



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*This copy for
those with
hearing challenges*

*All Saints
Sunday*

*November 1,
2020
9:30 AM*



For All the Saints

The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor

marjoanderson@aol.com

203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager

salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

Jennifer Reyes and Pablo Cruz, Sextons

jen92979@optimum.net

203-455-7583

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Telephone: 203-336-3300;

Fax: 203-336-8813

www.salembridgeport.org

www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

*We'll be reading only selected verses of our lessons today in worship.
Here are the full lessons for you to read as you prepare for worship
and to reflect upon later in the week.*

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, *“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, *“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen!”*

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, *“These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Psalm 34:1-9

¹I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

²My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

⁵Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

⁹O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

1 John 3:1-3

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

GATHERING MUSIC

For All the Saints

vss. 1-4

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their fortress & their might; you,
Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one with thee, for victory's thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William Walsham How; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Words & Music are in the Public Domain.

Recording posted by John Wesley Slider at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkaocGFsA6k>

WELCOME

In the name of the living God, welcome to worship!

For those of you who are not here with us physically but are watching out there in cyberspace, I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the United States. While our building 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 we have been worshipping in many and various ways, via pre-recorded services on Facebook and YouTube, online services on Zoom, outside services in the picnic grove with Genesis Gospel Café, & drive-in services by ourselves & with a Pentecostal congregation & a LutherBaptiCostal one, Today we are celebrating with our first indoor in-person worship service in 7 months!

In the coming weeks we will be worshipping sometimes in-person, sometimes via pre-recorded services – like next Sunday when I'm on vacation – and sometimes via Zoom services so that those of us who are able to worship in person can join those who cannot do so in an interactive service complete with communion & singing. No matter how we worship, we plan to stream to FacebookLive post to our YouTube channel.

And here's something to remember:

While there may only be a dozen or 2 of us who actually gather either in person or on zoom, we are only part of a much larger Salem worshipping community. Often over 1000 people check out our worship and hundreds of people watch the whole service, which means we are reaching more people with the gospel now than we have for decades. If you are on Facebook, please share our worship on your page and we will reach even more with the good news of God's love and power!

Links to our donate page & worship bulletin which has both the order of worship & announcements, as well as other resources are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live and on our Facebook page.

While I will be the primary leader, if you would like to read one of the prayer petitions or make an announcement after worship, you may do so from your assigned seat.

Will you pray with me?

Awesome God, we come today to bless you and sing your praise!

Whether we're experiencing strength or strain, balm or bane, peace or pain, we come to magnify you and exalt your name together!

Because of what you have done in the past,

and because of what we are trusting you to do even now,

we come to proclaim your awesome deeds and your boundless love!

Open bodies, souls, hearts, & minds so that we might be see you & hear you & feel your touch.

We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. **Amen**

Word

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹...there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb....

¹⁵...they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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⁵Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

⁹O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

1 John 3:1-3

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God.... ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed....

Matthew 5:1-12

² Then [*Jesus*] ... taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted....

[and Jesus continued, saying that blessed are those who are in need for their needs will be met]

¹² Rejoice and be glad....

Word of God, Word of life!

Thanks be to God!

The Reverend Marjo Anderson

**Revised Common Lectionary – All Saints Day
Revelation 7.9, 15-17, Psalm 34.1-9, 1 John 1.1-2, Matthew 2.2-4, 12**

**1 November 2020
Salem, Bridgeport**

“I Was Down but then God Showed Up”

I didn't live through the Great Depression or through World War II,
so maybe some of you have lived through more stressful times than this, but I certainly haven't.
First we have the pandemic which has thrown our worlds into chaos, stripping away so much of normal life.
Second, there are the conflicts from a personal to a national scale on how to best respond to this virus.
Third, there is the racial injustice that has been made all the more visible because of the pandemic,
and which hits some of our relatives and friends particularly hard.
Fourth, there is perhaps the most contentious election season that we've ever been through.
Fifth, there are the devastating financial consequences of the pandemic that many are facing.
Sixth, we've lost so many of our coping mechanisms –
hugs from friends, visits with friends, trips to the gym, choir practices, and so much more.
And because of all of this stress levels are rising, health and mental health are being affected,
conflict is increasing, addictions are on the rise, our first responders are suffering from PTSD,
and all of us are suffering from what the experts are now calling “pandemic fatigue”,
That's the general stuff that affects us all on some level,
but then there's also the personal challenges we are facing individually or as families.
Throughout these last 7 months, I've been handling things pretty well,
but all of the sudden it just seemed to be too much.

From the beginning, I've had a strong sense that Salem needed to be extra cautious about the pandemic.
At first I totally ignored this sense, but it didn't let up.
Back in September I didn't feel God wanted us to go back indoors, but everyone wanted to,
so I said, “God, I'm sorry, I hear what you're saying, but I can't stop them”.
Two days later I was in the hospital with a collapsed lung, and orders to stay at home for a month.
Then we had our first indoor service and it went fine, but I was still getting the message that it wasn't safe.
We needed air cleaners, but they weren't in the budget,
So I said, “God, I'm sorry, I hear what you're saying, but it's not my decision.
I'd buy the air cleaners myself if I could afford them, but you know the situation, God –
I can't right now.”

There was another message besides the one about keeping Salem safe that I'd been getting as well.
For the past 2 years I felt that God was calling us to become more multicultural –
like our Boy Scout troop has done –
but since the pandemic those efforts have become more and more challenging, and I felt like giving up.
And yet, I had been so sure of what God had said.

Nothing was working out the way I thought it was supposed to. I was so confused. And so exhausted.
So perhaps it wasn't surprising that I woke up last Tuesday feeling like I just couldn't handle it all anymore.
I had slept all night but when I woke up
I was still confused, still exhausted, and on the verge of hopelessness and despair.
I was what Jesus described as “poor in spirit”, so poor in spirit that I just broke down and “mourned” and cried.
I cried for about an hour. I finally told God that I felt like Hagar or Job.
I told God I was dying of spiritual thirst and needed spiritual water or I wouldn't survive.
I told God I was in desperate need of a sign.
I called Jeanette and she told me that if I needed a sign, I'd get a sign.
Heck, if I needed a miracle, I'd get a miracle.

Then it was time to go for my acupuncture treatment to get my lungs back in shape.
As I laid back in the chair, I let the healing music wash over me, as the heat lamp warmed my chilled body.
I focused on my breathing.
I prayed.
And slowly I relaxed into a deep meditative state.
All of the sudden I saw your faces in the pews.
And then amidst your faces, I saw the strong, kind face of a black man I had never seen before.
Then my back pocket buzzed.
It was my phone, vibrating with a call.
My hands and arms were full of needles, so I couldn't answer it.
They'd have to leave a message.

About 10 minutes later my session was over and as I walked out of the office,
I pulled my phone from my back pocket.
There was a message from a man that I had never met, and never ever seen,
but I recognized his name from an online Bible study I'd joined from time to time during this pandemic,
and from some things he had shared, I knew he was a strong, kind, black man.
The message said, "Call me as soon as you can"
I called.
The man said,
"Hi, Pastor Marjo. I know we don't really know each other,
but I want you to know I've been holding you in prayer.
This morning when I was praying, God told me I needed to send my tithe to you.
I admit", he said, "that I questioned whether I had heard right. And God assured me that I had.
So I have \$1000 I need to get to you."
I'm not sure if I have ever in my life been speechless before, but all I could do was sob for joy.
I couldn't get a word out.
I simply cried.
Finally I managed to get out a few words "You'll have ... to give me ... a few minutes" in between sobs.
When I finally got my feelings under control, I said,
"Wow. You don't know what this means to me.
And you don't have to give me any money.
Your call was the answer to my prayer.
I was doubting my call to multicultural ministry, and I asked God for a sign.
Then I had a vision of a black face in the pews, and then you called.
And here is what your call meant to me.
It was God saying to me,
'Don't forget what you've been telling Salem.
Your worshipping community is SO MUCH bigger and wider and diverse than you know.
Just because you can't see the people physically in front of you, it doesn't mean they are not there,
listening to you, and worshipping with you, and praying with you, and praying for you.'
You don't have to give me any money.
You just needed to call.
You – not your money – were God's answer to my prayer."

We talked for quite a while, and we prayed, and at the end, he said,
"I'm sending you the money, because last night you told God you needed it."
For a minute I was stumped, and then I remembered.
I had said, "God, I'm sorry about the air cleaners. I'd buy them myself, but I don't have the money."
But now I did.

I'm here today to tell you that what John of Patmos revealed is true.

As I thought about my vision and the faces in the pews, I couldn't help think of John's vision:

"⁹...there was a great multitude ... from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne ...and worship[ing] ... day and night".

As I thought about the words of my prayer, "I am dying of thirst, God!",

I couldn't help but think of John's words,

"¹⁶They will...thirst no more...¹⁷for the Lamb ... will ... guide them to springs of the water of life".

As I remembered how I cried and cried and cried that morning,

I couldn't help but think of John's words, "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes".

I am here today to tell you that what Jesus promised is true.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted...."

I had cried my eyes out, but God blessed and comforted me.

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

I had been poor in spirit, but when that man called me God showed me heaven on earth.

I am here today to tell you that what the writer of first John said is true.

"²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed...."

After God showed up in such a miraculous way, it is not only clear that I am indeed God's child now,

it's also clear that I there is no way I can predict what else God has in store for me.

All I know is that I'm sure it is much more amazing than anything I can achieve or even imagine on my own.

I am here today to tell you that what we read today is true – not just for King David, but for me!

"⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

⁶This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble."

That is my testimony, my witness, and because of what the Lord has done for me,

I can echo King David's words to you in confidence,

"⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them."

"⁵Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed."

"⁹O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want."

"⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him."

"¹I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth...."

"³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together."

You and I worship an AMAZING God!

There are times when we have our doubts.

There are times when we have our struggles.

There are times when we might even be ready to give up.

Those are the rainy days when we might not be able to see the sun, and yet the sun is still there.

Whatever it is that you need this day, God already knows.

God's just waiting for you to ask.

God comes where invited, and stays where welcomed.

And when God does show up to bless us and fill our need,

then Jesus said there's just one more thing to do:

"¹²Rejoice and be glad!"

REJOICE AND BE GLAD! AMEN! AND AMEN!

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 and praise for God's beautiful gift of diversity, and to love people
of every race, culture, creed, class, age, ability,
gender, sexual orientation & 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**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

As members and friends of Salem Church, let us remind ourselves who we are:

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

In response to God's transforming love, we share our joy through praise and service.

May it be so!

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND REMEMBRANCE OF ALL SAINTS

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us,
we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Individual worshipers are invited to offer the petitions as so moved by the Spirit.

Sovereign Ruler of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs
whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space.
Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us.
We pray for our mission partners,
especially today for New Direction Ministries and Christ Presbyterian Church Fairfield;
and for Salem members and their families,
especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Steve Kuczo and Nancy Kidwell
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sovereign Ruler of every nation, guide this country —
red states and blue states, people of every political party, people of every race & culture,
rural voters and urban voters and suburban voters, young and old —as we participate in a national election.
Kindle in our hearts gratitude for the right to vote
as we carry out our baptismal promises to work for justice and for peace in all the world.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sovereign Ruler of every blessing,
You promise to bless those who live with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution.
It's your work and our hands, so bless us to be that blessing for others.
Grant healing to those who are ill, especially Judy, Andrea, Audry, Barbara, Bud, Jerry, David, Diane, Dolores,
Dawn, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Jana, Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve, and all we name in
our hearts ... [*reader allows time for people to do this*]. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sovereign Ruler of every venture, anoint us with the Spirit and the missionary zeal of the early church.
Make us aware of the miracles that you are doing in our lives
and fill us with enthusiasm to share our testimonies.
Shape congregations into communities of all tribes & nations, gathered to worship & serve you.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are invited to offer your own prayer petition at this time, either silently or aloud.

The pastor continues:

Sovereign Ruler of every time,
countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself.
Comfort us as we grieve all who have died in the past year, especially
those who died from Covid-19, those who died because they had to wait or stop treatment due to the pandemic,
those who have died from racial violence, and those whose pain drove them to suicide.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

On this All Saints Day, we remember all the saints who have gone before us.
We praise and bless you, O holy Trinity.
You have taught us that your church is a communion of saints spanning all time and space.
We thank you for gathering those who faithfully waited in hope for the redemption you promised,
Help us to remember them as an encouragement to live in trust and hope,
and exciting us to love, in anticipation of an eternal reunion.

We remember today especially:

Reinhardt Lange

*God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Psalm 46: 1-2, 4)*

**All those other loved ones whom we mourn this day,
those whose names we speak aloud and those whose names we speak in the silence of our hearts.**

Christ says, Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
and you will find rest for your souls.

The pastor concludes:

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior,
until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you reign for all eternity. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said, “Give & it will be given to you...
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Give us the confidence to cheerfully give our tithes & offerings of time, talent & treasure to your work in this place, trusting that you will provide abundantly for all our needs. We pray this in the power of your Spirit. Amen

OFFERING

In response to God’s grace, it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings. Although our building at 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, CT is closed at present, our ministry continues because of your generosity.

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 Salem, we would be most grateful.

Simply 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.



OFFERTORY SONG

Blest Are They

- 1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the Kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.**

Refrain **Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God!**

- 2 Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. (Refrain)**

- 3 Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God! (Refrain)**

Text (based on Matthew 5:3-12) & Music by David Haas

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Performance by Tom Conroy for Salem Lutheran Church 201101.

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

of cyberspace worshippers

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU & BLESSING

I want to thank each and every one of you who is worshipping with us today, especially those of you out there in cyberspace whom we cannot see.

Know that God drew you to this worship for a reason.

Know that no matter what challenges you face,

God not only has the power to help you,

God loves you enough to use that power in your life.

I hope you will join us again.

And in the meantime,

may you see God this week,

may you hear God's voice,

and may God work in your heart to transform your life

and fill you with peace and hope and joy. **Amen**

End of Livestream

Meal

COMMUNION

God be with you!

And also with you!

Open your hearts!

We open them to God and one another!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

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!

Sending

of physically or zoom gathered worshippers

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, knowing that whatever the need, God is there indeed!

Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

For All the Saints

vss. 5-8

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west; soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But then there breaks a yet more glorious day: the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams
in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William Walsham How; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Words & Music are in the Public Domain.

Recording posted by John Wesley Slider at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkaocGFsA6k>

***To protect our clean-up staff,
please take your worship bulletin home with you.
You will be dismissed by row. Please maintain physical distancing.***

Announcements

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday morning November 15. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the sale of the church property. Details in the weekly email blast, the newsletter, and on our web site. If we are still in Phase 3 the meeting will be held in the church sanctuary and those unable to attend may ZOOM into the meeting. If we are in Phase 2, the meeting will be by zoom. If you are not able to zoom from home, please contact the Church Office as soon as possible.

Don't forget to join us for our virtual coffee hour on zoom at 10:30! Coffee hour continues at 10:30 on Sundays via Zoom. To join, just click on this link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86881604946?pwd=WE1ZkNGd3ZwaU5WS1JTMnlLZ1Ywdz09> - (Meeting ID: 868 8160 4946) (Passcode: 069124) or go to our website: www.salembridgeport.org, click on the Resource Tab, then on calendar, & then on the date & event, and a zoom invitation with link as well as call in information will appear. Remember that even if you don't have a laptop or a tablet or a smart phone, you can join by calling - even from your landline - one of these numbers - One tap mobile: +13017158592,,86881604946# US (Germantown) Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) and entering the ID and passcode.

We'd Love Your Help as We Plan for Advent and Christmas! How on earth do we celebrate Christmas together in the midst of a pandemic? We'd love to plan something that will fill us with such joy that we won't be missing all the things we can't do - like sing Christmas Carols indoors. We'd love to plan something that will be safe for all our members - not just those able to come inside. We'd love to plan something that we can do even if we are suddenly thrust back into Phase 2 and can't meet indoors. But for this we need many creative minds to come together and brainstorm options. If you'd like to join in the fun, please join us on Zoom at **4:00 pm TODAY Sunday, November 1st**. Click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88388872536?pwd=OHhYRCtEQ2h5U2VLTjFLT090M0tYUT09> or you can find the complete zoom invitation at www.SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar .

The Search Is on...for Audio & Video Recordings of Salem's Choir! Do you have an old VHS tape or DVD or other video recording of the Salem Choir? Do you have an old reel-to-reel or 8-track or cassette audio recording? Did you ever film the choir with your phone? Or what about recordings of Lucia or our children's musical productions? We'd love to build up a digital library of Salem's musical treasures. Since singing increases significantly the amount and projection of the aerosols we produce when we breathe or speak, in-person singing is a high-risk activity which we cannot in good conscience allow for the duration of the pandemic. But we would dearly love to enjoy music in other ways. If you have any such recordings, please contact our Office Manager Karl by emailing him (salemsec123@sbcglobal.net) or calling the church and leaving a message (203-336-3300). We will figure out how to convert and copy your recordings so that we can all enjoy them. **We're especially looking for recordings we could use for Christmas or Easter or other special days.**

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.

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.

Sunday Night Alive events continue the last Sunday of the month, normally at 6 pm! There are other exciting plans ahead. Stay tuned!

We are grateful to all who have worked to ensure our safety here at 3160 Park Avenue – our Sextons, Jennifer Reyes and Pablo Cruz; our Health and Safety Team members, Carol Lansing, Eileen Anderson, Dale Danowski, Judi Nielsen, Liz Bales, and Nancy Kidwell; and our safety-trained volunteer Ushers and Greeters, Ray Anderson, Liz Bales, Sandra Brown, John Bryk, Mike Caragol, Nancy Headford, Carol Lansing, Rich Lansing, Tom Larson, Judi Nielsen, Bruce Tomasko, and Bill Winter. Please understand that the reason worship in these days of Covid-19 is different from what we remember pre-pandemic is because we want to keep everyone safe. Temperature checks, proper masks properly worn, and physical distancing are required of all participants; seats are assigned; there is no singing or unison choral reading; communion is “to go”, and to cut down on exposure, we'll be aiming for a 30 minute service. Hear that, Pastor Marjo? ;)

A whole buffet of worship opportunities – just for you! Every single one of us would no doubt like to go back to the way we worshipped pre-pandemic, but sadly that is not a possibility for now. God is GOOD, however, and has provided so many other ways for us to worship. We are grateful that being in Phase 3 allows us to once again gather for worship in the building! At the same time, we know that there will be times when online worship will be needed. There are those in our church family who due to health concerns are not able to gather with us indoors and have requested that we have zoom services sometimes. When the weather is too cold to keep windows open for ventilation or when the roads are too snowy, or if we go back to Phase 2, or if someone worshipping tests positive for Covid and we need to self-quarantine, we'll be worshipping via zoom. When the pastor is on vacation, there will be pre-recorded services on Facebook and YouTube. While each one of us has our preferences, remember that we are a community in Christ who loves and looks out for one another. When we're worshipping your favorite way give thanks! And when we're worshipping in someone else's favorite way, give thanks for that, too!

Online Worship – Online worship is here to stay. Far more people participate in our worship online than come to worship on our property or even join us on zoom. In fact, if you read Pastor Marjo's cover article in the October Spirit newsletter, you'll discover that up to 8 times as many as those gathered physically watch the entire service online, and many weeks we have over a thousand people who at least watch some of it! So no matter what format we use for worship in the future, we plan to stream via Facebook Live. 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 also 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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 we must operate differently in these times, 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.

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 COMMENORATIONS

All Saints Day **Sunday, November 1, 2020**

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century.

All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639 **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed black slave from Panama.

As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru.

He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

John Christian Frederick Heyer, died 1873;

Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, died 1719;

Ludwig Nommensen, died 1918; missionaries **Saturday, November 7, 2020**

Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans.

After teaching at Gettysburg College and Seminary he was assigned to the Andhra region India.

A worker among the Tamil people on the southeast coast of India,

Ziegenbalg was opposed both by local Hindus and by Danish authorities who favored a different missionary style.

He was known for caring about the welfare of the whole person.

Nommensen was born in northern Germany and was sent to Sumatra as a Lutheran missionary.

Working among the Batak people,

he translated the scriptures into their language, and honored their native culture.

75th 
Anniversary
Serving Greater Bridgeport
Since 1945

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SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST, CHRIS COOGAN

A multi-talented entertainer who, as a masterful pianist, composer, performer, teacher, choir director and producer, is rooted in the jazz and gospel traditions

PLEASE RSVP

ccgb.org/virtualfundraiser
Zoom link will be sent to attendees

CAN'T ATTEND?

Consider making an impact by donating at ccgb.org/donate or send in the tear sheet below with your donation



All proceeds from the evening's virtual paddle raise auction will support the vital programs of CCGB
The evening is underwritten by an anonymous member of The Stewards Society

I can't attend the **WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER**, but wish to support The Council of Churches!

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Donation _____ **RETURN TO: CCGB | 1718 Capitol Avenue | Bridgeport, CT 06604**

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

*If you're reading this online, just click on the underlined links for details.
Or go to CCGB.org*

WHY DO WE ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE?

- [Why Advocacy - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

The Council of Churches and our member congregations have prioritized the issues listed below for our advocacy efforts. Policy changes in these areas will have an immediate, positive effect on our communities and the neighbors we serve.

Climate Change

learn about how addressing food insecurity and reducing our food waste can make a huge difference

- [Combatting Food Insecurity](#)
- [Ways to Reduce Food Waste](#)
- [Articles from Earth Day 2020](#)

Criminal Justice Reform

help us pass the Clean Slate bill and give people a real second chance

- [Clean Slate Bill - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

Education Equity

all children in Bridgeport and beyond deserve a quality education

- [Call to Action](#)
- [CCGB's Goals and Initiatives](#)
- [Education Reform - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

Immigration Reform

how shall we "welcome the stranger" with respect and care?

Gun Violence Prevention

"do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is shed" Leviticus 19:16

- [Overview of Resources](#)
- [Do Not Stand Idly By Campaign](#)
- [Congregational Toolkit \(PCUSA\)](#)

Resources on the CT Legislature

Here you can find basic guides, templates and resources for raising your voice and getting involved!

- [Guide to Written Testimony for a Public Hearing on CT Legislation.pdf](#)
- [How a CT Bill Becomes Law.pdf](#)

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.

*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.*

In-Person Indoor Worship Participation Guide

Salem's Health and Safety Committee, Church Council, Pastor, and the Parish Nurses have been working hard during the past months in anticipation of Salem's reopening. Now that Connecticut is in Phase 3, Salem Church will reopen on October 25, 2020. Our parishioners' safety is the utmost importance to us. Our procedures for In-Person Indoor Worship meet all the Phase 3 COVID-19 CT Regulations.

We will be practicing physical distancing, wearing a mask, and following a modified service format. These guidelines will help you to plan and make the most of your in-person experience.

1. Plan to arrive early to attend the worship service to be screened. Doors will open at 9:10.
2. Maintain 6 feet distancing from anyone not living with you.
3. All participants must wear a mask to attend in-person worship. Please bring a mask with you. If you forget, a mask will be provided to you at the entrance door. If you cannot wear a mask or if you feel sick, please do not come for in-person worship and, instead, watch the service online. If you are immune-compromised, you need to decide if you should attend in-person worship.
4. You will enter the church by the open front doors after being screened.
5. Please be prepared to answer the COVID-19 screening questions asked by the Greeters:
 - * Have you traveled out of state in the last 14 days?
 - * Have you had close contact with someone testing positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
 - * Do you currently have any of the following symptoms: fever, chills, cough, difficulty breathing, headache, sore throat, muscle/joint aches, diarrhea, abdominal cramps or nausea, pink eye, or loss of taste or smell?
6. Before you enter the building, your temperature will be taken by a Greeter using a non-contact thermometer.
7. When you enter the church, you will need to use hand sanitizer.
8. Ushers will direct you into the sanctuary.
Please continue to maintain your distance from others with whom you do not live.
9. There will be an offering box at the back of the church.
Offerings may also be made online or mailed to the church office.
10. An usher will hand you a bulletin.
11. You will be directed to your assigned seat by an Usher.
Individuals or family units will be seated six feet apart from others.
Participants will be seated in every other row. Likely, you will not be seated in your "regular" spot.
Ushers will seat parishioners from the front of the church to the back.
12. The service will follow a format that will limit the amount of the congregation's participation.
There will be no singing by the congregation. The congregation will not respond aloud.
13. Upon conclusion of the worship service, Ushers will guide all participants on how to exit the nave, maintaining safe physical distancing. Please wait for the Ushers to direct you.
Exiting will be from the back to the front and through the center aisle. The exit doors will be open.
14. The back usher will pass out the Communion elements. Please do not consume them in the church.
15. Please do not gather in the narthex.
16. Please maintain physical distancing in the parking lot.
17. If you need to use the bathroom, only one person is allowed in the rest rooms at a time.
The restrooms in the Narthex will be available for use.
Please use the sanitizers in the rest rooms to clean up after use.
There will be wastebasket located outside the restrooms for paper towels and sanitizers.
18. No eating or drinking is allowed in the church and, therefore, no coffee hour will follow the service.