



**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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**15th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM 13 September 2020
in the Salem Picnic Grove**

Gathering

*As you prepare for worship, here are some additional readings for the day
as well as commemorations for the week at the end of this bulletin.*

READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Pondering their father's death, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph is angry with us and repays us for all the wrong we did him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying: "...we ask you, forgive us our crime..." Joseph wept when he heard this. ¹⁸Then the brothers wept also, and fell down before him, saying, "We present ourselves before you, as your attendants".

¹⁹Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid; is it for me to put myself in God's place? ²⁰You planned evil for me, but God planned it for the good, as it has come to pass this day — to bring about the survival of many people. ²¹So you need not be afraid. I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this manner he assured them with words that touched their hearts.

READING: Psalm 103:1-6, 8-13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and remember all God's kindnesses!

³The One who forgives all your sins is the One who heals all your diseases;

⁴the One who ransoms your life from the pit is the One who crowns you with love and tenderness;

⁵the One who fills your years with prosperity also give you an eagle's youthful energy.

⁶How you love justice, O Lord! You are always on the side of the oppressed....

⁸You are tender and compassionate, O Lord – slow to anger and always loving;

⁹your indignation doesn't endure forever, and your anger lasts only for a short time.

¹⁰You never treat us as our sins deserve; you don't repay us in kind for the injustices we do.

¹¹For as high as heaven is above the earth so great is your love for those who revere you.

¹²As far away as the east is from the west, that's how far you remove our sins from us!

¹³As tenderly as parents treat their children, that's how tenderly you treat your worshipers, O Lord!

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

Ten Thousand Reasons

Jonas Myrin/Matt Redman

Sung by Steve Kuczo

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qsxr6d83k7wum5i/10%2C000%20Reasons%20-%20Steve%20Kuczo.mp4?dl=0>

Refrain: Bless the Lord Oh my soul, oh my soul Worship His holy name
Sing like never before Oh my soul I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass & whatever lies before me Let me be singing when the evening comes (*Refrain*)

You're rich in love And You're slow to anger Your name is great And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing 10, 000 reasons for my heart to find (*Refrain*)

And on that day when my strength is failing The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending 10, 000 years and then forever more (*Refrain*)

Song # 6016351

10000 Reasons lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

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Word

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness,
Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

²¹Peter came up and asked Jesus, “When someone wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?”
²²“No”, Jesus replied, “not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. ²³And here’s why. “The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. ²⁴When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt. At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, ‘I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!’ ²⁷Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt. ²⁸Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ ²⁹Then The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, ‘Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!’ ³⁰But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor’s prison until the money was paid. ³¹When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. ³²The ruler sent for the official and said, ‘You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?’ ³⁴Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full. ³⁵My Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your others from your hearts.”

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Pastor Marjo

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.

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

Grace Flows Down

https://youtu.be/gZdmGVGGH_w

Amazing grace how sweet the sound! Amazing love now flowing down!
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree Grace flows down and covers me.
It covers me. It covers me. It covers me. And covers me.

CCLI Song # 1223050

David E. Bell | Louie Giglio | Rod Padgett

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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

...We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
and for those celebrating their birthdays this week, especially Thomas Larson and Peter Mavilla.

...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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Sending

BLESSING

May the abundance of God's grace transform your life, your relationships, and your world.

Amen

SENDING SONG

As It Is In Heaven

<https://youtu.be/sJXqy6Yo0cY>

*lyrics by Thomas Conroy; music adapted from an Irish folk song and expanded by Thomas Conroy;
performed by Thomas Conroy*

Grace extends from my heart bestowed on me by divinity;
and I love what I have to share. It's the least and the best I can give.
As it is in heaven, let us all forever sing.
Mirrored in the world around us, we become the peace we want to bring.
As it is in heaven, so shall I live.
Through my words and work I do, I extend my grace to you.
As it is in heaven, let my living be a breathing, talking, giving, walking with divinity.

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, and live in grace.
As God forgives and forgets your sins, so forgive and forget the sins of others.

Thanks be to God!

CREDITS

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Announcements

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, Lonell 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 for Salem will be at 9:30 in the Picnic Grove as long as the weather holds. 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).

Lord, Teach Us to Pray! Want to know how to pray? Want to see how prayer can change your life? Need prayer? Then join us each **Wednesday** on zoom at **noon** for a half-hour as we delve more deeply into the Lord's Prayer, and pray for each other's needs. The zoom link will be on the calendar on Salem's website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Tune in to Calumet's Reach the Beach 2.0 Live 24 Hour Broadcast from noon on Thursday 9/18 – to noon on Friday 9/19 – Think "Jerry Lewis Telethon" and you'll be in the know about Calumet's inspiration for RTB 2020. Historical retrospectives, runner biographies, an hourly "D. Guy's Joke-of-the-Day", the Best of Boom Chick a Blog, Max Heaton's one mile Calumet run every hour for 24 hours, the Languedoc Family running the route of the Boston Marathon, Adrien serving as Calumet's special "hourly" correspondent, various synod pastors with a devotion each hour, runners from at least 30 states and at least 5 countries, hourly "Mystery Guest Visitor" to the anchor desk, and all with an eye on celebrating YOU and All Of Us who *ARE* Calumet Nation! 200 Runners will each run 1 leg wherever they are, find at least 5 gifts of support, run during any of the 24 hours, and zoom to the "LIVE Broadcast". **You can help Calumet by: Remembering to tune in, Choosing one way to engage the fun; Telling your "Circle of Friends" about RTB 2.0, Inviting people from your church to tune-in, Sharing a small gift once during the 24 hours, and Praying for Calumet Nation during this challenging time.** As of August 21st, Calumet has 1,671 Donors. The goal for 2020 is 2,650. Be part of the 2,650 and help Calumet hit that donor special goal. Thanks for Remembering, Choosing, Telling, Inviting, Sharing, and Praying. It matters. Boom Chick a Boom!!

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** – and that means **THIS SATURDAY** when the theme will be "Creatively Coping through Covid!" 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 17**, 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> - & join these conversations to learn more, talk in small groups, & continue to engage in anti-racist work.

Our theme THIS THURSDAY is RED LINING & we strongly encourage you to do 2 things to prepare:
- **Listen to this edition of NPR's Fresh Air with Terry Gross, in which she talks with Richard Rothstein about his book, The Color of Law:**

<https://default.salsalabs.org/T1bcea4b7-32a8-4871-bc63-321a507ba107/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab>

- **Read this brief article by Susan Campbell, What Redlining Did to Connecticut's Impoverished Neighborhoods:** <https://default.salsalabs.org/T608ed046-b89f-4c7b-a826-5a6b9bf914f2/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab>

Please feel free to forward this email to anyone who might be interested in attending. I hope you can make it!

*You can take the 21 day Racial Equity Challenge - <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> - 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.*

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.

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!

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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

Sunday, September 13, 2020

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher.

His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth").

Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court.

As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Holy Cross Day

Monday, September 14, 2020

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179

Thursday, September 17, 2020

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

Friday, September 18, 2020

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.