



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

participant

*The 1st Sunday
in Lent*

*February 21,
2021
9:30 AM*



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

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

Gathering

We invite you to reflect on these readings for the 1st Sunday in Lent as you prepare for worship.

Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Psalms 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love & faithfulness to those who keep your covenant & your testimonies.

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Our Covid protocols prohibit singing, but we urge you to pray the hymn texts in your head.

GATHERING MUSIC

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

ELW # 319

**O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust in God's eternal word.**

**Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.**

*Text: based on Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13, based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898;
para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress,
Text Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House, Meter CM*

*Music: CONSOLATION by A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003,
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House)*

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WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.
Amen

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the power of the Spirit,
your sins are ✠ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.
Amen

Word

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

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 & 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.

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.



OFFERTORY SONG

Out in the Wilderness

Worship & Praise # 115

Driven by the Spirit out in the wilderness; driven by the Spirit out in the wilderness;
when the Spirit says, "Go," you can't say, "No". You listen for the voice when you're bended low;
driven by the Spirit out in the wilderness.

Tempted by the devil out in the wilderness; tempted by the devil out in the wilderness;
though you try to be strong, it's been so long. He whispers in your ear and you know he's wrong;
tempted by the devil out in the wilderness.

Angels all around you out in the wilderness; angels all around you out in the wilderness;
you are far from home where wild things roam. There's danger ev'rywhere but you're not alone;
angels all around you out in the wilderness.

"You are my beloved" out in the wilderness. "You are my beloved" out in the wilderness.
When you were baptized you realized you'd heard the voice of God from the op'ning skies:
"You are my beloved" out in the wilderness.

Text: Jay Beech; Music: OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, Jay Beech; Text & Music: © 1999 Jay Beech. Augsburg Fortress, Reprinted/Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time.

Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance;
teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land;

and for Salem members and their families, especially those celebrating their birthdays this week:

Pablo Cruz, Scott Luciani, Judy Albers, and Katie Adams.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature.

Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction.

Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world,
that they may maintain justice for the lowly.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands.

Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer.

We pray especially for Andrea, Audry, Barbara, Bud, Jerry, Diane, Dolores, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Jana,
Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve,

and all we name in our hearts.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children.

Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others.

Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness.

Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU and BLESSING

SENDING SONG

The Glory of These Forty Days

ELW # 320

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant, O God, that we may, too, return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: based on Deuteronomy 9:8-21, Daniel 1, 6, Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13,

Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt., © Oxford University Press, Meter LM

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

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Meal & Dismissal

for gathered worshippers

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.
May the light of Christ shine in your heart for all the world to see!
Thanks be to God!

Announcements

Today's Worship will be streamed to Facebook Live (our FB page = Salem Bridgeport)

Wednesday at 12:00 noon Prayer Gathering at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3elI2ZmtiZEpadz09>

Meeting ID: 828 8277 7326 Passcode: 688740

One tap mobile +13017158592,,82882777326# US (Washington DC)

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 pray for each other's and the world's needs.

Lent 2021

Midweek Series – Lenten Adventures in Prayer – on zoom for area Lutheran churches

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89939840751?pwd=amIvTnJIU1c5MWlIOFozcUtTVnJuQT09>

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm or Thursdays at 10:30 am

Week 1 (**Feb 24/25**) – The **Y** is for WHY Pray?

Week 2 (**March 3/4**) – The **P** is for PAUSE!

Week 3 (**Mar 10/11**) – The **R** is for REJOICE!

Week 4 (**Mar 17/18**) – The **A** is for ASK!

Week 5 (**Mar 24/25**) – The **Y** is for YIELD!

Maundy Thursday – 7:30 pm April 1st – most likely we'll have a drive-in worship for area Lutheran churches held at Our Saviour's Church, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield,

Next Sunday's Worship with Adult Forum is at 9:30 at this zoom link:

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

Meeting ID: 825 8628 3567 Passcode: 792383

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+13126266799,,82586283567# US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

NEXT Sunday, 02/28, at 6 pm please join us on Zoom for Sunday Night Live!

On this last day of Black History Month, we'll feature Stories of Faith and much more.

You won't want to miss this chance to gather together! The link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINeliYlFVdIRnYlIXQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780

The 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 is our Salem and Friends Prayer Gathering & Take-out Breakfast, sponsored by the Salem Men. After our usual interesting discussion and prayer, we'll be continuing our clean out of the building in preparation for the sale of our property. Prepackaged snacks and coffee will be available outside.

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

<https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab>

and join these conversations to learn more, talk in small groups, and continue to engage in anti-racist work.

Connecticut residents over 65 can now begin making appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. For more information, find this bulletin online at SalemBridgeport.org/LIVE and [click here](#).

The Inner-View Chat'n'Chew meets (the 3rd Saturday of the month) at 11:00 on Zoom. 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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5984687293> Meeting ID: 598 4

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+13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)

Upcoming Worship – On the worship front, the plan is to have in-person worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, subject to continued low Covid rates, member compliance with safety protocols, weather, etc. Should an in-person service need to be canceled for any reason, we will notify folks via FB and email. The 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month will normally be zoom services. Pre-recorded services will be used on Synod Sundays and when I am taking vacation or continuing education time.

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!

No matter how we worship, we'll stream to Facebook Live and post to our YouTube channel. ***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.

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 CC contact Karl or Pastor Marjo.

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, find this bulletin online at SalemBridgeport.org/LIVE and **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.

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.

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.**

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.*



MIDWEEK LENTEN ADVENTURES IN PRAYER

TWO DAYS/TIMES
WED 7:30 PM
THU 10:30 AM

- Week 1 (Feb 24/25) - The **Y** is for **WHY** Pray?
- Week 2 (March 3/4) - The **P** is for **PAUSE!**
- Week 3 (Mar 10/11) - The **R** is for **REJOICE!**
- Week 4 (Mar 17/18) - The **A** is for **ASK!**
- Week 5 (Mar 24/25) - The **Y** is for **YIELD!**

"Y PRAY?"



Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89939840751?pwd=amlvTnJlU1c5MmMlOFozcUkTVnJlUjQ09>