

# THE CROSSROADS

November 20, 2019

## REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY



Did you know that we reach out to the community in a variety of ways?

On October 16 we assisted in hosting Spooktakular Literacy Night at Lyon Academy at Blow Elementary School. During this fun-filled event children dressed up in costumes, enjoyed crafts, played games, explored books at story time, and received books to take home.

Laughter filled the air as children and students dressed in costumes, played games, trunk-or-treated, and enjoyed fun with friends on October 19 at The Connection's annual Block Party event. Neighbors enjoyed lunch, music, and fellowship together. The cartoon themed trunk-or-treat was a big hit with children and adults alike.

It is always a joy to see our neighborhood delight in an afternoon of fun! The annual Block Party outreach event reached approximately 500 people in the Carondelet neighborhood. The Spooktakular event for Lyon Academy at Blow Elementary School provided many students with much needed books and reading resources to help improve their literacy skills. Thank you to our volunteers and staff for all your planning and hard work. We can't wait for next year!

## CELEBRATING ADVENT

Advent is certainly one of the most colorful and inspirational seasons in the Christian year. The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember our longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. This time of preparation is filled with the anticipation of the One who came to save us from sin and death. Beginning December 1, our worship will be filled with the beauty and sounds of Advent. Mark your calendar for our upcoming Advent services, concerts, and events. Check out our Christmas insert for more details or visit [www.salemstlouis.com](http://www.salemstlouis.com). We hope you'll join us as we wait for the coming of Jesus this Advent.



### OUTREACH

Buy a Turkey for a Family (3)  
Costa Rica Mission Trip (3)  
Serve in the Church (3)  
Serve in the Community (3)

### TERRI TALK

Running on Fumes (2)

### COMMUNITY

Block Party (2)  
Connect Groups (3)  
Friendship Club (3)  
Preschool Open House (3)  
Student Ministry (3)

### SAVE THE DATE

Calendar (4)

# RUNNING ON FUMES

by Rev. Terri Swan

I have written and received many thank you notes over my twenty years of ministry. Every note is special, and reflects the thankfulness given a particular situation or for a particular gift. Each note is filled with the blessings of relationship. We are grateful for the person to whom we wrote the note, and, by the same token, we are grateful for the person from whom we receive words of gratitude. Our love for one another and our gratitude goes hand in hand.

The Apostle Paul begins his letter to the church in Philippi with the thankfulness he has in his heart for the believers and followers of Christ. *"I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now."* ~ Philippians 1:3-5

The relationship of love and gratefulness between Paul and the church in Philippi is evident in his words of greeting. Even though Paul writes this letter from prison, joy and thankfulness fill his heart. He was grateful

for the relationships and for the gifts given in support of their ministry together.

I am currently reading the book *Grateful*, by Diana Butler Bass. In it, the author poses the question, "How do you experience gratitude when feelings are elusive?" She answers her own question with these words, "Part of the answer lies in the nature of gratitude itself. It cannot be overstated that gratitude is an emotion, a complex set of feelings involving appreciation, humility, wonder, and interdependence. Gratitude is, however, more than just an emotion. It is also a disposition that can be chosen and cultivated, an outlook toward life that manifests itself in actions – it is an ethic." In other words, gratitude is not only how we feel, it is experienced in our practice.

As we approach this season of thankfulness and giving, I encourage you to reflect upon your daily practices that embody a life of gratitude. As author Melody Beattie once said, "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life . . . it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." How do you begin your day? Is

giving thanks and praise to God a part of your morning? How do you reflect upon your blessings throughout your daily work? Do you give God thanks for those God has placed in your life? What reflections are on your mind and heart as you drift off to sleep? Is your giving a reflection of your gratitude? We recently mailed "giving and gratitude" cards to the Salem Congregation, and on them, there's a place for you to share your thoughts of gratitude. I look forward to reading them, and I hope the exercise of writing out some things for which you are grateful will help you cultivate a disposition of gratitude in your heart and life.

May considering these questions help your daily journey in faith, fostering a way of gratefulness that unlocks the fullness of life. May you have joy in giving and gratitude for receiving God's many good gifts.

In Thanksgiving and Praise for you all,  
Pastor Terri



**"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, or God loves a cheerful giver."  
- 2 Corinthians 9:7**

## GRATITUDE AND GIVING

Ministry that makes faith grow is only possible because of your faithful giving each year. Thank you! Your Estimate of Giving Card for 2020 was mailed to you earlier this month. It includes space to let us know about your anticipated giving for next year which allows us to budget and plan our work together. It also provides a place for you to share what about Salem makes you overflow with gratitude. Our gratitude and our giving go hand-in-hand, and I want us to celebrate both in this season of Thanksgiving.

We invite you to return your **Estimate of Giving Card** in worship on November 17 or 24. We will continue to receive them in the Mid-County office through December. You may also complete your Estimate of Giving online at [salemstlouis.com/give](http://salemstlouis.com/give).



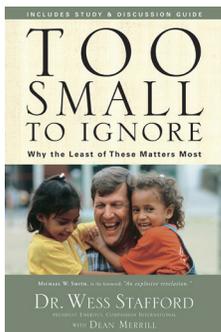
## Men's Winter Coats Needed

Due to the recent cold weather Epworth Children and Family Services is in need of men's winter coats in all sizes. Do you have a gently used men's winter coat that you could donate? Bring donations to Out of Our Bounty located downstairs from the office. All coats will be given to youth and young adults in the St. Louis area. Thank you for your generosity!

## JOIN A GROUP

**Connect Groups // Times may vary //** Are you looking to get connected and grow in your faith? Consider a connection group. These small groups are diverse in leadership, meeting times, and locations. Visit [www.salemstlouis.com](http://www.salemstlouis.com) to find a group that fits your schedule. Contact Rev. Tim Power ([tim@salemstlouis.com](mailto:tim@salemstlouis.com)) if you have questions.

## COMMUNITY



### Justice Ministry Book of the Month

Each month Salem's Social Justice Ministry presents a featured book of the month. One copy of each book will be available in the Salem library. The November book selection is *Too Small to Ignore* by Dr. Wess Stafford.

### Friendship Club: An Older Adult Ministry

Friendship Club starts again on Thursday, December 5. Salem's older members meet for an educational or entertaining program and lunch every first Thursday of the month. Gathering time at 10:30, and program starts at 10:45. Lunch is \$10 and follows the program. On December 5 Salem member and professional actor Ed Burguiere presents two short dramatic presentations: "A Prayer of Thanks" about a homeless man who has a conversation with his maker, and "The Santa Claus Line" an original short story in which a man rediscovers his faith in the most unlikely of places. To make a reservation call (314) 991-0546.



Christmas is a time of giving. This year we are again partnering with LifeWiseSTL (formerly Kingdom House) to provide items for their annual Holiday Market and the Daycare Christmas Party. The Holiday Market provides individuals the ability to select gifts for family members while giving them a sense of empowerment and dignity. Salem also hosts a Christmas Party for the children in the LifeWiseSTL Daycare Program. This year children will enjoy a visit with Santa Claus, receive bags with coloring books and crayons, the opportunity to select a gift for a family member, and enjoy treats with their class. You can help us make a difference in the lives of St. Louis families.

### You can participate in the following ways:

- 1) Select an ornament(s) from the Giving Tree and return the unwrapped gift(s) to church by December 8.
- 2) Volunteer to load and deliver Christmas gifts to The Holiday Market on December 8.
- 3) Sign-up to attend the Day Care Christmas Party on December 12, 1:00-4:00 pm at LifeWiseSTL.
- 4) Sign-up to help at the Holiday Market between December 6 through 13. Opportunities include setting up, personal shopping (bilingual a plus!), organizing, greeting participants, packing up and more. For the Holiday Market, sign up at [www.lifewisestl.org](http://www.lifewisestl.org) and click Holiday Market or call (314) 627-1233.

## STUDENTS: 6-12TH GRADE

**MDWK // Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm // 6-12th Grade // Mid-County**  
Students gather in a large group setting for worship, small group time, fellowship and fun.

**Connect Groups // Sundays, 7:00-9:00 pm // Mid-County**  
Join us as we gather for student-led discussion and snacks. The last Sunday of the month enjoy a fun activity together. Contact Nick Savage to find a group for you.

**The Connection Youth Group // Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 pm // South-City**  
Join us for a fun night of dinner, games & prizes, and a meaningful lesson every 1st Thursday of the month. (No meeting Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 26 & Jan.2)

### NEED MORE INFO ABOUT STUDENT MINISTRY

**Mid-County Site**  
Nick Savage  
[nick@salemstlouis.com](mailto:nick@salemstlouis.com)

**South-City Site**  
Reggie Moore  
[reggie@salemstlouis.com](mailto:reggie@salemstlouis.com)

JOIN US FOR **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**MID-COUNTY SITE**

1200 S. LINDBERGH BLVD., ST. LOUIS 63131

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**2:00-8:00 pm - Outdoor Animal Nativity (Front Lawn)**

**3:00 pm - Family Christmas Pageant (Multipurpose Room)**

**5:00 pm - Modern Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)**

**8:00 & 11:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Services (Sanctuary)**

*Nursery care available for children age 3 and under  
at all services except the 11:00 pm*

**SOUTH-CITY SITE**

6701 VIRGINIA AVE., ST. LOUIS 63111

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**6:30 pm - Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)**

*Nursery care available for children age 4 and under*

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# Christmas Events

At Salem, we believe that the extravagant love of God is for all people. And that love shines brightest at Christmas. Christmas promises a world filled with light, fulfillment, joy, and peace on earth. Our goal is to celebrate, and to participate with God in bringing about the world promised by Christmas. In the midst of all the busyness of the season, we hope you will join us. Come hear the message of Christmas joy. Learn about the two Christmas stories in the Bible. Join our choirs and orchestras as we sing the cherished hymns. Learn about our work in the world. Light a candle of hope with those you love. All are welcome, and all are loved.

**November 24, 10:30 am**

## **Christmas Decorating Party (Mid-County)**

Help us decorate our worship spaces for Christmas. Enjoy decorating, Christmas music, snacks, and fellowship. Meet in the Multipurpose Room at 10:30 am. All are invited.

**November 30**

## **Christmas Decorating Party (South-City)**

You're invited to decorate The Connection for Christmas. Enjoy decorating, Christmas music, snacks, and fellowship. Meet in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

**December 14, 7:30 pm**

## **Home for Christmas Concert (Mid-County)**

The Salem Chamber Orchestra and American Chamber Chorale present *Home For Christmas*, a concert of music from some of our favorite Christmas movies and traditional carols. Free event.

**December 19, 7:00 pm**

## **Lessons and Carols Service (Mid-County)**

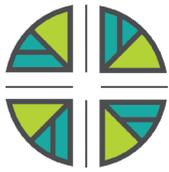
Come hear the story of Christmas told through story and song. You'll learn about the fall of mankind, God's promise of redemption, and the birth of the Messiah. The readings are interspersed with choir anthems and Christmas carols. Presented by the Salem Chancel Choir and Salem Chamber Orchestra in the Sanctuary.

**December 20, 7:00 pm**

## **Christmas Kick-off Concert (Mid-County)**

Come join us for an evening of Christmas favorites, carols, refreshments, and family fun! Hear styles from classical to jazz as well as contemporary arrangements of your favorite Christmas tunes. The kick-off features Fresh Heir, The Divine Hour Band, Ryan Marquez Trio, St. Louis Classical Guitar Ensemble, a children's bell choir and more! Event is free and all are invited.

**Visit [www.salemstlouis.com](http://www.salemstlouis.com) for more information.**



# SALEM

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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St. Louis, MO 63131

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Email: [info@salemstlouis.com](mailto:info@salemstlouis.com)

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Return Service Requested  
November 20, 2019

## ONE CHURCH - TWO LOCATIONS

### 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)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 am Chapel  
9:30 am Modern  
10:45 am Traditional

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 am Celebration

9:30 am Classes for adults & children (2 years-6th grade)

10:30 am Kids Connection for children & Nursery for infants

8:30 - 11:45 am Nursery for infants & toddlers

### WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE

6:00 - 6:30 pm Chapel

## SAVE THE DATE

November 24: Christmas Decorating Party (Mid-County)  
November 28: Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed  
November 29: Office Closed  
November 20: Christmas Decorating Party (South-City)  
December 14: Home for Christmas Concert (Mid-County)  
December 19: Lessons and Carols Worship (Mid-County)  
December 20: Christmas Kick-Off Concert (Mid-County)  
December 24: Christmas Eve Worship (see insert)  
December 25 & 26: Merry Christmas - Office Closed

## DOWNLOAD OUR APP

- > Listen to Messages
- > Find a Group
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- > Volunteer
- > Read the Bible
- > Social Media
- > Give
- > Connect Card

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Salem Church - St. Louis

