



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Saint Lucia Day

*December 13,
2020
9:30 AM*

*3rd Sunday
in Advent*



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

*Although we will not be using these readings today,
these are those assigned for the Third Sunday in Advent,
and we invite you to read them as you prepare for worship.*

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

- ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
- ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;
- ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
- ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations....
- ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
- ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Psalm 126

- ¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
- ²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them".
- ³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
- ⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.
- ⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
- ⁶Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah”. ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not”. “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No”. ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ” as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

We will not include a time of Offering, but invite you to donate anyway,

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.



*We will not be using our Candlelighting liturgy today,
but we include it on the next page so that you may use it at home if you so desire.*

ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING -- *YR B – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – JOY*

Pastor: Last Sunday we lit the second candle in our Advent Wreath, the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us & to bring to the world everlasting hope & peace.

(Light the 1st and 2nd candles.)

Leader: The third candle in our Advent Wreath is the Candle of Joy. It reminds of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver his people.



Pastor: God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all people – for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Leader: We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life – life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light this candle to remind us that Jesus Christ is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

Pastor: Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*
Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. **Amen**



(Light the 3rd candle.)

ADVENT SONG

“Light One Candle”

Natalie Sleeth

All: **Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev’ry heart, He comes, He Comes!
Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev’ry heart, He comes, He Comes!
Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy,
Ev’ry nation will find salvation in Beth’lem’s baby boy.
Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love,
He brings love to ev’ry heart, He comes, He Comes!
He brings love to ev’ry heart, He comes, He Comes!**

One License Song #25661

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*Performance by The Cherub Choir of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Southern Pines, NC,
Choirmaster/Organist Dr. Homer A. Ferguson III, Pianist Lydia Gill, December 2, 2018.*

at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWXWNZLock4>

We include here also the Prayers of Intercession for your use at home.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world.
Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

God of prophets and preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church
with the work of proclaiming good news.
Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders,
and all people who contribute their prayers and talents in gathered worship.
Embed your word in their hearts.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for CROP and World Vision and Scouts,
& for Salem members & their families, especially for those celebrating their birthday this week:
Landon Jawarski, Susan Murphy, and Nancy Headford.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation.
Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants.
Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all races, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another.
Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern.
Give them a spirit of righteousness, that their actions may reflect your goodness and mercy.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed.
We pray for those who have been displaced from home by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm.
Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response,
and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful & helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak & weary.
Bestow your spirit upon this congregation
and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need.
Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Gather all people in your healing embrace,
especially Andrea, Audry, Barbara, Bud, Jerry, Judy, David, Diane, Dolores, Eron, Grace,
Hazel, Jacob, Jana, Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Millicent Dawn, Ron, Sarah, Steve,
and all we name in our hearts.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief.
We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love.
Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, & receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

HAPPY SAINT LUCIA DAY!

Lucy was one of the earliest Christian martyrs, killed by the Romans in 304 CE because of her religious beliefs. While she was a young Italian woman, she became particularly important in Sweden and Norway and the Swedish-speaking areas of Finland, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year. The day marks the beginning of the Christmas season in Scandinavia, and is meant to bring hope and light during the dark and cold of winter.



Today we have for you a special pre-recorded worship service, “The Best of Lucia” a compilation of recordings from various Lucia programs held at Salem throughout the years. Whether you or your children were part of these programs or whether you attended them, whether Lucia celebrations have been a part of your life or whether it is the first time you’ve seen one, we hope you will enjoy it.

Because the program is an hour long, we will not be including any other liturgy in today’s worship, but instead have included today’s scripture readings, Advent Candellighting liturgy, and Prayers of Intercession in this bulletin for your use at home.

Thank you for joining us today.

Our online Video Advent Calendar continues each day on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport ,

so please tune in to hear the Christmas story in 12 parts with music, art, poetry, and more on the days in between.

And don’t just tune in, please share the videos with all your friends on facebook!

Next Sunday 12/20/20, we worship on zoom and focus on the story of Mary.

On Christmas Eve, we gather in our parking lot at 7 pm for a drive-in service filled with carols and the story of Christmas,

and then invite you inside (masked and appropriately distanced)

for a brief service of Holy Communion and Candlelighting.

Then we will proceed back outside and close our worship

by singing together (for the first time since the pandemic!) “Silent Night”.

We hope to see you on zoom next Sunday and in the parking lot on Christmas Eve.

Announcements of upcoming events –

like our Wednesday noontime Prayer Meeting and our Thursday evening Game Night at 6:00 – and links to our Donation Page and other resources can be found at: SalemBridgeport.org/Live .

“The Best of Lucia”
(Years 1987, 1989, 1995, 2006, 2007, 2013)

Prologue	1989
Lucia Of Sicily With The Monks	1989
The Story Of Lucia	1989
‘Twas The Twelfth Of December	1989
Ritsch, Ratsch <i>(Swedish Children)</i>	1989
Yuletide Is Here Again <i>(Swedish Children)</i>	1989
When Lights Are Lit <i>(Swedish Children)</i>	1989
Houses Are Gay <i>(Swedish Children)</i>	1989
Poems	1989
Santa Lucia / Saint Lucia	1989
Göder Afton / Good Evening	1989
Nattsvart Grynings Väktan Står / In the Blackest Part of Night, Dawn Awaits	1989
Var Hälsad, Sköna Morgon Stund / All Hail To Thee, O Blessed Morn! <i>(Lucia & Attendants)</i>	2007
Barnatro / Childhood Faith <i>(Maddy Robertson)</i>	2007
När Juldagsmorgon Glimmar / When Christmas Morn Is Dawning <i>(Christine & Katherine Larson)</i>	2007
Nu Är Det Jul Igen / Yuletide Is Here Again <i>(Tomtar)</i>	2006
Sju Vackra Flickor / Seven Pretty Girls <i>(Lucia & Attendants, Swedish Girls Dance)</i>	1995
Jul, Jul, Stralande Jul / Christmas, Glorious Radiant Christmas <i>(Lucia - Tiny Poynter)</i>	1989
Nu Tändas Tusen Julejus / 1000 Christmas Candles Are Now Being Lit <i>(Kristina Andrews, Rachel Mastrione, Alicia Sokoloski)</i>	1995
Nu Ha Vi Ljus Har I Vart Hus / Now We Have Light In Our House <i>(Lucia and Attendants, Swedish Girls Dance)</i>	1987
Tryggare Kan Ingen Vara / Children Of The Heavenly Father <i>(Swedish Children)</i>	1987
Tomtarnas Julnatt / The Gnomes’ Christmas Night <i>(Tomtar)</i>	1987
Vinter Sång / Winter Song <i>(Jan LaRose & Tina Poynter)</i>	1989
Staffan Var En Stalledräng / Stephen Was A Stableboy <i>(Swedish Boys (Including John Bryk & Randy Lansing))</i>	1989
Hosianna, David’s Son / Hosanna, David’s Son! <i>(Lucia & Attendants)</i>	2006
Julsång / Christmas Song <i>(Lucia & Attendants)</i>	2013
O Helga Natt / O Holy Night <i>(Katie Adams)</i>	2013
Vi Komma Fran Pepparkakeland / We Come From Ginger Cookie Land <i>(Swedish Children)</i>	2013
Are Ske (A Round) – Glory to God in the Highest <i>(Lucia & Attendants)</i>	1995
Stilla Natt / Silent Night <i>(Entire Cast)</i>	1995
Välkommen Til Kaffe / Welcome To Coffee	1995
On This Day Earth Shall Ring <i>(Entire Cast)</i>	1995

Announcements

There are many ways to find the zoom link for worship and all other Salem events. The most reliable way is to go to our website - www.salembridgeport.org, choose the Resource tab, and click on Calendar. Then on the calendar, go to the day, the event, and when you click on it, it will open the zoom invitation. You can click on the link or copy and paste it into your browser. To see how to do this, [click here](#) :

We also include the zoom links in our weekly email blasts, and in this announcement section of our Sunday bulletin. You can find links to Sunday worship materials like the bulletin, sermon, and donate page at www.salembridgeport.org/live . Or to see how to do it, [click here](#) :

To join today's zoom worship at 9:30 just click on this link –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82586283567?pwd=c3hwV1g5eFVYU3RwQ3ZzSEQyRzc5Zz09>

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 us each day on Facebook as we count up the 24 days to Christmas! On odd numbered days we tell the Christmas story in 12 parts, and on even numbered days we have surprise gifts – just for you! We are grateful to everyone who participated in our Sunday Night Alive recording session last Sunday and to those who have recorded things on their own for this project. Sandra Brown, Bill Winter, Grace Dukenski and Bruce Tomasko are among our readers, and other members of Salem and Genesis Gospel Café, along with friends from New Direction Ministries and elsewhere have contributed gifts of music, poetry, prayer, art, humor, and so much more. Each day when you open the door, know that along with the story or gift inside is something far greater – the promise that the God of all creation comes to you in the person of Jesus Christ through the power of the Spirit!

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.

Salem and Friends Prayer Gathering & Take-out Breakfast, sponsored by the Salem Men, is held outdoors in the picnic grove on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00.

The 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!

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.**

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. Even if we get to Phase 3, 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 are in Phase 1 or 2, or if someone worshiping 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, 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 COMMEMORATIONS

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

Monday, December 14, 2020

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

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 is a document that explains how a CT bill becomes law:

- [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.*