



**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**



**12th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM 23 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 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 TONIGHT August 23rd from 6:30-8:00 pm – an Outdoor Concert here in the upper parking lot.

The performers will be set up outside the door to the sanctuary, and you are welcome to listen from the comfort of your car or you may bring a chair to sit here on the lawn.

Masks and physical distancing will, of course, be required.

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?

<https://youtu.be/GttTP7sbMaE>

**Holiness, holiness is what I long for.
Holiness is what I need.
Holiness, holiness
is what You want from me.**

**Faithfulness, faithfulness is what I long for.
Faithfulness is what I need.
Faithfulness, faithfulness
is what You want from me.**

**So take my heart; conform it.
Take my mind; transform it.
Take my will; conform it
to Yours, to Yours, oh, Lord.**

**Righteousness, righteousness is what I long for.
Righteousness is what I need.
Righteousness, righteousness
is what You want from me.**

**So take my heart; conform it.
Take my mind; transform it.
Take my will; conform it
to Yours, to Yours, oh, Lord.**

**Oh, so take my heart; conform it.
Take my mind; transform it.
Take my will; conform it
to Yours, to Yours, oh, Lord,
to Yours, to Yours, oh, Lord.**

**Yes, take my heart; conform it.
Take my mind; transform it.
Take my will; conform it
to Yours, to Yours, oh, Lord,
to Yours, to Yours, oh, Lord.**

CCLI Song # 1617154

Scott Underwood

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Word

READING: Romans 12:1-8

¹Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is — what is good, pleasing and perfect.

³In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. ⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members — and these members don't have the same function — ⁵so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. ⁷If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your gift for teaching. ⁸If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Pastor Marjo Anderson and Jeanette “Momma J” Harris

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

Create in Me

performed by Mary Rice Hopkins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9shuiGm_kM

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might be renewed.
So fill me, and heal me, and bring me back to you.
Create in me, a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.**

(Repeat song, pray during musical interlude, repeat last 2 lines, and then repeat last phrase.)

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

Trusting in the love of Christ & the power of the Spirit, we pray for the church, the world & all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; and for those celebrating their birthdays this week, especially David Schulz, Jean Larson, Frank Dukenski, Sharon Norberg, Mark Dollhopf, and Hazel Pasqua. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O God. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care, especially 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.**

You call us into these communities of Genesis Gospel Café and Salem Lutheran Church, the Southern CT conference, the New England Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport & Vicinity – in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead, especially those we name now with our lips or in our hearts. Bring us with them to our heavenly home. 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 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

By the power of the Spirit, may your mind be informed, your heart be transformed, and your will be conformed to show forth the love of Christ. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Build Your Kingdom Here
<https://youtu.be/YcSWpVKKMcs>

Rend Collective

**Come set Your rule and reign In our hearts again Increase in us we pray Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now We are Your church We need Your pow'r in us**

**We seek Your kingdom first We hunger & we thirst Refuse to waste our lives For You're our joy & prize
To see the captives' hearts released The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause We are Your church We pray revive this earth**

**Build Your kingdom here Let the darkness fear Show Your mighty hand Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire Win this nation back Change the atmosphere Build Your kingdom here we pray**

**Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ We are Your church We are the hope on earth**

CCLI Song # 6186078

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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 no matter how different we might be, as members of Christ's body, we belong to each other
Thanks be to God!

CREDITS

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Scripture passages may be from the New Revised Standard Version, The Message, or The Inclusive Bible.

COMMEMORATION FOR THE WEEK

Bartholomew, Apostle

Monday, August 24, 2020

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430

Friday, August 28, 2020

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400

Friday, August 28, 2020

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

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).

Sunday Night Alive returns TONIGHT 6:30-8:00 (raindate 30 August) with AN OUTDOOR CONCERT - "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE"! Come and Celebrate the last days of summer as we give thanks & praise with local musicians in the 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.

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.

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 (last one is this week 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.

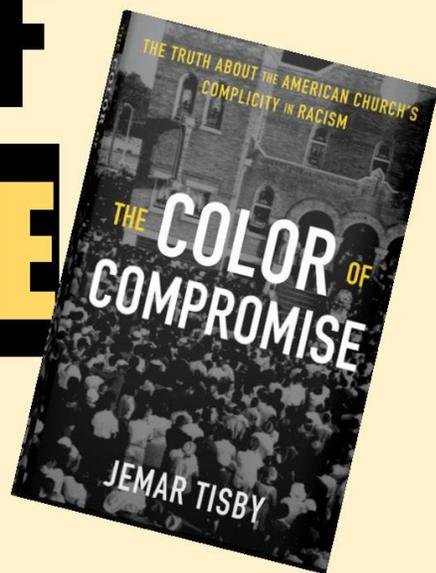
Technology have you stumped? If you’d like some (VERY BASIC!) technology help – like accessing zoom on your iphone, tablet, or pc, or downloading and using the Venmo or Cash app, or anything else, please speak with Pastor Marjo or call or email Karl.



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

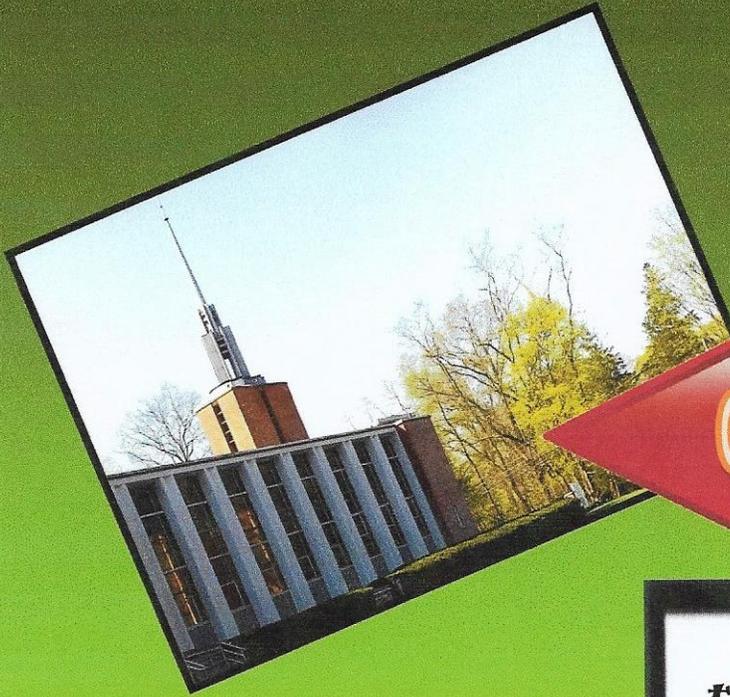
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNmm9cvmxmY>

* 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
REQUIRED**

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

**for more info, go to:
SundayNightAlive.org**

