



**SALEM**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
**CONNECTPOINT**

August 18, 2021

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH  
GOD'S EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

**TOP NEWS & EVENTS**

- DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- IMPACT! STUDENT EVENT - AUG. 27
- GET CONNECTED - FIND A GROUP OR STUDY
- OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**CULTURE COACH  
NIKKI LERNER COMING TO  
SALEM SEPTEMBER 18 & 19**



Join Culture Coach Nikki Lerner for a special Courageous Conversations presentation on Saturday, September 18, at 10:00 am in the Multipurpose Room at Mid-County. Nikki is a gifted leader, speaker, and musical artist who works with businesses and non-profits to help create multicultural environments moving people toward unity and

understanding. As a cultural coach and translator and a gifted musician whose primary instrument is voice Nikki helps to bridge divides between people of different cultures through conversation and music. We hope you will join us for this special Courageous Conversations event featuring Nickki Lerner. To make your reservation for this free event scan the qr code, visit our website, call the church office, or email [info@salemstlouis.com](mailto:info@salemstlouis.com). All are welcome.



We're also excited to welcome Nikki in worship with us on Sunday, September 19. She will lead the music at both modern worship services 9:30 am at Mid-County and 11:00 am at South-City. We hope you'll join us for this special weekend.

# DWELLING IN GOD'S WORD

- REV. TERRI SWAN



Reading is a part of our daily lives. News feeds, blogs, books, emails, text messages . . . reading takes up a lot of time in my day. My daughter Holly Jo is dyslexic, and reading is difficult for her, so Audible has become one of her favorite tools. There are so many new ways to access the written word these days. Literally with a click on our computer or smartphone we can find the score of our favorite team, news from across the world, or how many potatoes were on the Titanic! (Forty tons if you were wondering).

So I ask . . . is reading God's Word apart of your weekly routine? With a click of my computer I found that a recent study by Lifeway Research showed that only 32 percent of Americans who "attend a Protestant church regularly say they read the Bible personally every day." I actually think that percentage is high! Even pastors have days when reading God's Word takes a back seat to the tasks of ministry. As one pastor writes, "We can talk about the Bible, read books and blog posts about the Bible, and use the Bible to prepare sermons, Sunday-school lessons, or argue for our positions on social issues. In short, sometimes we can do everything with the Bible except read it. We doubt we're alone."

Bible neglect is a real thing, even though our Bible can go with us everywhere our phone goes! When we neglect our reading of God's Word—we are not neglecting knowledge and information—we are neglecting God! When we read God's Word we are engaging in a conversation with God, and God is engaging in a conversation with us!

Hebrews 4:12-13 says this, "God's word is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates to the point that it separates the soul from the spirit and the joints

from the marrow. It's able to judge the heart's thoughts and intentions. No creature is hidden from it, but rather everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of the one to whom we have to give an answer." (CEB)

The Message translation puts it this way, "God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one can resist God's Word. We can't get away from it—no matter what."

In other words, God's word is active and alive and can reach to the innermost parts of our being. No secrets are hidden from God, for nothing escapes the scope of God's Word.

In September we begin a new sermon series entitled "Dwell." This series is a 4-week emphasis on the importance of reading God's Word.

Also, my husband Joe and I are starting a Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm at the Mid-County location for anyone who wants to join us, beginning September 14. We will study selected books from both the Old Testament and the New Testament! If you want to join us, simply email me at [terri@saalemstlouis.com](mailto:terri@saalemstlouis.com), register on our website, or call the office. Last month I included a Bible reading guide for the Gospel of Mark. I will continually send out Bible reading guides for our emphasis of reading the Bible together. I hope you will join.

Let's read God's Word together!  
Pastor Terri

## OUTREACH FOCUS: MEALS FOR EPWORTH DROP-IN CENTER

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF ST. LOUIS YOUTH

As part of Salem's Outreach efforts to encourage improved nutrition and literacy in the St Louis community, we partner with the work of Epworth Children and Family Services to provide meals for the homeless and at-risk youth at the Epworth Drop-in Center in Normandy. Each week, Amy Milton and other volunteers join together to prepare healthy meals in the commercial kitchen near the Multipurpose Room at the Mid-County Site.

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer with your family or friends? Salem is looking for volunteers—individuals, Sunday school classes, Connect groups, families—anyone who would like to be a part of this important work to provide meals for youth in need. This opportunity previously had a minimum age requirement however, it is now available to all ages and closer to home. Interested or need more details? Contact Amy Milton (314) 324-8778 or scan the qr code to sign up to serve and we will be in touch with you.



SCAN ME

# STUDENT MINISTRY UPDATE

- NICK SAVAGE

It has been great to have our middle school and high school students back in the building since late spring. After months of doing youth ministry via Zoom, the last couple of months we have seen our students come together to grow in their faith and to just enjoy each other in small group settings every couple of weeks.

In June, we had our first large group event called Impact. We had big plans to climb a rock wall, but rain made us change those plans. Still, our group got together and played other games and enjoyed fellowship together.

Moving forward, we plan to have the large-group "Impact" event at the end of each month, and during the weeks in between, small groups will meet on specified Tuesday evenings. Sunday school for middle school and high school students will also begin in the fall.

I am encouraged to see our young people growing in their friendships with each other and in their faith in God. I am praying for this to continue, and I invite all youth to join us. I also invite any adults who love teens to consider joining us as volunteers. If you want more information, please reach out to me at [nick@salemstlouis.com](mailto:nick@salemstlouis.com).



**IMPACT!**

**AUGUST 27, 6:00-9:00 PM**  
**6-12TH GRADE**

**>> SIGN UP ONLINE**  
**@SALEMSTLOUIS.COM**



## GET CONNECTED

FIND A GROUP OR STUDY TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AND GROW IN YOUR FAITH

*And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near. – Hebrews 10:24-25 (CEB)*

Are you looking for a deeper sense of Christian belonging, community or connection to others? Does your heart desire to grow in relationship with Christ, but you know deep down you can't just do it alone? Many times we find 'more' of Christ through our personal interactions, prayers, service and/or discussing scripture in small group settings. And now is a great time to try or join a Connect Group! Our Connect Groups come in many forms—but all aim to build up, encourage, support and grow together as the body of Christ. Now, more than ever, we need to '*... consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds*' Hebrews 10:24 (NIV).

Check out our Fall 2021 (October-December) Connect Group offerings below and email the group leader for more information.

### LIFE STAGE GROUPS | IN-PERSON

NEW Young Family Connect (K-4th) / details coming soon / Emily Smith  
NEW Bridge Family Connect (5-8th) / details coming soon  
NEW Teen Family Connect (9-12th) / details coming soon  
NEW Singles/Divorced / details coming soon / Terri Callahan  
Couples Connect / Monthly for Dinner / David Long  
Contemporary Connect / Seniors / Sun. 9:30 am / Gene Sehl

### GROUPS FOR ALL AGES | IN-PERSON

NEW How to Read Your Bible / Tues. 6:30 pm (Sept. 14-Dec.) / Rev. Terri & Joe Swan  
NEW Faith Re-Connect / Jen Adams  
Monthly Sermon Book Discussion / 3rd Thur. 6:00 pm / Rev. Deb LeMoine  
Friday Friends Women's Connect / Fri. 9:30 am / Kate Fox / FULL  
Holy Smoker's Men's Group / First Sat. / Joe Swan

### GROUPS FOR ALL AGES | VIRTUAL

NEW Women's Connect Group / Mon. 7:30 pm / Lauren Caito & Karen Jaros  
Wednesday Women in the Word / Wed. 9:00 am / Liz Rea  
Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Connect / Wed. 6:30 pm  
BOLD Connect / 1 & 3 Sun. 9:30 am / Irene Graham

### GROUPS FOR ALL AGES | BOTH IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL

Monday Bible Connect / Mon. 6:30 pm / Phil & Susie Cooper  
Middle-Aged & Young at Heart / Mon. 6:30 pm / Paul Fox  
Sunday Bible Connect / Sun. 6:00 pm / Rev. Marvin Pyron, Chuck Hanes, Nancy Ellis

## TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Not sure what you're looking for? Interested in starting a new Connect Group? Contact Liz Rea or the church office.

Liz Rea: [reasatsalem@gmail.com](mailto:reasatsalem@gmail.com)

Church Office: (314) 991-0546 / [info@salemstlouis.com](mailto:info@salemstlouis.com)



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August 18, 2021



## YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Your ongoing giving helps us continue to be the church in our community. 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.

### **Give Online // visit [salemstlouis.com/give](http://salemstlouis.com/give)**

Secure, quick, and easy. One-time and recurring gifts may be set up using a bank account, debit, or credit card.

### **Text-To-Give // Text "Give" to (314) 888-9160**

### **Salem App // Search Salem Church - St. Louis**

**PayPal //** Go to your PayPal account and send your donation to the email address: [info@salemstlouis.com](mailto:info@salemstlouis.com).

**Mail //** Send checks by mail to the Salem church office

## NEED HELP? LET US KNOW.

[INFO@SALEMSTLOUIS.COM](mailto:INFO@SALEMSTLOUIS.COM) // (314) 991-0546  
[VISIT: WWW.SALEMSTLOUIS.COM/GIVING-HELP](http://WWW.SALEMSTLOUIS.COM/GIVING-HELP)



### **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)

**Nursery care available at Mid-County. Register online.**

### **Online Worship Schedule**

Sunday, 9:30 am - Modern Worship Livestream

Sunday, 11:00 am - Traditional Worship Livestream

