



April 2020

the
SPIRIT

Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation

A Lent For All People

Dear Salem Family,

Lent is always a solemn season for Christians as we focus on the brokenness of our lives and long for healing. This year it seems as if the whole world has been plunged into a kind of Lent, as we are faced with fear, sickness, and death all around us. As Christians, however, we know that death does not have the last word! As St. Paul writes,

"O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?

Death has been swallowed up in victory!

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" [1 Corinthians 15:55, 54, 57]

Jesus trusted God enough to suffer and die, and God, who is faithful, raised him from the dead, conquering death once and for all. And because "we have been buried with him by baptism into death" then "just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father...we too might walk in newness of life." [Romans 6:4] This is the hope to which we cling. In the midst of the fear and frustration, the anger and anxiety, and the pain and the panic all around us, we trust in a God who not only has the power to accomplish miracles but the love to hold us in the divine embrace as we wait in hope and faith.

As I write this, we are even now preparing for Holy Week. As with everything these days, things may change, so please check your email or our website or leave a message on the church answering machine for updates. But for now, these are the plans: Please see the next page for details.

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We encourage you all to tune in to Facebook for worship (either in real time or later). You don't even have to be a Facebook user. All you need to do is click on a link (i.e., hover the cursor right over the text until you see the little hand pointing to it, then

click your mouse, or tap your touchpad). If you need help to do this, PLEASE let us know. It may be months before we are back to in-person worshipping, and in the meantime the only place we can gather safely is in cyberspace. Remember, YOU are a vital part of Christ's body at Salem - so without you, we'll be significantly handicapped!

If you can't join us in cyberspace, just let us know and we will mail you a copy of the Sunday bulletin, sermon, newsletter, and anything else that you need.

Due to the pandemic, our Office Manager, Karl, and I will be working primarily from our homes. I plan to come in once a week to record worship and Karl plans to come in once a week to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely.

Meetings (like Council, Worship Planning, Transition Team, and Lutheran clergy) are being held online via Zoom. If your Salem committee or group (Bible Study, Book Group) would like to meet via Zoom, please contact Karl by emailing him at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net or by leaving a message on the church phone, 203-336-3300.

Finally, even though the building is closed, our financial obligations continue. We encourage you to continue to support Salem as generously as you can. Also, in order to protect our staff and volunteers from having to spend time in the building, handling cash and checks, we strongly urge you to make your donations online. Just click on the donate tab at SalemBridgeport.org, and follow the instructions. It takes less than 5 minutes the first time and you can set it up for automatic payments if you want. If you need help accessing Facebook or our website or donating online, please call Karl so we can get you the help you need. And if you need pastoral care - even just to talk - please don't hesitate to call or text me at 203-982-3441.

The peace that passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Pastor Marjō

We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.

WORSHIP for Holy Week, Easter, and after

PALM SUNDAY - 04/05/20 at 9:30 AM

1. Prior to worship we encourage you to find a “palm” to wave - a leafy branch from your backyard, a paper palm you color and cut out (**one is included in this newsletter**), or even a tracing of your hand with its “palm”!
2. If you don't have a second electronic device (one to view worship bulletin and one to view worship service), download and print out ahead of time a copy of the bulletin, which will be available online.
3. Then tune in to FaceBookLive at 9:30 AM for our worship which will feature a rebroadcast of the Salem Choir singing the moving cantata, “Cone, Touch the Robe”, as well as traditional elements like the processional hymn, “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

HOLY THURSDAY - 04/09/20 at a time TBA

We'll be joining Our Saviour's, Fairfield, or another Lutheran congregation for worship and will get the details to you as soon as plans are firm.

GOOD FRIDAY - 04/10/20 at 7:30 PM

1. Prior to worship we encourage you to find a cross to focus on during worship. It could be a wooden cross that hangs on a wall, or a piece of jewelry, or a print out of the one in our sanctuary (**one is included in this newsletter**).
2. Again, if you don't have a second electronic device (one to view worship bulletin and one to view worship service), download and print out ahead of time a copy of the bulletin which will be available online.
3. Then tune in to FBLive at 7:30 PM for our worship which will feature a choral reading of St. Mark's account of the Story of Jesus' Death, as well as traditional hymns.

EASTER - 04/12/20 at a time TBA

We'll likely be joining together with other congregations for worship and will get the details to you as soon as plans are firm.

EASTER 2 - 04/19/20 at 9:30 AM

The Rev. James Hazelwood, Bishop of our New England Synod, will be delivering a message to all the congregations in our synod. Again, if you don't have a second electronic device you may want to download and print out the bulletin and sermon ahead of time.

EASTER 3 - 04/26/20 at 9:30 AM

We will likely still be streaming worship via FB Live, but will keep you updated.

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Website - www.salembridgeport.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport/

Church Office Hours

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

Worship Services

9:30am Traditional Worship

Salem's Staff

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

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

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

LEADERSHIP AT SALEM

COUNCIL

Marjo Anderson, Pastor – marjoanderson@aol.com
Frank Dukenski, President – fduzenski@aol.com
Ray Anderson, Vice-President – andersray4@gmail.com
Nancy Headford, Secretary – nancy9881@att.net
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SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

Pastor Marjo Anderson – marjoanderson@aol.com
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Richard Lansing – rlansing@optonline.net
Jean Larson – tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net
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LIGHT –

Leaders Inviting Growth through Hope for Tomorrow

Source Team:

Pastor Marjo Anderson – marjoanderson@aol.com
Ray Lansing – raylansing@yahoo.com
Bill Winter – wjwinter@optonline.net
Tom Larson – tjcklarson@sbcglobal.net

Reflection Team:

Katie Adams – keadams333@gmail.com
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Joel Hintz – brondle@aol.com

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

**Next deadline date is April 15th for the
May issue!**

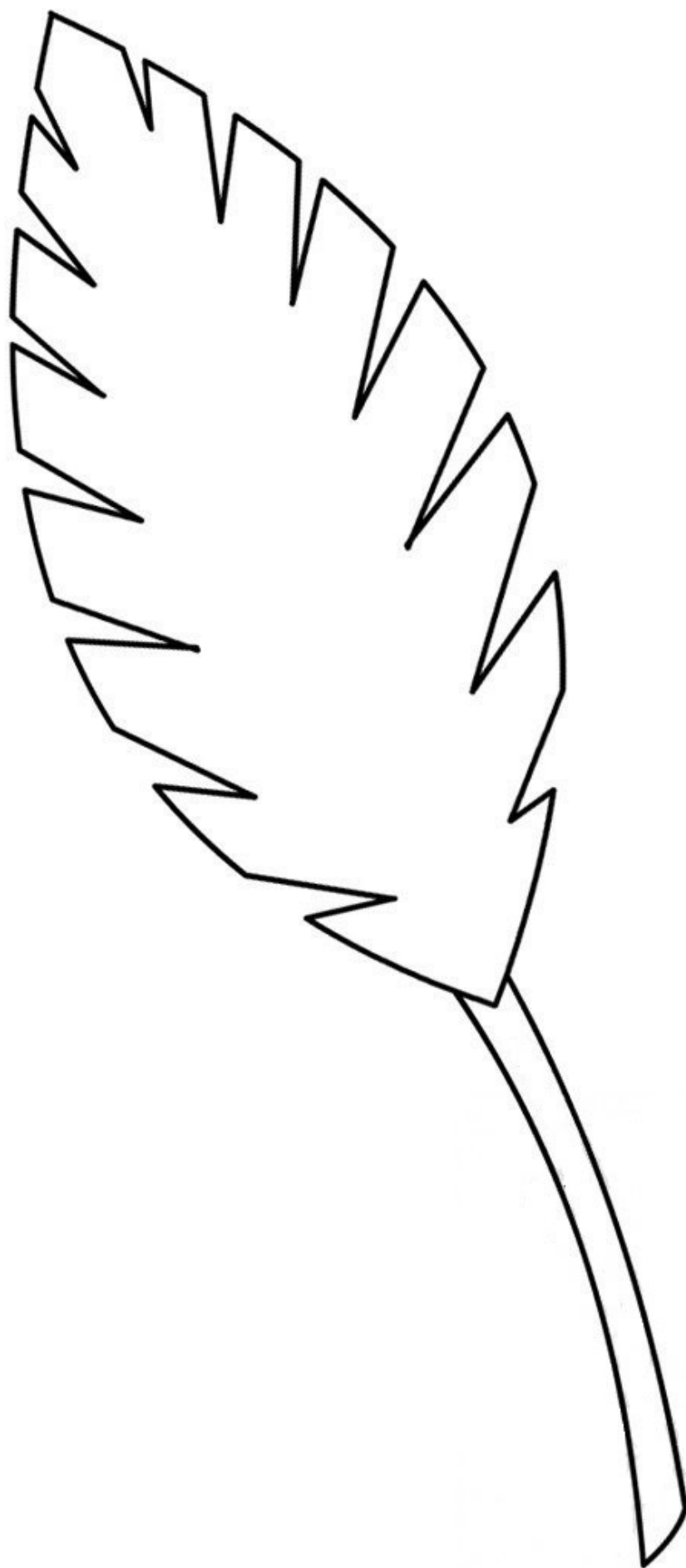
**Email submissions to
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net**

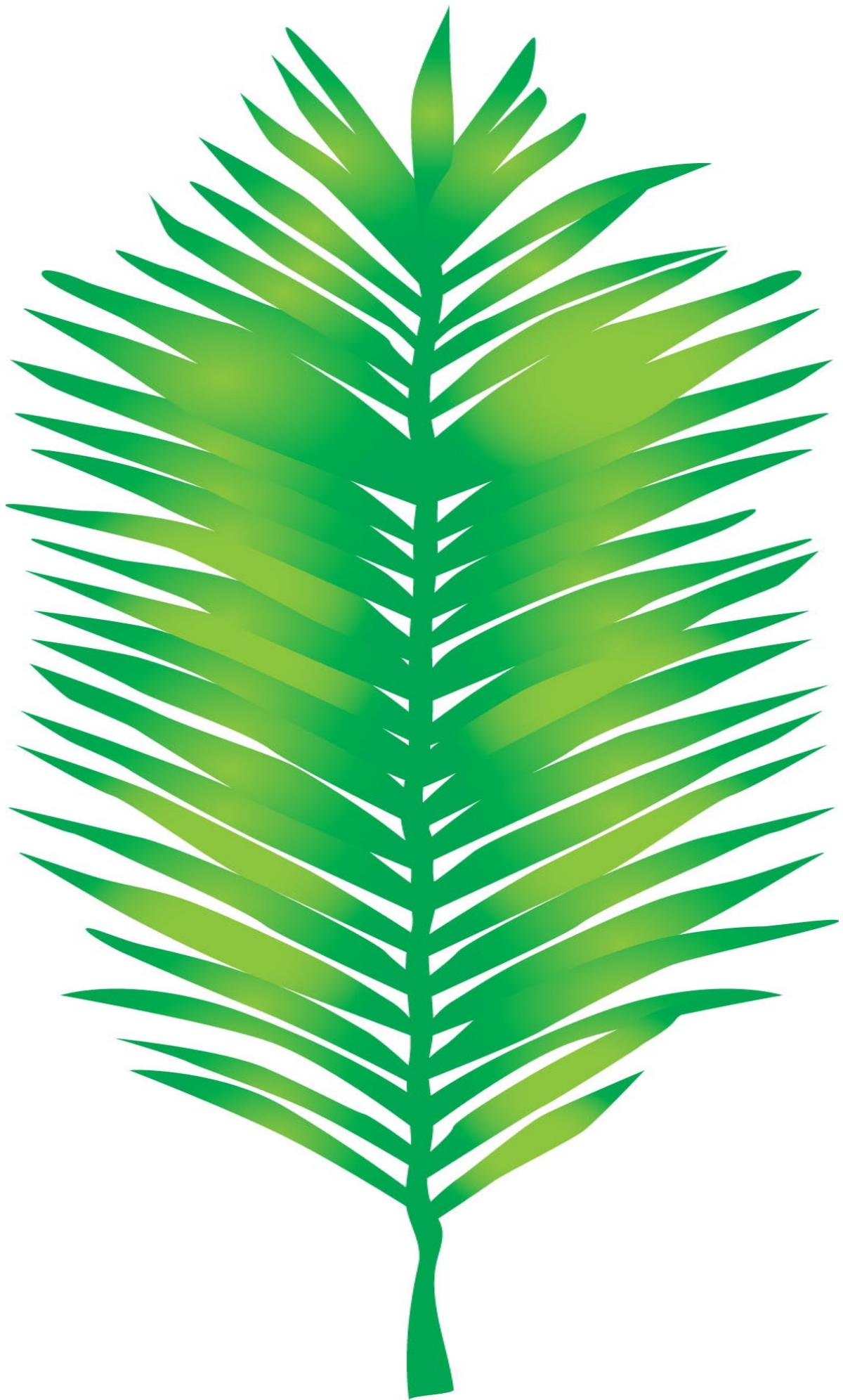
April 2020

Salem Lutheran Church



SUN	MON	TUE	WED Apr 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
5 Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday 9:30am Worship 10:30am Christ Presbyterian Church 12:30pm New Directions Ministries	6	7 9:30am Pastors' Text Study	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday 9:30am Worship 10:30am Christ Presbyterian Church 12:30pm New Directions Ministries	13	14 9:30am Pastors' Text Study	15	16	17	18
19 Second Sunday of Easter 9:30am Worship 10:30am Christ Presbyterian Church 12:30pm New Directions Ministries	20 6:30pm Finance Committee 7:30pm Executive Committee	21 9:30am Pastors' Text Study	22	23	24	25
26 Third Sunday of Easter 9:30am Worship 10:30am Christ Presbyterian Church 12:30pm New Directions Ministries	27 7pm Council	28 9:30am Pastors' Text Study	29	30	<p>Note—As of now, the 9:30 worship will be online only. You can join in the worship service on Facebook Live. Go to https://www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport/ Sunday at 9:30am.</p>	







David Albers	1
Timothy Genster	1
Reinhard Reichelt	3
Marjo Anderson	4
Bert Andren	8
Miles Wilkins	8
Marija Kolar	8
Kristen Kulakowski	8
Sarah Murphy	10
Carissa Gulyas	10
Grace Dukenski	11
Liz Frohrip	12
Liliana Vasquez	13
Linda Bryk	15
Victoria Roehrich	16
Joseph Sokoloski	18

Gabriella Rosa	19
Barbara Davis	20
Domenick D'Andrea	24
John Watts	24
Judi Nielsen	25
Julia DeWalt	25
Ian Dow	26
Tracey Wilkins	30



The Salvation Army has a variety of programs to help people. If you are 60 years and over and live in Connecticut, the CSFP 'Silver' program is for you. It is a monthly food basket containing a variety of foods. If you live in the 06604 zip code area, the Salvation Army has a food pantry. Operation

Fuel Energy Assistance Program is designed to help low income families with electricity/gas/oil. For information about these programs and an appointment call (203) 334-0995 ext 105. Grandfamilies Together is a support group for grandparents and other kinship caregivers. For information about this program call (203) 334-0995 ext 107. There are also several volunteer opportunities available. For information about these, contact Major Lydia Pearson at (203) 334-0995.

2020
Blood Pressure
Screening Dates

May 3	Oct 4
Jun 7	Nov 8
Jul tba	Dec 6
Aug tba	
Sep 13	

Salem Book Club meets on the first Tuesday at noon in the Salem Lounge. The Upcoming selections are:

May 5th: **The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri
June. 2nd: **Beneath the Scarlet Sky** by Mark Sullivan

New members and guests are welcome to join us. Please bring your lunch.



The following people have asked for healing, help, guidance or comfort.

Joan B	Bobby W
Barbara B	Anna
Sam B	Barbara
Erick D	James S
Grace D	Sarah R
Hannah & Joseph	Brooks A
Bob H	Angie
Dennis H	Liz F.
Sylvitha	Hazel P
Jay	Katherine P
Jinny L	
Mike R	
Jane M	
Jana B	
William S	
Daphne B	
Peter K	



We Are Grateful

Food Pantry

Joe & Liz Bales, Pauline Boyum, Barbara Howard



Coronavirus

While the risk of contracting the coronavirus remains low, now is the time to prepare, not panic.

It's not unlike when the National Weather Service issues a blizzard or hurricane watch. It's not a bad idea to stock up on food, medical, and cleaning supplies in case you or a loved one gets sick.

You also want to follow the latest travel guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).



Take the same precautions you would during the flu season. The best way to prevent the spread of this new virus is to cover your cough, stay home when you're sick and avoid being within six feet of others who might be sick.

More recommendations from the CDC include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- When using a hand sanitizer, make sure it contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Don't shake hands. It's not about being rude, it's just being careful.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Take good care of yourself. For example, quit smoking. The healthier you are, the better your chances of "weathering the storm."
- Don't wear face masks unless you are sick. They need to be conserved in case of emergency.
- Avoid crowds.
- Stay home if you are sick.

The World Health Organization has qualified the coronavirus as a pandemic. The coronavirus is a global threat. In the United States, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working hard to stop the spread of the virus.

What are the symptoms?

Common symptoms, according to the CDC, include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Some people have shown no symptoms. But the virus can cause serious illness and even death, especially for those over 60 years old.

How is it diagnosed?

Blood tests and nasal swabs are used to identify the coronavirus. Call your physician to determine if you need a test. Public labs and some private labs (like Quest and LabCorp) are approved to test.

Why is it called coronavirus?

Under an electron microscope, the virus looks like the sun's corona — the outer part of the sun's atmosphere.

What are the current travel restrictions because of the coronavirus?

You want to follow the latest travel guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC recommends avoiding all nonessential travel. In addition, the U.S. Department of State advises travelers to not go on cruises.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

Lutheran roots and seeds of protest

The life and legacy of Daniel Alexander Payne

Daniel Alexander Payne was born in 1811 in Charleston, S.C. His parents, London and Martha Payne, were free African Americans who both died before Daniel reached puberty. From a young age, he yearned to study the classics and became drawn to John Brown's Self-Interpreting Bible.

Payne desired to teach those who were enslaved. But after the slave revolts, led by Denmark Vesey in Charleston in 1822 and Nat Turner in Southampton County, Va., in 1831, slave codes were enacted and schools that educated black people were forced to close for periods. Slave codes established during the Civil War also criminalized teaching slaves to read.

Payne's zeal for education continued when he ventured to Pennsylvania, led by a dream he'd had in which he was traveling north dressed as an educator.

In 1835, the Evangelical Lutheran Society of Inquiry on Missions offered a scholarship "for a young man of color who demonstrated talent and piety in order for that person to help with the social uplift of his people." The scholarship was established to support an African American for four years of study at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary).

At first, Payne was hesitant to accept the scholarship because he hadn't considered becoming a minister, let alone a Lutheran pastor. He decided to study at Gettysburg after reading *Elements of Popular Theology* by Samuel Simon Schmucker, the seminary's president and a noted abolitionist. During the Civil War, the seminary building served as a field hospital in the Battle of Gettysburg and Confederate soldiers raided and ransacked Schmucker's house.

According to Payne's journals, he delivered at least 70 lectures during his time at Gettysburg (1835 to 1837). The first African American ever admitted to a Lutheran seminary, he had the use of a classroom on campus, where he taught Sunday school to the children of slaves, attended antislavery meetings and established committees for moral integrity.

On one occasion Payne walked 25 miles to give a speech and deliver English grammar books to a local ladies' group.

Payne was unable to finish the four-year program, but the education he received at Gettysburg was significant. While there, he determined that he was called to the ordained ministry. Lying in bed, pondering his future, he heard a voice inside of him (as if from God) scream out, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel!" From that moment on, he was convinced that he should preach for the rest of his life.

Payne was reluctant to leave Gettysburg but departed with the support of Schmucker and professor C.P. Krauth, who commended

Payne for his success in his studies. Schmucker said he would have liked for Payne to become a Lutheran minister but thought he would do better in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

Payne was ordained in 1839 and two years later joined the AME Church, where he would serve for the next 50 years. In 1852, he was elected as its sixth bishop, a position he held until his death in 1893.

I have often wondered why a man as gifted as Payne, with so much investment in the Lutheran church (having been ordained by the Frankean Synod), was let go and steered to another denomination—even if the AME Church was known for its activism.

It's ironic that, in the same year of his ordination, Payne published in the *Lutheran Herald and Journal of the Frankean Synod* a treatise on the history of Negro protest against slavery. Seminary records suggest that his address in support of ending slavery, which he gave to a Lutheran Synodical Report in 1839, would influence a great number of antislavery resolutions later produced by his seminary companions.

Payne's most significant achievement occurred during the Civil War, when he negotiated the purchase of Wilberforce University in Ohio. He served as its president from 1863 to 1876. He greatly expanded enrollment numbers during his tenure.

The main building on the Wilberforce campus burned to the ground the night Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, and the wooden structure was later rebuilt with brick.

As bishop, Payne advanced the AME Church to become a learned body of congregants; his impact on American society was profound.

The challenge before us today as ELCA Lutherans is to continue to cultivate education, as we have always done, but also to elevate the voices of protest that may be found in the successors to Daniel Alexander Payne.

The organized protests against slavery in the 1830s by Payne and the Frankean Synod must advance in the church with advocacy to reform the criminal justice system; to increase worker rights; to protect voting rights, which are again under attack in communities of color; and to ensure adequate access to health care services, fresh food in food deserts and public transportation in underserved communities.

These efforts to support and strengthen our communities of congregants are shaping the progression of the Lutheran church body and the world as the church looks forward.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

One Bread, One Body

Savanna Sullivan

Edward, a young Rwandan member of the Lutheran Church in Kigali, leans over to me every few minutes to translate parts of the service we're attending. In a low voice, he tells me a short summary of what the preacher just said in Kiswahili. I've been in language school for two days learning Kinyarwanda and now happen to find myself at the Lutheran church's monthly Kiswahili service. I don't mind. I probably would have understood about the same amount either way (about zero.)

About two-thirds of the way through the service, Edward leans over, "Communion," he says. I appreciate his help, but this one I had on lock. I watch as the pastor breaks the bread and pours the wine, something I've watched my own father do most Sundays of my life. I walk up to the railing and kneel at the altar. I receive a wafer in my hands and place it on my tongue. This is the body broken for me. I don't need a translation to know the pastor's words. I am the body. I know. As the tray of wine comes by, I tentatively reach for a cup. This is the blood poured out for me. I say a short prayer and walk back to my seat. I reflect, quietly, on what just happened. I just communed with a Kiswahili speaking congregation ... in Kigali ... in Rwanda ... where I live. And suddenly I could be anywhere. I am everywhere.



I am finally across the table from my granddaddy again. I am breaking bread with my grandmother as she hums the hymns that quietly coax me to sleep. I am at Lutheridge in an Upper Craft Lodge on a Thursday. I am at Briarwood on a Friday afternoon. I am at Flathead on a Sunday morning—the sun spilling over my face like water. I am in a circle with 74 Young Adults in Global Mission and the communities they are serving all over the world. I'm holding the hands of all of the best friends I left in the U.S. I'm in a pew next to my sweet family, my siblings and I trying not to attract too much attention as we make each other giggle. I am home. I am here. I am in the kingdom of God. I am in Rwanda.

And slowly I realize that I have always been here, at this same table next to my new Rwandan friends. My whole life, I have been seated beside the kind souls of Edward and Veronica and Frank, speaking Kiswahili and Kinyarwanda and English. I have been surrounded by a communion of saints who—though I could not see them—were no less present with me every other time I took communion than they are now.

The service proceeds and I continue to understand nothing. I spend a few more minutes pondering my communion experience. I feel the breeze drift lazily through the church's open windows. I am completely at peace. As the service concludes, Edward leans over to me one last time. The theologian, Veronica, just said something in Kiswahili. "You know what she said?" he asks. He knows I don't, but I shake my head anyway.

He smiles over at me and says "She said 'All languages are understood in heaven.'"

All are seated at the communion table in the kingdom. All are understood. Amina. Amen.

Savanna Sullivan served with the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Rwanda during the 2015-2016 year.