



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*for those with
hearing challenges*

*The Second
Sunday in Lent*

*February 28,
2021
9:30 AM*



Why Pray...?

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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

Here is the full text of our main reading for today.

Main Reading: Acts 10

¹In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. ²He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. ³One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." ⁴He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; ⁶he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside." ⁷When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, ⁸and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

⁹About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹²In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." ¹⁵The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁶This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. ¹⁸They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are searching for you. ²⁰Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them." ²¹So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?" ²²They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." ²³So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him. ²⁶But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." ²⁷And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; ²⁸and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. ²⁹So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?"

³⁰Cornelius replied, "Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. ³¹He said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³²Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' ³³Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say."

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days..

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633
Monday, March 1, 2021

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest.

He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life."

He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor.

Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England.

Charles was also a prolific hymn writer.

After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

GATHERING HYMN Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright

ELW # 745

**Lord, teach us how to pray aright, with rev'rence and with fear.
Though dust and ashes in your sight, we may, we must draw near.**

**We perish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
And when to meet you we prepare, Lord, meet us on our way.**

**Give deep humility; the sense of godly sorrow give;
a strong desire, with confidence, to hear your voice and live;**

**Faith in the only sacrifice that can for sin atone;
to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ alone.**

**Give these, and then your will be done; thus strengthened with all might,
we, through your Spirit and your Son, shall pray, and pray aright.**

*Text: based on Genesis 18:27, Psalm 51:17, Luke 11:10, 2 Corinthians 7:10, Ephesians 6:18,
by James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., Meter CM*

Music: SONG 67 by Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God from whom and with whom and to whom we journey!

Thank you for joining us today!

Thank you, members of Salem!

Thank you, others who are here with us in the zoom room!

Thank you, to those of you out there in cyber space, wherever – and whenever! – you are!

For those of you who don't know me,

I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT.

While our offices are closed at present, you can always find us at our website:

SalemBridgeport.org,

on our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,

and on our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin

which has both the order of worship and announcements, as well as other resources

are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

A week ago Wednesday we began our Lenten journey

towards the great Three Days of Jesus' death & resurrection.

The traditional disciplines are confession, prayer, and works of love.

This year we include confession and forgiveness each Sunday

and our main focus will be on prayer.

And so, let's pray:

Loving God, you created us for relationship –

relationship with you,

relationship with other people,

and relationship with all of your creation.

As you walked with Adam and Eve in the garden,

so you come to meet us day after day, hour after hour, moment after moment.

Draw us into ever deepening relationship with you

that we might become more aware of Your presence

and that we might experience the glory of Your goodness.

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

Amen

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 Holy Spirit,
your sins are ✠ forgiven,
and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen

Word

READING: Matthew 21.21-22

¹⁸In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once. ²⁰When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" ²¹Jesus answered them, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea'. it will be done. ²²Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

READING: Acts 10.9-48, selected verses

10 ¹ At Caesarea there was a [Gentile] man named Cornelius.... ² He and ... his family were devout and God-fearing; he ... prayed to God regularly. ³ One day...he had a vision. He...saw an angel ... who came ... and said, "Cornelius!...Your prayers...have come...before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man ... called Peter.... ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius...sent...[men] to Joppa.

⁹[Meanwhile]...Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat". ¹⁴ "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." ¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean".

¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ ...go with them...."

²³... Peter... [went] with them.... ²⁴...[When] he arrived ... ²⁸ He said ... "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.

³⁰ Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me ³¹ and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer.... ³² Send to Joppa for Simon ... called Peter.... ³³ So I sent for you immediately.... Now we are all here...to listen...."

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak.... ⁴⁴ While Peter was ... speaking ... the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." ⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ....

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

READING: Luke 18.1-5

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent'. ⁴ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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

Your gift of grace is for all people.

Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly.

Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for

the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Janus Center for Youth in Crisis,

and its ecumenical and interfaith Bridge Building program

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

Carlee Claus, Bonnie Baronavski, Lowell Claus, and Jeanette Harris.

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

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation.

Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being.

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

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations.

Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine.

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

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression, especially our brown and black siblings.

Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all 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....

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

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations.

Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance.

Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted.

Equip ministries and services to families.

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

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory.

Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you.

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:

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 & 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 Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying

ELW # 752

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yh9ivThjOz4>

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: based on Psalm 5:1-3 & 1 Peter 3:12 by Ken Medema, b. 1943; Meter 9 8 9 9

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, by Ken Medema

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Performance by members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, OH:

Kristi Cetti-vocals, Lucas Setter-bass, Casey Johnson-director of photography, Bob Schwartz-drums,

Frank Wiewandt-guitar, Alex Jowanovitz-titling and lyrics, Jim Greene-sound support, Ken Holdt-piano

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

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,
I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us.
I hope you will join us again.

And in the meantime, no matter what challenges you are facing,
know that prayer has the power to change your life.

And if you'd like to know more or you'd like prayer, please don't hesitate to contact me.
Just reach out on Facebook or through our website.

In the meantime, may you be abundantly blessed this day and always! **Amen**

SENDING SONG

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW # 742

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

*Text: based on Psalm 41:9, Matthew 11:28-30, 21:22, Mark 11:24, Luke 7:34, John 15:13-15,
by Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886, Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

Music: CONVERSE, ERIE, Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

Performance by the Reverend Marjo Anderson, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT, 02/27/21

Meal & Dismissal

for zoom gathered worshippers

COMMUNION

God be with you!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!

We open them to God and one another!

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.

Pray with passion, purpose, power, and prepare
for the amazing, astounding answers that appear!

Thanks be to God!

Announcements

Today's Worship is at 9:30 with Adult Forum following at this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82586283567?pwd=c3hwV1g5eFVYU3RwO3ZzSEQyRzc5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 825 8628 3567 Passcode: 792383

One tap mobile +13017158592,,82586283567# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,82586283567# US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Tonight please join us at 6 pm for Sunday Night Alive! The diversity God created is an amazing gift and so Salem is grateful that we can gather with folks from Genesis Gospel Café, New Direction Ministries, Cross of Christ in Waterbury, and other places and celebrate our oneness in Christ as we build relationships with people who are different from us. Tonight as we close out Black History month we'll be hearing some great story tellers sharing their Stories of Faith. The link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINeliYlFVd1RnYlIXQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780

One tap mobile +13017158592,,82224426828# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)

Wednesday at 12:00 noon Prayer Gathering at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09>

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=amlvTnJIU1c5MWlIOFozcUfTVnJuQT09>

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,

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.

On Thursday, March 18th, the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raising the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist series continues (3rd Thursday of the month) 7:30-8:45 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.

On Saturday, March 20th, 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

Starting tomorrow, Connecticut residents over 55 can now begin making appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. For more information [click here](#).

The Center for Family Justice invites you to its 125th Jubilee Virtual Gala, 7 pm Friday 26 March, featuring a special surprise announcement, as they celebrate their growth and transformation into the state's first Family Justice Center, dedicated to serving all victims of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse in sex local communities. For tickets go to: centerforfamilyjustice.salsalabs.org/125thjubileegala/index.html.

Upcoming Worship – Depending on how today's in-person meeting goes, how diligent everyone is, and what the current covid rates are, we may be able to have in-person worship once or twice a month, with zoom or pre-recorded services on the intervening weeks. 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. No matter how we worship, we'll stream to Facebook Live and post to our YouTube channel.

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.

Every single one of us would no doubt like to go back to the way we used to worship 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 or when the roads are too snowy, or if we are in Phase 1 or 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 or on other special days, 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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

