

# CELEBRATE EASTER

AT SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**SALEM**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**CONNECTPOINT**

MARCH 15, 2023

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S  
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

## CONTENTS

- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
- EASTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
- HALLELUJAH
- PRAYER LABYRINTH

CONNECT WITH US



@SALEMSTLOUIS



### Easter Hop

**April 1, 9:00-11:00 am | Mid-County Site**

Kids Pre-K thru 5th grade are invited to an Outdoor Easter Celebration featuring egg hunt, crafts, treats, photo with the Easter Bunny, and more.

### Holy Thursday Worship

**April 6, 7:00 pm | South-City Site**

Remember Christ's Last Supper on Holy Thursday as we join together in prayer, music, and Holy Communion. Join us in-person or online.

### Good Friday Worship

**April 7, 7:00 pm | Mid-County Site**

Join us for a service featuring prayer, scripture, and traditional music. Nursery care will be available.

### Easter Sunday Worship | Sunday, April 9

**9:30\* & 11:00 am - Modern Worship | Mid-County Site**

**9:30 & 11:00 \*am - Traditional Worship | Mid-County Site**

**11:00\* am - Blended Worship | South-City Site**

Experience engaging music and a powerful message of hope as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together. \*Livestream available.

Kids will have a blast at Kids Connect (K-6th grade) featuring special Easter activities designed for them. Nursery care is available for children age five and under. Kids Connect and nursery care is available during all services. (Outdoor Egg Hunt at 10:15 am on Easter Sunday at the South-City Site. All are welcome.)

# COME JOIN US!

[www.salemstlouis.com/easter](http://www.salemstlouis.com/easter)

# HALLELUJAH

- REV. TERRI SWAN



One of the highlights of my spiritual year is the moment the Salem Orchestra and Choir burst into the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter Sunday! Even though we often think of Handel's Messiah as Christmas music, it was written for Easter. The Hallelujah chorus proclaims Christ's resurrection as the grand finale of the great musical work, just as Easter really is the grand finale of the story of Jesus that starts with his birth at Christmas. The text comes from the Book of Revelation: "for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Salem has a tradition of inviting anyone who has ever sung the Chorus to join the choir on Easter Sunday. It is a stunning moment. And just as the choir issues that special invitation each Easter, so should we. Easter may be the grand finale of the Christian story, but it is not the end of the story — it is just the

beginning. Easter is a reminder that life conquers death, hope conquers despair, and God's extravagant love is for all. This is good news worth sharing. So invite a friend. Bring a neighbor. Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

## PRAYER LABYRINTH IS OPEN

- REV. DEBORAH LEMOINE

*You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. — Psalm 16:11 NRSV*

Spring is here, and the daffodils planted around Salem's new labyrinth are about to burst into bloom! If you have not yet had time to visit the labyrinth, the season of Lent is the perfect opportunity. New signage has just been installed to explain what a labyrinth is and how you can utilize the path as an outdoor prayer practice any day of the week.

Feel free to park in the church lot and use the labyrinth anytime—your friends and neighbors are welcome as well. This is a great opportunity to invite someone to join you on the Salem Mid-County campus to walk the labyrinth and enjoy a picnic at the new picnic table under the pergola.



The labyrinth design was planned by a local landscape architect and given to Salem by a local donor as a gift to memorialize the ways Salem spread Good News OUTSIDE the

church walls during the pandemic. It is a reminder that God is just as present outside the church as inside. And it is an invitation to pray, to contemplate, to give thanks, and to be renewed outside in nature.

Even though our labyrinth is new, its pattern is based on the ancient labyrinths found in European cathedrals such as Chartres, and walking the labyrinth is a time-honored way to draw closer to God. Unlike a maze, there is no way to get lost or do it wrong.

As long as you keep moving forward—no matter how slowly--the path takes you to the center and along the way you will find yourself more centered in your relationship with God.



Please let me know if you have any questions about the labyrinth. Praying God blesses this beautiful new addition to Salem's property and increases the faith of all who walk it.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

*One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: "Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these."*  
— Matthew 19:13-15 MSG

Children are . . . sticky, loud, clingy, stubborn. But they are also sweet, full of wonder, inquisitive, happy, fun, and they have a whole host of other qualities—some wonderful, and some, not so wonderful. In short, children are people who are important to God and to the life of the church.

At Salem, we do our best to make church a place where the children want to be. Following Jesus's model, we want the children to come to us. As children grow up in the church experiencing the love of God's people, they grow into adults with mature faith who want to love and serve God with their whole hearts. Ministering to little ones is at the center of our mission to reach out with God's extravagant love.

As we head into spring and summer, we have great fun planned for our children. It is not too late to sign your kids up for a Kids' Night Out on the last Friday of each month where the parents drop off their little ones for a night of supervised fun at the church while they take time to get out themselves. Our Easter Hop is set for Saturday, April 1 from 9:00 till 11:00 am at the Mid-County Site. Complete with good coffee and pastries for the adults and a visit from the Easter Bunny and an egg hunt for the kids, this is a great family event that helps everyone to turn their thoughts and hearts to the coming of Easter Sunday. We are also holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday at The Connection, Salem's South-City Site. Vacation Bible School is planned for June 12-16. Registration is open for kids aged 3 through grade 5, and older kids are encouraged to serve as volunteers!



Take the time to read your Salem emails and your bulletin or visit [salemstlouis.com](http://salemstlouis.com), or scan the code to find details on these great activities for kids. Our upcoming kids events are full of fun, but we hope they will also help our children draw close to Jesus and grow into Christ followers.



### EASTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You have a chance to be a part of something great and help welcome people in a meaningful way at our Easter events and Easter Sunday Worship. We're expecting over 1,000 people to visit Salem at one of our events and Easter worship. We need your help to prepare for the big day and to share a warm welcome to all those attending our services and events. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available including welcoming, hospitality, and Kids Connect helpers. Visit [salemstlouis.com/easter](http://salemstlouis.com/easter) for more details, scan the code to volunteer now, or contact the church office at (314) 991-0546 or [info@salemstlouis.com](mailto:info@salemstlouis.com).

**YOU CAN HELP!**

**SIGN UP  
TODAY**





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

Phone: (314) 991-0546  
Fax: (314) 991-1242  
Web: [www.salemstlouis.com](http://www.salemstlouis.com)  
Email: [info@salemstlouis.com](mailto: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.

## 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.



## SALEM WOMEN'S GREAT SPRING BAKE-OFF & MOCKTAIL HOUR

MARCH 23  
7:00-8:30 PM  
MID-COUNTY SITE



*Enjoy tasty treats,  
flavorful mocktails, and  
an evening of fellowship!  
Register online.*

### MID-COUNTY

1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
(314) 991-0546  
[salemstlouis.com](http://salemstlouis.com)

### SOUTH-CITY

6701 Virginia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63111  
(314) 256-0545  
[theconnectionstlouis.com](http://theconnectionstlouis.com)

**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