



Salem Lutheran Weekly eNews 9/23/26—9/30/26

"To share the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ with all people, and to serve God by serving others"

From Pastor Deanna

It is homecoming season, the time to re-connect with communities that are important to us. It is celebrated at high schools, universities and colleges and... in the church. As summer ends and fall begins it is time to re-connect. It is time to renew. It is time to celebrate.

Years ago I was given the following piece and in it I hear words of welcome for homecoming! This makes me smile and think. It is a grace-filled invitation that opens the way to be surprised by the Holy Spirit. It is a challenging way to understand a community of faith.

A Welcome (from an unknown source)

We are glad you are here! We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, black and proud, y no habla Ingles.

We extend a special welcome to those who are new-borns, poor as dirt, skinny as a rail, got a hitch in their git-along, or just plain can't sing. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woke up, or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Lutheran than Luther or more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been to church since little Maria's confirmation.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 40 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters, and people who stay up too late at night. If you're having problems, or you're down in the dumps or you don't like organized religion we've been there too. If you blew all your offering money at the casino, you're welcome here.

We offer a special welcome to those who could lose a few pounds, think the earth is flat, work too hard, can't spell, or came because grandma's in town and wanted to go to church. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, are three-times divorced, had religion shoved down their throat as a kid, or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers, doubters, bleeding hearts... and you!

Welcome home!

Shalom, Pastor Deanna

I Love to Tell the Story Potluck

Join us for the "I Love to Tell the Story" Potluck!

Salem Lutheran isn't just a building; it is a collection of beautiful stories written by God through our shared commitment to this community. On **October 4** following worship, we are gathering for a special story-driven potluck. Come hungry for great food, and ready to hear (and perhaps tell) great stories.

What is provided: Pulled Pork and Pulled Chicken with rolls.

What to bring: Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

The Story Challenge: If your dish has a story (an old family recipe, a comfort food from a hard time, or something you make for celebrations), grab a label card at the door to share its history!



SUPPORT GROUP

At GriefShare, you'll find a safe, comforting place where you can talk with others about your grief. You'll find support, direction, and guidance on how to make it through. The next 13-week session begins September 16 at 6:00 pm in the library. Books are available in the office. If you have any questions, contact Bob Slind at (360) 421-4306

WELCOME TO SUBSPASH

Big changes on the horizon here at Salem. We are transitioning from Tithe.ly to Subsplash on October 1. This change will allow us to automatically livestream our services, manage our website, calendar, and eNews, as well as update our Online Giving platform. We even have our own app which is now available at the App Store for both Apple and Google. To download the app, simply go to your App Store and search **Salem ELCA Mt. Vernon**. You will be able to view everything on our website, as well as give online through Subsplash. If you have any questions, please reach out to Laurie in the office.



It's that time again! Mark your calendars for our **FREE** Spaghetti dinner Saturday Sept 26th at 5pm-6:30 pm. Bring a friend to enjoy good food and company!



Cub Scouts Join Nite

Thursday Sept 24th at 6pm here at Salem Lutheran Church. Boys and Girls grades K-5. Cubs participate in a huge array of activities with opportunities for growth.

NW Synod Website

The Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA is our partner in ministry. Visit their site and you'll see resources, prayers, social media connections, directories, calendars, events, information on the larger church' work, social statements and news.



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