



**A Reconciling in Christ
(Open and Affirming) congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Sunday Worship
and
Monthly Saturday
Inner-View Chat & Chew**

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**YouTube
Salem Lutheran Church,
Bridgeport CT**



11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM 16 August 2020

in the Salem Picnic Grove

Gathering

WELCOME

Jeanette:

In the name of Jesus, welcome to worship!

We are glad to have those of you worshipping with us right here in the picnic grove and we are glad to have those of you out there in cyberspace worshipping with us via Facebook Live!

I'm Jeanette Harris, Lay Licensed Minister of Genesis Gospel Café at 1475 Noble Ave here in Bridgeport and in addition to Sunday worship we have resumed our Innerview Chat'n'Chew the third Saturday of the month. We also have a weekly game night Thursdays from 6:00-7:00.

If you'd like to join us, we'll have a zoom links posted at SundayNightAlive.org as well as on the calendar on Salem's website.

Genesis and Salem and New Direction Ministries are also resuming our monthly Sunday Night Alive series with our first event coming up next Sunday August 23rd from 6:30-8:00 pm – an Outdoor Concert here in the upper parking lot.

Today as we gather in person, please remember that while you may not feel at risk for Covid-19, the person next to you may be very much at risk or may feel that they are but they may be uncomfortable telling you, so please, wear a mask and make sure it covers your nose and mouth, and maintain a minimum of 6' from anyone with whom you do not live.

Marjo:

I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the United States.

While our building here at 3160 Park Avenue is closed at present, you can find us at our website: www.SalemBridgeport.org , on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport , and on our [YouTube Channel](#): Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT.

Over these months of the pandemic Salem has worshipped on Facebook and YouTube and Zoom, and we've had a few drive-in worship services, including one with Genesis and New Direction Ministries. This summer Genesis and Salem are worshipping together here in the picnic grove, weather permitting. If there is light to moderate rain, we will have a drive-in service. And in case of a big storm, we will have worship via Zoom.

Links to the worship bulletin with the order of service, to our donate page, and to other resources are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live and on our Facebook page.

Jeanette:

We are so glad you have joined us for worship this day!

We are blessed by the presence of each and every one of you who is here with us physically and by the many more who are joining us online. Will you pray with me?

GATHERING MUSIC

Open Our Eyes

(WOW Worship version)

(Jeanette Harris, Vocal; Marjo Anderson, Piano)

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus; to reach out and touch him and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.

Scriptural References: Matthew 17:8, Luke 24:31, Ephesians 1:17-18

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Word

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

*For the past few weeks we've been hearing
how Jesus has been preaching and teaching and healing and working miracles.
Now we hear how he and the disciples are tired, exhausted, and in desperate need of a break.
But everywhere they go, the crowds follow, so finally they decide to take a little bit of a vacation –
and go to the seaside where no one knows them.
But there they run into someone else in need of a miracle.
As it turns out, maybe she just has a miracle of her own to perform!*

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

MESSAGE

Pastor Marjo Anderson

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

I believe it is a matter of faith to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

**I believe it is a matter of faith
to recognize the equality of all members of God's human family,
to offer thanks & praise for God's beautiful gift of diversity, and to love people
of every race, culture, creed, class, age, ability, gender, sexual orientation and marital status.**

**I believe Jesus Christ came to us to free all people from sin and to make disciples –
people willing to live Christ's discipline of love and justice for all.**

**I believe the Holy Spirit is that power within us
that gives us courage and stamina to face the truth and to live it,
even to die for it, as Jesus died.**

**I believe in the resurrection, the victory over death,
the truth that is life for all in Jesus' name.
Glory be to God, the Three-in-One and One-in-Three:
Life Giver, Pain Bearer and Sustaining Power of Love. Amen**

Thanksgiving

OFFERING

In response to God's grace,
it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings.

If you are watching and are part of another faith community,
we encourage you to give your tithes to your own church first,
and, if in addition to that, you would like to support our work here
at Genesis and at Salem, we would be most grateful.

For those of you here in person today,
there is an offering box to receive your checks made out to Genesis or Salem.
Loose cash may be designated by placing it in an envelope near the offering box.

To give online to Salem,
go to the menu on our website at SalemBridgeport.org and click "donate"
or scan the QR code here in our Sunday worship program
with a QR reader on your smart phone which will take you to that page.

To give to Genesis, find Genesis Gospel Café on your Venmo app.
Let us pray....



OFFERTORY MUSIC

Even Me, Lord

(Jeanette Harris, Vocal; Marjo Anderson, Piano)

1 Lord, I hear of show'rs of blessings, Thou art scatt'ring full and free;
Show'rs the thirsty souls refreshing, Let some drops now fall on me!

Even me, Lord, even me. Let some drops now fall on me!

CCLI Song # 474446

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*
God of all love and all power,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us —
ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.**

Receive them for the sake of the One who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Today for our prayers, Pastor Marjo and I will ask you to pray for certain things and we will leave time for you to do so either silently or aloud.

God, in the silence of these moments,
we lift up before you prayers for the church, the world, and all your dear children.

We pray for your whole church throughout the world, and in particular for our congregations.

In the midst of the storms around us open our eyes to see Jesus....

Give us courage to get out of our boats....

And when we feel like we're sinking, help us feel your hands lifting us up....

We pray for your creation....

We pray for our mission partners, especially today

for KEYS-Kids Empowered with Your Support, and the New Paradigm Theatre....

We pray for the nations and their leaders....

We pray for our Salem and Genesis families...

especially those celebrating their birthdays this week:

Kevyn Jackman, JoAnn McMaster, Laurie Kulakowski, Anita Papp, Dolores Kuczo, and Lisette Vazquez.

We pray for those who are trying to figure out how to educate safely –

school administrators and teachers and students and families, especially....

We pray for all in need:

the lonely...

those who live in fear...

those who face discrimination...

those who suffer anxiety or depression...

those who are frustrated in their search for affordable places to live...

those who have lost jobs and struggle to pay their bills...

those who are hungry...

those who are dealing with the aftermath of tropical storm, Isaias...

those who are suffering from illness or injury,

especially Barbara, Jerry, Andrea, Audry, Diane, Dolores, Dawn, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Jana, Katherine, Liz,
Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve and all we name in our hearts....

We give you thanks, O God, for the saints of the whole church from all times and places,
and for the saints in our lives and in our community whom you have gathered to yourself....

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love,
we pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Sending

BLESSING

May your knowledge of God's power, love and abundance grow each and every day! **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Amazing Grace

Arr John Coates, Jr.

(Jeanette Harris, Vocal; Marjo Anderson, Piano)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun. *(repeat verse 1)*

CCLI Song # 4755360

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Meal

COMMUNION

God be with you!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!

We open them to God and one another!

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and remember that God often speaks most powerfully through those least powerful!

Thanks be to God!

CREDITS

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COMMEMORATION FOR THE WEEK

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153

Thursday, August 20, 2020

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality

who wrote mystical works & criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith.

He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

Announcements

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our buildings have been closed until further notice and indoor in-person worship and meetings cancelled. Pastor Marjo and Salem's Office Manager, Karl, work primarily from their homes but generally come in once a week to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely. Even though our church buildings are closed, if we can help in any way, please know that you can still call Salem's church office at 203-330-3300 and leave a message and your message will be picked up remotely and your call returned. Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 or Jeanette at 203.336.6778.

We are all so grateful! Genesis is grateful to be sharing space with Salem for worship this summer as their parking lot is no longer available during their worship time. Salem is grateful for the use of Genesis' portable sound system for our outdoor worship and for the technical help of Jeanette and her son, Lonnell Lawson, for running the system. Salem is also grateful for the use of 2 different sets of sound equipment belonging to New Direction Ministries – 1 set for our drive-in service, and 1 set for our prerecorded services – and for Pastor Simmonds' continuing help in setting it up.

Summer Worship through Labor Day for Salem and for Genesis will be at 9:30 in the Picnic Grove, weather permitting. If light or moderate rain, we'll have a drive-in service. If a serious storm, we'll meet online via Zoom. No matter what the format we use for the rest of the summer or the fall, we plan to stream via Facebook Live. On Sundays where the service is pre-recorded in the sanctuary it will also be streamed on YouTube. If you can't watch at 9:30 Sundays, video worship services will be saved to Facebook and posted on YouTube so you can watch them later. Closed Captioning will be provided when available. For help turning on Captioning contact Karl or Pastor Marjo.

Salem and Genesis members and friends, don't forget to join us for our virtual coffee hour on zoom! Even though we are having outdoor worship this summer please be aware that there is still online zoom coffee hour at 10:30ish. Pastor Marjo will join as soon as she can after worship but you needn't wait for her. Link is [HERE](#) and also on the calendar on our website, salembridgeport.org, under "Resources". Folks at home can join in of course, and those at worship can join in via the zoom app on their smart phone right from the picnic grove or even on their drive home (safe driving mode hides video but you can still talk and hear).

Laughter is the best medicine – especially in times of uncertainty and stress! And here are 2 opportunities to laugh lots...

Game Night! Every Thursday from 6:00-7:00 we gather online to see what the "Gaming Commission" has planned for us. Sometimes we play Bingo or Scattergories. Sometimes we play Headbands or Trivial Pursuit. Sometimes we act out Charades. But ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS, we LAUGH! For more information, speak with Jeanette or her daughter, Lynnette Lawson. Zoom link will be available on Salem's calendar.

Also next week...Sunday Night Alive returns with AN OUTDOOR CONCERT - "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE"!

Come and Celebrate the last days of summer as we give thanks & praise with local musicians!

6:30-8:00 pm Sunday 23 August (raindate 30 August) Upper Parking Lot and Lawn at 3160 Park Avenue.

Bring a chair or listen from the comfort of your car. Masks & Social Distancing REQUIRED.

Sponsored by: Genesis Gospel Café, New Direction Ministries, and Salem Church.

For more info, go to: SundayNightAlive.org .

Summer Stewardship – Even though our building is closed, our ministries (and the expenses to fund those ministries) continue. We are grateful for everyone who continues to give their tithes and offerings to our work here at Salem. We are also grateful to those who have taken advantage of the opportunity to give online, especially to sign up for regular weekly or monthly donations. Every gift no matter how small is appreciated and will enable us to continue to do God's work in this place. If you'd like help signing up for online giving please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Marjo, Karl, Ray Anderson, Jean Larson, or Nancy Headford.

Health and Safety for those we love – and that means YOU! As we are working very hard to cooperate with city officials and health departments to keep Covid levels low in our state, please remember that unless there is a special need to meet in person, **coffee hour, Bible study, meetings and events will continue to be online only.** Safety protocols (in line with CDC, ELCA, government, health department, and insurance guidelines for all Salem groups and functions) will continue to be recommended by Salem’s Health and Safety Team (Carol Lansing, Eileen Anderson, Dale Danowski, Liz Bales, Nancy Kidwell, and Pastor Marjo) and approved by Salem’s Executive Committee or Council. Even though economic necessity has forced some reopening of businesses, we are in actual fact no safer from the virus now than we were back in March when everything shut down. PLEASE – no matter how safe YOU feel, out of love for one another, wear a mask and physically distance from one another. Thank you!

Ebony and Ivory? Wonder why some of your friends are saying “Black Lives Matter” when obviously all lives matter? Wonder why when we have anti-racism laws, people keep talking about “systemic” or “structural racism”? Wonder why the church is so focused on this issue? If you’re looking for answers to these and other questions, here are some great ways to learn:

1. **Read the 2019 Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent & its accompanying Explanation** at http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Slavery_Apology_Explanation.pdf?_ga=2.119362624.853575714.1565027421-1958052405.1536241629 or go to ELCA.org, scroll down to “Resources”, scroll down to “Racial Justice”, and click on the Declaration to read and/or download.

2. **Listen to this video lecture** by Tom Skinner: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvKQx4ycTmA> . It gives a much more detailed history of slavery in this country than we ever received in our history classes at school, and explains how it was the issue of slavery that created the divide between mainline and evangelical Christians.

3. **Join the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport for the last two weeks of an insightful series, “The Color of Compromise”,** every other Thursday evening this summer (8/27) from 7:30-9:00 as we watch enlightening video clips and engage in meaningful discussion. The book and series outlines the history of how the American churches helped create and continue to maintain racist ideas and practices and outlines the kind of bold action needed to forge a future of equality and justice, including concrete solutions for improved race relations in a racially inclusive church. To register, go to <https://ccgb.salsalabs.org/summerseries/index.html> or go to ccgb.org, scroll down to “Don’t miss the Anti-Racism Summer Series” & click “Register”. For more information about this video series, watch this introduction by Jamar Tisby: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNmm9cvmxmY> *Salem has a few copies of the book, so if you would like to borrow one, please speak with Pastor Marjo.*

4. **Read the book, Dear Church: a Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US** by Lenny Duncan. There have been many explanations for the church’s decline, but Duncan sees a direct correlation between the church’s lack of diversity and its lack of vitality. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, Dear Church offers a bold new vision for the future of the ELCA and the rest of mainline Protestant Christianity and calls everyone – leaders and laity alike – to the front lines of the church’s renewal through racial equality and justice. *Salem has a few copies of the book, so if you would like to borrow one, please speak with Pastor Marjo.*

Need help finding a Salem zoom meeting or need to set one up? Just go to our website at SalemBridgeport.org, click on the Resources tab, then on Calendar. On the calendar just find the day and click on the event and a zoom invitation will appear. Sometimes you may have to click on “(+2 more)” in order to see additional vents that don’t fit in the calendar square. If your Salem committee or 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.

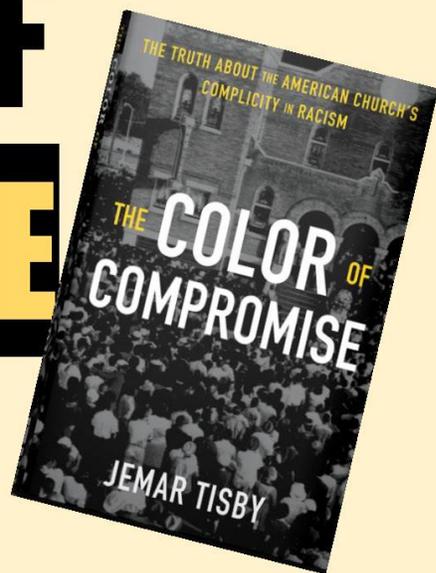
Technology have you stumped? If you’d like some (VERY BASIC!) technology help – like accessing zoom on your iphone, tablet, or pc, or downloading and using the Venmo or Cash app, or anything else, please speak with Pastor Marjo or call or email Karl.



CCGB's Raise the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist Summer Study and Discussion Series

THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE

BY Jemar Tisby



What:

Video Presentation and Guided Discussion

Through five facilitated sessions of video clips and discussion we will be introduced to the “history of how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices.” In the videos Jemar Tisby “outlines the kind of bold action needed to forge a future of equality and justice” requiring us to think through “concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church.” (Amazon and TCOC Video Series descriptions)

When:

Thursday evenings – 7:30 – 9:00 pm

July 2, July 16, July 30, August 13, August 27

Registration:

Complete and submit the form below.

The Zoom link and email reminders will be sent prior to each session.

For More Information about The Color of Compromise Video Series:

Watch this video introduction by Jemar Tisby

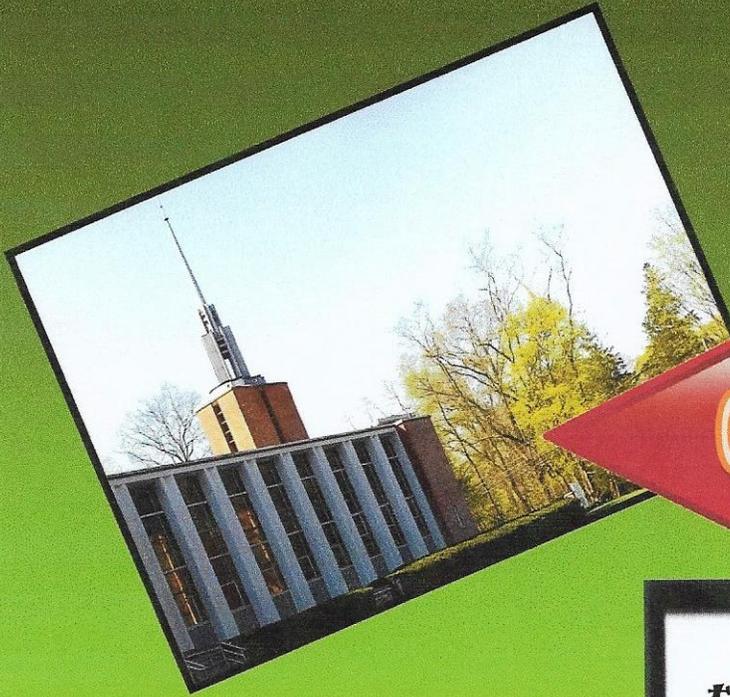
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNmm9cvmxmY>

* Please know that reading the book is not required for participation in this series.



**Make a
Joyful Noise!**

OUTDOOR CONCERT!



**Come and Celebrate
the last days of summer as
we give thanks & praise
with local musicians**

6:30-8:00 Sunday 23 August
(raindate 30 August)

**3160 Park Avenue
Upper Parking Lot & Lawn**

**Bring a chair or
listen from the comfort of your car**

**Masks & Social Distancing
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SundayNightAlive.org**

