

February 2019



the  
**SPiRiT**

**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*A Reconciling in Christ  
(RIC) Congregation*

## A Time For Love

February makes me think of Valentines Day which makes me think of love....

I'll never forget the moment the midwives placed Hans in my arms. I was so overcome with love for this new little person who for nine months had grown inside of me that I felt as though my heart would burst. It wasn't just the love that I felt for my child that overwhelmed me. It was the realization that, "oh my God, this is how much my parents love me!" and the further realization of "how much more than must God love me!" In that moment the most powerful feeling of love that I have ever experienced reached out to me, sweeping me up in the strong arms of acceptance and wrapping me tight in an embrace of complete belonging. Love filled every cell of my being so that there was room for nothing else. I was God's child and God loved me and I loved God.

And that, my friends, is the whole reason we are here on the earth. Just as we are born from a man's and woman's overwhelming love and desire, so are we created from God's burning desire to create and God's passionate need to love - and to be loved, which explains the greatest of all commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind."

And that's why I think mainline Christianity is dying. We may love God with our mind - that is, we believe God exists, we may have grateful thoughts, we may talk with God and ask God for help - but do we love God with all our heart and soul and strength? Looking at our worship, I wonder.

When our hearts are full of love as we gaze into the eyes of our child or our lover, we are overcome with emotion. When we are overcome with emotion our bodies can't help but want to reach out towards them and take them in our arms and hold them close. And as we hold them close, our spirits know the feelings of a bond that can never be undone.

I think that's what God wants in worship -to not only read the love in our minds, but to feel the love in our hearts, and to see it in our bodies, and to know it in our souls.

But to be honest, as a lifelong Lutheran of Northern European heritage and reserved personality and manners I'm not sure how to do that. The thought of showing my love for God in worship scares me. And yet I know that's what God wants and what God commands.

### What's Inside

#### Salem

Calendar .....	3
Worship Assistants.....	4
Birthdays .....	5
Prayer List.....	5
Parish Nurse .....	9

#### Wider Church

Faith in Action .....	19
Global Links .....	20

So while I'm away these next 9 Sundays resting and reflecting, I'll also be searching and seeking for new ways to worship God - ways that get me beyond myself so that I can love God the way God wants and deserves to be loved - not only with all of my mind, but with all of my heart and body and spirit as well. And while I'm away rest assured that I will be holding you in prayer, pleading with God to reach out to you and take you in his arms and hold you tightly until you know without a doubt how totally and completely you are loved.

Abundant love be yours,  
Pastor Marjo

*We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.  
In response to God's transforming love, we share our JOY through praise and service.*

## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3160 Park Avenue  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604  
Phone (203) 336-3300 ▪ Fax (203) 336-8813

Website - [www.salembridgeport.org](http://www.salembridgeport.org)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport/](http://www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport/)

### Church Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Worship Services

9:30am Traditional Worship

4:30pm SNAC

Sunday Night Alive Dinner Church

### Salem's Staff

The Rev. Marjo Anderson, Pastor  
Cell Phone (203) 982-3441  
[marjoanderson@aol.com](mailto:marjoanderson@aol.com)

Mark Adamy, Music Director  
[adameus7@aol.com](mailto:adameus7@aol.com)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager  
Office Phone (203) 336-3300  
[salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net)

Jennifer Reyes, Sexton  
Pablo, Cruz, Sexton  
Office Phone (203) 336-3300, ext. 10

Elizabeth Frohrip, Deacon  
Home Phone (203) 683-7460  
[salemaim123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemaim123@sbcglobal.net)  
(on disability leave)

## LEADERSHIP AT SALEM

### COUNCIL

Marjo Anderson, Pastor – [marjoanderson@aol.com](mailto:marjoanderson@aol.com)  
Ray Lansing, President – [raylansing@yahoo.com](mailto:raylansing@yahoo.com)  
Ray Anderson, Vice-President – [andersray4@gmail.com](mailto:andersray4@gmail.com)  
Nancy Headford, Secretary – [nancy9881@att.net](mailto:nancy9881@att.net)  
Frank Dukenski, Treasurer – [fdukenski@aol.com](mailto:fdukenski@aol.com)  
Katie Adams – [keadams333@gmail.com](mailto:keadams333@gmail.com)  
Steve Kuczo, Staff Support – [skuczo@aol.com](mailto:skuczo@aol.com)  
Noah Lansing, Youth – [lansingnoah@yahoo.com](mailto:lansingnoah@yahoo.com)  
Cindy Roberts - [robjcrb@gmail.com](mailto:robjcrb@gmail.com)  
Kaitlyn Rosa, Youth – [krosa2000@gmail.com](mailto:krosa2000@gmail.com)  
Emily Sokoloski – [emilysokoloski@gmail.com](mailto:emilysokoloski@gmail.com)  
Tracey Wilkins, Staff Support – [traelwil@gmail.com](mailto:traelwil@gmail.com)  
Bill Winter, Property – [wjwinter@optonline.net](mailto:wjwinter@optonline.net)

### SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

Pastor Marjo Anderson – [marjoanderson@aol.com](mailto:marjoanderson@aol.com)  
Frank Dukenski – [fdukenski@aol.com](mailto:fdukenski@aol.com)  
Ray Anderson – [andersray4@gmail.com](mailto:andersray4@gmail.com)  
Liz Bales – [the2bales@gmail.com](mailto:the2bales@gmail.com)  
Sandra Brown – [sjbrown@snet.net](mailto:sjbrown@snet.net)  
John Bryk – [jbryk@znclaw.com](mailto:jbryk@znclaw.com)  
Richard Lansing – [rlansing@optonline.net](mailto:rlansing@optonline.net)  
Cliff LaRose – [trevclif@att.net](mailto:trevclif@att.net)  
Jean Larson – [tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net)  
Bruce Tomasko – [bltomasko@yahoo.com](mailto:bltomasko@yahoo.com)  
John Wilkins – [about2bike@gmail.com](mailto:about2bike@gmail.com)

### LIGHT –

Leaders Inviting Growth through Hope for Tomorrow

### Source Team:

Pastor Marjo Anderson – [marjoanderson@aol.com](mailto:marjoanderson@aol.com)  
Ray Lansing – [raylansing@yahoo.com](mailto:raylansing@yahoo.com)  
Tracey Wilkins – [traelwil@gmail.com](mailto:traelwil@gmail.com)  
Bill Winter – [wjwinter@optonline.net](mailto:wjwinter@optonline.net)  
Tom Larson – [tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net)

### Reflection Team:

Katie Adams – [keadams333@gmail.com](mailto:keadams333@gmail.com)  
Jean Larson – [tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net)  
Frank Dukenski – [fdukenski@aol.com](mailto:fdukenski@aol.com)  
Joel Hintz – [brondle@aol.com](mailto:brondle@aol.com)

**Newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month unless otherwise noted in the monthly calendar.**

**Next deadline date is February 15th for the March issue!**

**Email submissions to  
[salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net)**