



Salem Lutheran Church

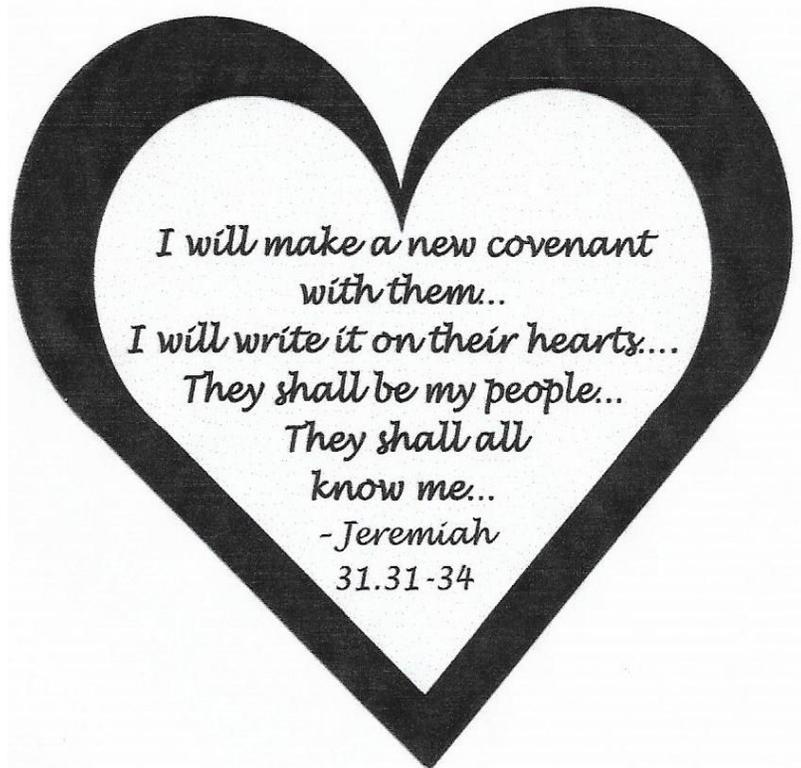
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*This copy for
those with
hearing challenges*

Reformation
Sunday

October 25,
2020
9:30 AM



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 the Old Testament lesson today in worship.
Here are the other lessons for you to read as you prepare for worship
and to reflect upon later in the week.*

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

John 8:31-36

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

*While we will not be reading this Psalm in worship today,
We'll be listening to "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", a hymn paraphrase of the psalm by Martin Luther.*

Psalm 46

- ¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.
⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.
⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
⁸Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;
⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰"Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

GATHERING MUSIC A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*Because of the pandemic, the fact that singing projects aerosols much further than speaking,
and our desire to keep everyone as safe as possible, we ask that you do not sing.
Simply listen to the music, and reflect upon the words.*

**A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old evil for, sworn to work us woe, with dread craft & might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

**No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he! Jesus Christ, our Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**

**Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.
This world's prince may rage, in fierce war engage.
He is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.**

**God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,
wrench our life away, they cannot win the day. The Kingdom's ours forever!**

*Text and Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version, 1978; Tune: EIN FESTE BURG
This Text and Tune are in the Public Domain.*

The Arrangement is Reprinted and Streamed with permission under OneLicense A-727372.

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 hope to be worshipping again in-person, but we will also be having 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 and singing. We'll also be enjoying some pre-recorded services. No matter how we worship, we plan to stream to FacebookLive and later 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 a thousand 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 give you praise and glory!

We thank you that we can come together today in-person to worship you and give you thanks.

Open us – body, soul, heart, and mind –

so that we see and hear and imagine and feel all that you are just waiting to pour into us!

Fill us with your Spirit so that we might know and love you and all that you have made.

We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

Word

READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, Word of life!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

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, 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**

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

With confidence in God's grace and mercy,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

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

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God.
Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it.
Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Camp Calumet Lutheran;
and for Salem members and their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Frank Claus and Katherine Larson.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar,
may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things.
Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land.
Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction.
Grant healing to those who are ill, especially 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.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices
that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death.
Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house.
We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom,
especially Martin Luther and Lenny Duncan and all who work for the renewal of the church.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

The pastor concludes:

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Knowing You

Verse 1: All I once held dear built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own,
all I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now compared to this.

Refrain: Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, there is no greater thing!
You're my all! You're the best! You're my joy, my righteousness
and I love You, Lord, love You, Lord.

Verse 2: Now my heart's desire is to know You more, to be found in You and known as Yours,
to possess by faith what I could not earn, all surpassing gift of righteousness.

Refrain

Verse 3: Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life and to know You in Your sufferings,
to become like You in Your death, my Lord, so with You to live and never die!

Refrain

CCLI Song # 1045238

Words and Music by Graham Kendrick

© 1993 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

Reprinted and Streamed with permission under CCLI License # 11092038

Recording made for Salem by Thomas Conroy

OFFERING PRAYER & DEDICATION OF ANNUAL PLEDGES

Let us pray.

(a brief silence)

Gracious God,

all we have comes from you.

There is nothing we can offer

that you haven't already given us.

Help us to put our trust not in earthly power or wealth

but in the One who reigns over all.

Help us trust your promise

that if we love you above all else,

and commit to you our tithes and offerings,

you will keep us as the apple of your eye

and hide us in the shadow of your wings.

Accept these gifts and pledges

as signs of our gratitude and trust

as we seek to be open channels,

generously sharing your love and blessings

with all the world.

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

of cyberspace worshippers

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU & BLESSING

Before we end our live-stream, I have a few announcements about Zoom events coming up....

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 God's goodness and mercy pursue you every minute of every day!
Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*Because of the pandemic, the fact that singing projects aerosols much further than speaking,
and our desire to keep everyone as safe as possible, we ask that you do not sing.
Simply listen to the music, and reflect upon the words.*

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.**

**That Word above all earthly powers no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!**

This hymn is in the public domain.

*The recording was made at First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, March 26, 2017
and can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9uGNb8Zfic>*

***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

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones by Frank and Grace Dukenski.

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=WE11ZkNGd3ZwaU5WS1JTMnlLZ1Ywdz09> - (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.

Join the fun at our Sunday Night Alive's Murder Mystery Night TONIGHT at 6 pm on zoom! This was one of the events chosen by our Salem/Genesis/New Direction Ministries fellowship last fall, and because the pandemic put the kibosh on an in person event, it's taken us a bit of time to figure out how to do it online. But we've done it and we're ready!! If you'd like to participate in this fun fellowship event you can find the zoom link 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.

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 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 .

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

**Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters
Monday, October 26, 2020**

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war & plague.

Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week.

He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying."

Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith.

Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

We know little about these apostles.

Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists.

Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper

why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day

Saturday, October 31, 2020

By the end of the 17th century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival

commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses,

a summary of abuses in the church of his time.

At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel,

the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

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.

75th 
Anniversary
Serving Greater Bridgeport
Since 1945

JOIN US FOR A **VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER**

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW...

Entertainment + Impact Update + Support our Future

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**