



Salem Lutheran Church

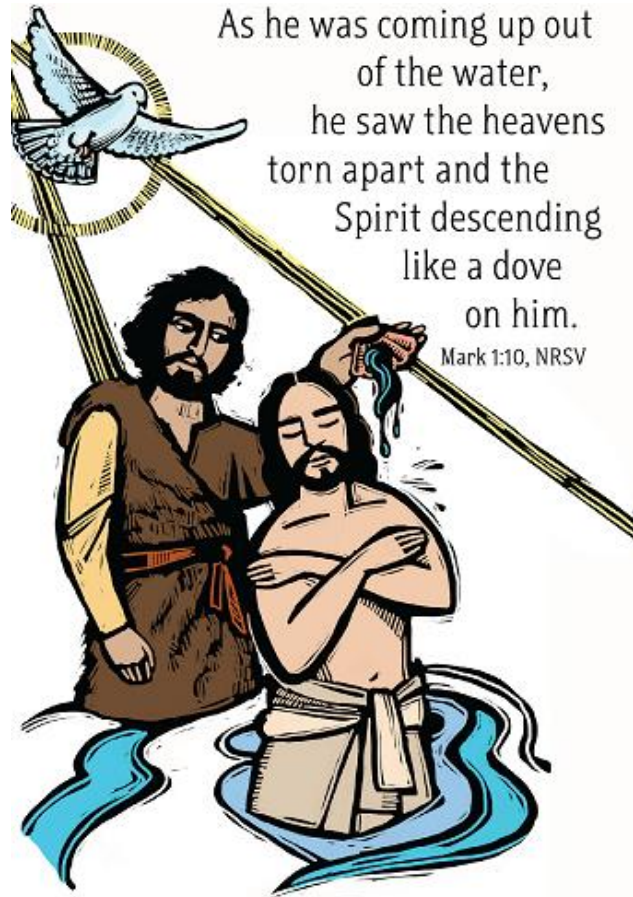
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant copy

*2nd Sunday
after Epiphany*

*January 17,
2021
9:30 AM*



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[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

Although we will not be using these readings today, they are those assigned for the Baptism of Jesus, and we invite you to read them as you prepare for worship.

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit”. Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism”. Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus”. On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1:4-11

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”...

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with^[e] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

WELCOME

1. **Longing for light, we wait in darkness, Longing for truth, we turn to you,
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see,**

Refrain: **Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

2. **Longing for peace, our world is troubled, Longing for hope, many despair,
Your word alone has pow'r to save us, Make us your living voice. (Refrain)**
3. **Longing for food, many are hungry, Longing for water, many still thirst,
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (Refrain)**
4. **Longing for shelter, many are homeless, Longing for warmth, many are cold,
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (Refrain)**
5. **Many the gifts, many the people, Many the hearts that yearn to belong,
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. (Refrain)**

Text: based on Matthew 5:14, John 1:9, 3:19, 8:12, 9:5, 12:46, 2 Corinthians 4:6; Bernadette Farrell; Meter 9 8 9 6 & refrain

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT; Bernadette Farrell

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Performance by Marjo Anderson, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT, USA

Word

READING: Acts 2.1-13

^{2,1}When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

READING: Luke 3.7-17

⁷⁻⁹When crowds of people came out for baptism because it was the popular thing to do, John exploded: “Brood of snakes! What do you think you’re doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to deflect God’s judgment? It’s your *life* that must change, not your skin. And don’t think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as ‘father.’ Being a child of Abraham is neither here nor there—children of Abraham are a dime a dozen. God can make children from stones if he wants. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? Because if it’s deadwood, it goes on the fire.”... ¹⁵The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, “Could this John be the Messiah?” ¹⁶⁻¹⁷But John intervened: “I’m baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations,
let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

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

We pray for the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel,
that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for food pantries and community suppers
at Golden Hill United Methodist church and elsewhere; & for Salem members & their families,
especially Kristin Schulz, celebrating her birthday this week.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the well-being of creation, for plants and animals,
and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals,
for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments,
that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those lacking food or shelter, for those who are imprisoned or homebound,
and for those who are sick or grieving, especially Andrea, Audry, Barbara, Bud, Jerry, David,
Diane, Dolores, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Jana, Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah,
Steve, and all we name in our hearts, that God console all who suffer.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our congregations, for those absent from our assembly,
and for those who worship you faithfully whether on zoom, Facebook, YouTube or in-person,
that all who seek to know God more are filled with the Spirit, hearts set ablaze.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us,
that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action,

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:

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent,
for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said, “Give and 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 and offerings of time, talent and 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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

VIDEO with Lyrics

- 1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us!
Shine on me! Shine on me!**

Refrain:

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory! Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire!
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace & mercy! Send forth your word, Lord, & let there be light!**

- 2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood, I may enter your brightness. Search me, try me, consume all my darkness!
Shine on me! Shine on me! (Refrain)**

- 3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory: mirrored here, may our lives tell your story!
Shine on me! Shine on me! (Refrain)**

Text: based on Isaiah 60.1-11, Matthew 17.1-9, Mark 9.2-9, Luke 9.28-36, 2 Corinthians 3.12-18;

Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; Meter 9 9 10 10 3 3 and refrain; Music: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE; Graham Kendrick and Mark Hayes

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Performance by musicians of Tabor Lutheran Church, Branford, CT:

Charles Stack, keyboard; Kiersten Bjork, alto; Lane Shoemaker, soprano

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

SENDING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

VIDEO with Lyrics

Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938; Meter PM

Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING; J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance by Abyssinia Baptist Church, New York, NY

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGaEV_ir3KQ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU and BLESSING

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!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, and may your heart be filled with such overwhelming joy
that others want what you have found. **Thanks be to God!**

Announcements

Welcome, everyone, to worship! This Sunday, as we welcome folks from our sister congregation Tabor in Branford to worship, we feature the song, "Shine, Jesus, Shine", performed by their musicians, Charles Stack, keyboard and Kiersten Bjork and Lane Shoemaker, vocalists. We also feature the hymn, "Christ, Be Our Light", performed by Pastor Marjo on the organ at Salem (back when she could sing!) Whether you are from Salem or Tabor, whether you have worshipped with us before or this is your first time, whether you are worshipping with us in real time or at another, we are excited to welcome you to worship.

A GIFT of the Pandemic: Evangelism Made Easy! We used to have all kinds of reasons we couldn't bring family members or friends to church, many of the reasons involving distance or timing. But one of the GIFTS that God has given us along with the pandemic is FREEDOM to spread the gospel around the world! We are no longer limited within our church walls or bound to any geographical area! And that means that you can invite ANYONE from anywhere around the world to come to worship with you! "But they wouldn't be interested", you say? Well, the truth is more people participate in our worship online than come to worship on our property or even join us on zoom. One of our services currently has had 1.6K views, many services have had hundreds watch the entire service, and every Sunday we have far more watch online than actually gather on zoom. So what on earth are you waiting for? INVITE A FRIEND TO WORSHIP!

On Sunday mornings we are opening Salem as a Zoom location for those Salem members who don't have the capacity to zoom or watch the online service from home. We are grateful to our parish nurse, Carol Lansing, for being there to ensure that CDC guidelines are followed so we can keep attendees as safe as possible. And we are also grateful to Richard Lansing and Bill Winter for contributing their technical expertise to bring the Zoom or Prerecorded Service right into the sanctuary.

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=WEl1ZkNGd3ZwaU5WS1JTMnllZlYwdz09> -

(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.

Mid-Week Wednesday Worship through Prayer! If ever we needed prayer, it's now! Agreed? While we can (and should!) pray on our own, scripture teaches us that there is power in group prayer. Jesus says, "I tell you truly that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven." Author Frank Peretti writes that it is our prayers that empower the angels to fight the spiritual battles which are where the real battles are fought and won. If there is something you or your family or congregation needs, then the more people you have praying for it, the more power that prayer wields. You don't have to pray out loud, if you don't want to, but your presence with us will mean more than you know. So please, join us on **Wednesdays at noon** on zoom for a half-hour as we turn our worries and cares over to the Lord in prayer. The zoom link will be on the calendar on Salem's website at

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport invites you to join them on zoom this **Thursday, January 21st from 7:30-9:00 pm** for their 5th session in their monthly **Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) Series!** This month's focus is on **Voter Suppression**. Here is the Zoom link:

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82814412076?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=8e0de995-47c5-48d7-8c60-0d757975bfd4#success>)

or you can call in: 929-295-6099. The meeting ID is 828 1441 2076.

Given the chaotic events of the past couple of months, and the inauguration on Wednesday, this is an important conversation!

Here are the materials we ask you to review ahead of time:

1. PublicIntegrity.org Analysis - ANALYSIS: NEW & AGE-OLD VOTER SUPPRESSION TACTICS AT THE HEART OF THE 2020 POWER STRUGGLE
2. Video (7:31 mins) Gerrymandering: The Man Who Rigged America's Election Maps 538
3. Article: Republicans Won Almost Every Election Where Redistricting Was At Stake

On January 31st, instead of Coffee Hour, we will have an Adult Forum on the 2021 budget.

Sunday Night Alive events continue the last Sunday of the month, our next one taking place on **January 31st at 6:00 pm on Zoom**. We'll be watching the second half of our hour-long video, "The Gifts of Christmas", a compilation of the readings and the gifts that were shared as part of our Video Advent Calendar. If you didn't get to see all of our daily video posts this month, this is your chance to catch up. And even if you didn't miss a day, you won't want to miss this chance to gather together on zoom to remember, to celebrate, and to share some laughter and love. You can find the link on our website, SalemBridgeport.org, by clicking on the Resources tab, then Calendar, and then going to the event. Or you can simply click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINEliYlFVd1RnYlIhQT09>

On February 7th, we will have the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting with Opening Devotions and Closing Prayer in place of worship at 9:30.

Covid vaccines are here!

From your Parish Nurse Carol: God has sent us a lifeboat in the form of a Covid-19 vaccine. Please, when it is your turn to receive this vaccine, take your shots! This can save your life as well as those around you. If you have any concerns about taking the vaccine, call your doctor or your parish nurses.

And from Dale Danowski, Regional VP Patient Care Services, St. Vincent's: I hope you are all doing well and join me in the optimism for a brighter, healthier New Year! Our system (Hartford Healthcare) will be assisting "seniors" in signing up for the vaccinations beginning next week. Please check out the HHC website (below) for a link to sign up for an appointment at multiple locations. I am always available if anyone needs additional info. <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/health-wellness/coronavirus/vaccine>

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 am**.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raising the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist series continues on the 3rd Thursday each month from 7:30 to 8:15 pm. You can register on their website –

<https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab>
- and join these conversations to learn more, talk in small groups, and continue to engage in anti-racist work.

Inner-View Chat'n'Chew meets the **3rd Saturday of the month at 11:00**. 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. The theme for Evites are sent out to those on the Genesis mailing list but you can also find the Zoom link on Salem's calendar.

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 to God for the technology that still allows us to worship via Zoom services in real-time, or 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 will be the norm until it is deemed safe to once again gather in-person indoors. *Salem members, if you are not able to join us online from your home, please contact either me or our parish nurse so we might facilitate your participation.* Perhaps we can loan you a digital tablet and teach you to use it, or provide a place for you to safely watch our service outside your home. No matter how we worship, we'll stream to FacebookLive and post to our YouTube channel.

Health and Safety for those we love – and we love YOU! As we are working very hard to cooperate with city officials and health departments to lower the Covid rate in our state, please remember that unless there is a special need to meet in person, worship, coffee hour, Bible study, meetings and events will be online only. The more we (each of us individually and all of us collectively) do our part to stop the spread of the virus, the sooner we will get through it, and the fewer casualties we will have. Our goal is to keep everyone of our members and their loved ones healthy and safe. If you are not able to use online technology, please, PLEASE, let Pastor Marjo or Karl Kraft or Carol Lansing know, so that we can figure out how to keep you connected to your Salem family.

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 up 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 get there, [click here](#):

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.

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.

Stewardship – Even though our building is closed, our ministries (and the expenses to fund those ministries) continue. We are grateful for everyone who continues to give their tithes and offerings to our work here at Salem. We are also grateful to those who have taken advantage of the opportunity to give online, especially to sign up for regular weekly or monthly donations. Every gift no matter how small is appreciated and will enable us to continue to do God's work in this place. If you'd like help signing up for online giving please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Marjo, Karl, Ray Anderson, Jean Larson, or Nancy Headford.

Did you enjoy The Best of Lucia? We're happy to provide other special online worship experiences if you have old VHS tapes or DVDs or other video recordings of the Salem Choir to share. Or maybe 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 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 use in Lent, Holy Week, Easter,** or other special days.

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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356

Sunday, January 17, 2021

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers,

Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit.

Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier.

He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community.

His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Confession of Peter

Monday, January 18, 2021

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God."

This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week

in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland

for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him.

Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.

Agnes, martyr, died around 304

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome.

The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword.

The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

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.*