis.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 2013



We have a variety of teams and ministries that will help you find a place to serve and use your skills and passions. We think you'll find that the time and energy you invest will offer returns in new friendships, spiritual growth, and personal satisfaction through seeing the impact you can make to our community.

WAYS TO GIVE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- 1 WEB: SALEMSTLOUIS.COM
- 2 TEXT: [SALEMSTLOUIS TO \(833\) 834-5661](tel:8338345661)
- 3 APP: [SALEMSTLOUIS](#)
- 4 MAIL: [SALEM CHURCH OFFICE](#)

<p>MID-COUNTY 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63131 (314) 991-0546 salemstlouis.com</p>	<p>SOUTH-CITY 6701 Virginia Avenue St. Louis, MO 63111 (314) 256-0545 theconnectionstlouis.com</p>
--	---

PLEASE SEND ALL MAIL FOR BOTH SITES TO THE MID-COUNTY ADDRESS. THANK YOU!

SHARE A PRAYER REQUEST



SCAN ME

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 you request follow-up care.

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

YOU'RE INVITED TO
CHRISTMAS EVE

2:00-5:00 PM - LIVE ANIMAL NATIVITY (MID-COUNTY) | In-Person: Don't miss the live outdoor nativity your entire family will enjoy. Stop by with your family or friends to take a photo.

8:00 PM - MODERN WORSHIP (SOUTH-CITY) | In-Person & Livestream: Enjoy modern Christmas music featuring our band, Salem United, Holy Communion, children's moments, and an inspiring message. Nursery care available.

3:00 PM - FAMILY WORSHIP (MID-COUNTY) | In-Person: Families with children won't want to miss this fun interactive service featuring kid-friendly music and telling of the Christmas story. Nursery care available.

11:00 PM - UNPLUGGED WORSHIP (MID-COUNTY) | In-Person: Countdown the minutes until Christmas together and enjoy live music, Holy Communion, Silent Night by candlelight, and a message to usher in the most holy night of the year.

5:00 PM - MODERN WORSHIP (MID-COUNTY) | In-Person & Livestream: Enjoy modern Christmas music featuring our band, Salem United, special guests, and a message of Christmas hope. Nursery care available.

11:00 AM: CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP DECEMBER 25 (MID-COUNTY) | In-Person & Livestream: Celebrate the birth of Christ with family and friends during this combined relaxed service! Kids of all ages are welcome in worship, no childcare. The regular schedule will resume January 1.

8:00 PM - TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (MID-COUNTY) | In-Person & Livestream: Celebrate with a message based on the classic Christmas scriptures, Holy Communion, and traditional Christmas music featuring the Chancel Choir and Salem Chamber Orchestra. Nursery care available.

**WORSHIP ONLINE AT
SALEMSTLOUIS.COM
CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 & 8:00 PM**

**FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
AT SALEMSTLOUIS**   

ADVENT EVENTS

A T S A L E M

NOVEMBER 25, 5:45 PM

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

IN-PERSON | MID-COUNTY SITE: Celebrate the start of the Advent season at our annual outdoor Christmas tree lighting. Cheer with us when the lights come on, and enjoy Christmas carols from the bell tower (5:45-6:15 pm) from the comfort of your car or visiting with friends outside as we light up the night.

NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 16

HARK: THE HERALD ANGELS SING

IN-PERSON & ONLINE: Discover the angelic messages foretelling how Jesus's birth would fulfill God's promise of hope to the entire world in our new worship series *Hark: The Herald Angels Sing*. Join us on Sundays for worship as we explore the powerful and transformative truth of the incarnation of Jesus as well as the faithfulness of God toward us in all his promises.

MID-COUNTY SITE: SUNDAYS, 9:30 & 11:00 AM
SOUTH-CITY SITE: SUNDAYS, 11:00 AM

DECEMBER 2, 7:30 PM

SOUL OF THE SEASON

IN-PERSON | MID-COUNTY SITE: Join American soul artist and producer Brian Owens and friends for a musical celebration that is sure to fill your holiday season with laughter and joy. Featuring music with special guests: Juan and Lisa Winans, Christine Brewer, Malena Smith, Peter Martin, and the Salem Chamber Orchestra. Tickets are \$20 each. Children 18 years old and under are free. Purchase tickets online at salemstlouis.com or in the church office at the Mid-County Site.

DECEMBER 3, 9:00-10:30 AM

FLAPJACKS & FLANNELS

IN-PERSON | MID-COUNTY SITE: Bring your family, friends, and flannels for pancakes, crafts, games, and a visit from Santa. The cost for breakfast is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. The proceeds benefit our Nutrition and Literacy Outreach this holiday season. Register online to save spot for your family.

DECEMBER 4, 11:00 AM

LESSONS & CAROLS WORSHIP

IN-PERSON & ONLINE | MID-COUNTY SITE:

You're invited to a special worship service featuring Lessons and Carols presented by the Chancel Choir and Salem Chamber Orchestra. Once again witness in word, song and music, the prophecy and birth of Jesus Christ as it unfolds in carols, anthems, and scripture readings.

DECEMBER 10, 7:30 PM

MUSIC FOR THE KING OF KINGS

IN-PERSON & ONLINE | MID-COUNTY SITE: The Salem Chamber Orchestra and American Chamber Chorale invite you to celebrate the birth of the King of Kings with us in this free candlelight concert. An evening of time-honored carols and interesting new music ends with the audience and musicians sharing the Light and singing *Silent Night*.

DECEMBER 11, 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS KICK-OFF

IN-PERSON | SOUTH-CITY SITE: You're invited to an evening of Christmas music featuring many of St. Louis' finest musicians. All are invited to join us for this free concert at our South-City Site.

DECEMBER 12, 6:30 PM

DEEP DIVE - ADVENT

IN-PERSON | MID-COUNTY SITE: Salem's Deep Dives take you deeper into our sermon series to explore the history, theology, and growth opportunities available to us in Scripture. Hungry to go deeper in your faith? Join us for the Advent Deep Dive to connect more meaningfully with the text and the teaching from our sermon series.



**FOR MORE
DETAILS VIIST
SALEMSTLOUIS.COM/
CHRISTMAS**