



**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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www.salembridgeport.org

www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

**YouTube
Salem Lutheran Church,
Bridgeport CT**

**13th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM 30 August 2020
in the Salem Picnic Grove**

Gathering

WELCOME

Marjo:

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 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, we've had drive-in worship services, including one with Genesis and New Direction Ministries, and this summer Genesis and Salem are worshipping together here in the picnic grove, weather permitting. If at the last minute we get a light to moderate rain, we'll convert to a drive-in service.

And in case of an expected storm, we'll plan to worship via Zoom.

But no matter which way we gather, we will always do our best to stream our service over Facebook Live.

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:

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 Inner-view 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 normally the last Sunday of the month.

Stay tuned for details!

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.

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?

- 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt. This hymn is in the public domain.

Word

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Jeanette “Momma J” Harris and 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

I Love You, Lord

Laurie Klein

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hyBJwTKmQ8>

**I love You Lord and I lift my voice to worship You O my soul rejoice
Take joy my King In what You hear May it be a sweet sweet sound In Your ear**

CCLI Song # 25266

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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

Confident of your care & helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, & all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus.

Set the mind of your church on divine things.

Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Council of Churches' Janus Center for Youth in Crisis, and its ecumenical and interfaith Bridge Building program;

and for those celebrating their birthdays this week,

especially Eduardo Vazquez, Joan Crossman, and Dennis Norberg.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it.

Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do.

As the seasons change, pattern the rhythm of our lives in harmony with all creation.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, you call us to live peaceably with all.

Give us ears to hear one another, even those we name as enemies.

Fill all leaders with mercy and understanding,

that they advocate and genuinely care for those who are poor and most vulnerable in their communities.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of salvation, you promise to deliver us.

Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love.

Accompany those who are uncertain, raise the spirits of those who are despairing, and heal the sick,

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

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer.

Make our congregation a workshop of your love.

When we quarrel, bring reconciliation.

Help us overcome evil with good.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, you give us everlasting life.

In love we recall your holy ones who now live in your undying light.

In our remembering, give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love,

we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

By the power of the Spirit, may your fall in love with the God who loves you! **Amen**

SENDING SONG

"This Is Amazing Grace"

as recorded by Shane & Shane

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

- Verse 1* **Who breaks the power of sin and darkness? Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory the King above all kings!**
- Verse 2* **Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder and leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory the King above all kings!**
- Refrain* **(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace! This is unfailing love
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross!
You laid down Your life that I would be set free!
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me!**
- Verse 3* **Who brings our chaos back into order? Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory the King of Glory!**
- Verse 4* **Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory the King above all kings! (*Refrain*)**
- Bridge* **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy! Worthy! Worthy! (*Refrain*)**

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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 and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in divine grace! **Amen!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, knowing that God loves you totally and completely and perfectly,
and wants nothing more than for you to love God back – with all your heart, mind, soul and body!
Thanks be to God!

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COMMEMORATION FOR THE WEEK

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

Announcements

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, indoor in-person worship and meetings have been changed to outdoor or online formats. 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 sound equipment belonging to New Direction Ministries for our drive-in service and 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).

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.

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 is available on Salem's calendar.

Inner-View Chat'n'Chew meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, 11:00-1:00. It's a time of fun and fellowship that gives us a chance to celebrate the gift that God has given us in one another. Evites are sent out to those on the Genesis mailing list but you can also find the Zoom link on Salem's calendar.

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. The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport invites its members to take the following steps to work for a more just and equitable society:

*Starting on **September 27**, and going at least **through May 20, 2021** we will hold monthly zoom meetings, **the third Thursday of every month from 7:30 to 8:15 PM**. You can register on our [website – https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab](https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab) - & join these conversations to learn more, talk in small groups, & continue to engage in anti-racist work.

*You can take the 21 day [Racial Equity Challenge - https://default.salsalabs.org/T6ccaac28-05da-4baf-88a8-d1c2b9b86893/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab](https://default.salsalabs.org/T6ccaac28-05da-4baf-88a8-d1c2b9b86893/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab) - all by yourself, to continue to learn, reflect, and act. This is a great resource created by the Myers Park Presbyterian Church, in Charlotte, VA.

*Also, here is a [link - https://default.salsalabs.org/Tc340bebd-4d68-4800-b754-7c48a473cd23/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab](https://default.salsalabs.org/Tc340bebd-4d68-4800-b754-7c48a473cd23/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab) - to a document which lists these resources and our recommendations for a number of local and national organizations doing excellent anti-racism and justice work.

2. 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.

3. 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 received in our history classes at school, & explains how it was the issue of slavery that created the divide between mainline & evangelical Christians.

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.*

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!

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.