

SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
CONNECTPOINT

January 19, 2022

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

TOP NEWS & EVENTS

- CONFIRMATION 2022 STARTS FEB. 1
- CATCH-22 - PASTOR TERRI
- MISSION AND OUTREACH LEADERSHIP
- HOLY SMOKERS BBQ RIBS FUNDRAISER
- DONATE WINTER CLOTHING



CATCH-22

- REV. TERRI SWAN



Have you ever been in a situation that felt like a no-win situation? We sometimes call those a "Catch 22!" For instance, for someone buying their first home, it is difficult to borrow money because there are no assets to secure a loan. If you already have money, you can usually get a bank to lend you

money. But if you don't have any money, nobody wants to lend you any. Catch-22.

Jesus found himself in a lot of Catch 22 situations throughout his life. For instance, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, people lined the path waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna." The people anticipated Jesus to be the Messiah, the one who would save them from Roman oppression--yet Jesus had come to save them in a spiritual way, not a political way.

Another time, a group of religious leaders intended to trap Jesus into taking a stand that would get him into trouble by asking him a catch-22 question: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" If Jesus said "no," he could be accused of sedition and be turned over to the Romans. If he said "yes," he would lose the sympathy of his supporters who hated the Roman tax and expected Jesus to break the yoke of the tax burden. Either way, the religious leaders would achieve their end. To solve the catch-22, Jesus asked the leaders to verify whose image was on the coins of the day. "The emperor's," they said. "Very well," said Jesus, "give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." With that answer Jesus put responsibility for one's conduct back on the individual.

These catch-22 situations put him at odds with the religious law--touching lepers, healing on the Sabbath, meals with sinners, talking with women, teaching the children . . . all considered rule breaking. Yet, Jesus met each of these situations with grace. He considered the person more important than the rule of society or religious law. Many times Jesus takes the Old Testament Law and expands it by saying: "You have heard it said; But I say . . ." Jesus challenged those around him to look to the spirit of the law.

Jesus still challenges us to look at the spirit of the law and to offer grace in challenging situations of our lives.

In the prayer of peace from St. Frances of Assisi we experience this spirit:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

(This article is from the current Salem sermon series. Join us at Salem on Sunday mornings or online anytime to learn more about how God can help you through catch-22 situations.)

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Last Friday of the month
Beginning February 25
6:00-9:00 pm | Mid-County Site
\$25 per child



SCAN ME

Register Online at www.salemstlouis.com

CONFIRMATION 2022

Middle School Students
Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm
February 1-May 21
Mid-County Site | Cost \$115



SCAN ME

MISSION AND OUTREACH LEADERSHIP IN 2022

- REV. DEBORAH LEMOINE

Throughout the pandemic, Salem has focused on the best ways to address the nutrition and literacy needs of children and families in our community. Roy Jones, Jr. joined our team in 2021 and has focused much of his time and talent on our Haven Street meal program which served over 8,472 meals last year, gradually increasing on-site programs to include assistance in accessing health, counseling, job training, and housing assistance. He has also restructured our Out of Our Bounty program to better organize donated items (food, clothing, hygiene items, etc.) and get them where they are most needed as quickly as possible. An amazing team of volunteers works with Roy to make these things happen each week, and Roy will continue to provide leadership in 2022 as part-time staff as he expands his music ministry at Salem and beyond the rest of the week.



Emily Smith, who also joined our team in 2021 as Director of Children's Ministries, has an extensive background in literacy education and working with kids in underserved neighborhoods. As such, she has gradually increased her involvement in the literacy-focused aspects of Salem's outreach, working with our committed team of volunteers who focus on the needs of our St. Louis Public School Partnerships to provide tutoring and other resources to the schools we serve. Knowing that kids can't learn when they are hungry, she has also been working with our volunteer culinary teams that cook and bake for meal programs at Epworth and beyond. In 2022, she will be expanding her involvement in these programs, as well as our Freedom School Program – bringing the heart and experience of a teacher to this ministry area.

Pastor Tim has also excelled in integrating mission and outreach into the pastoral ministries of the church this year—making sure that the voices and needs of those outside the church are heard by those of us planning sermon series and long-term opportunities. In 2022, he will take charge of the pastoral oversight of all Salem's missional work and partnerships—overseeing the good work done by Roy and Emily as well as expanding our long-term partnerships with LifeWise, Epworth, the Costa Rica Mission Project, and recovery ministries. Pastor Deb will continue to manage the financial aspects of this ministry area.

These staff roles represent our commitment to integrating mission and outreach into everything we do as staff here at Salem—but nothing we do is possible without you. At its heart, mission and outreach is about the volunteers, donors, advocates, and prayer warriors who make these ministries possible. We hope you will reach out to any member of the team about ways you'd like to get involved in 2022!

DONATE WINTER CLOTHING

Winter has arrived and we are collecting warm clothing for our outreach ministry. Please drop off new or gently used: gloves (adult sizes), thermal wear (sizes m-xxl), and sweaters (m-xxl) at the Mid-County Site during office hours or on Sundays.



SMOKED BBQ RIBS FUNDRAISER



SCAN ME

**\$35 - RACK OF RIBS
SUPPORTS NUTRITION
OUTREACH
PICK-UP DATE: FEBRUARY 6
ORDER: SCAN CODE OR
CALL (314) 991-0546**

DIVE DEEPER: TRY OUT A CONNECT GROUP

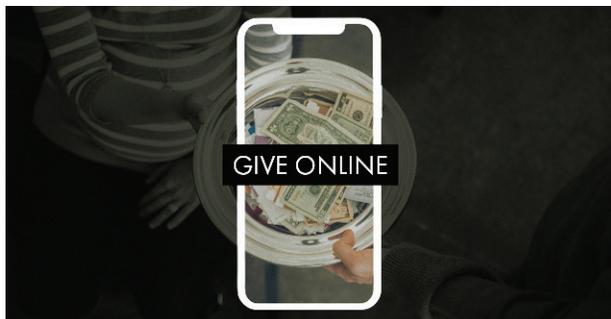
We need each other! At Salem we offer many ways for you to explore the Bible, experience community, connect with others, and grow deeper in your relationship with Christ. You are welcome to try out a few groups before choosing the best one for you. Visit salemstlouis.com for details, call the office (314) 991-0546, or contact Liz Rea at reasatsalem@gmail.com for help finding a group that fits for you.



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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

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.

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

NEED HELP? LET US KNOW.

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



SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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(314) 256-0545
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



@SALEMSTLOUIS