



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 Third
Sunday in Lent*

*March 7, 2021
9:30 AM*



Pause

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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

03/07/21

Vibia Perpetua was a noblewoman, and Felicity her slave, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa.

They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

03/10/21

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished.

Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher.

Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

03/12/21

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome.

Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590.

He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

GATHERING HYMN

God, Who Made the Earth & Heaven

God, who made the earth and heaven, darkness and light:

you the day for work have given, for rest the night.

**May your angel guards defend us, slumber sweet your mercy send us,
holy dreams and hopes attend us all through the night.**

**And when morn again shall call us to run life's way,
may we still, whate'er befall us, your will obey.**

**From the pow'r of evil hide us, in the narrow pathway guide us,
never be your smile denied us all through the day.**

**Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, and, when we die,
may we in your mighty keeping all peaceful lie.**

**When the last dread call shall wake us, then, O Lord, do not forsake us,
but to reign in glory take us with you on high.**

Holy Father, throned in heaven, all-holy Son,

Holy Spirit, freely given, blest Three in One:

**grant us grace, we now implore you, till we lay our crowns before you
and in worthier strains adore you while ages run.**

ELW # 564

*Text: based on Genesis 1:1-4, Psalm 91:11-12 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 4:10-11
by Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, st. 1, alt.; William Mercer, 1811–1873, sts. 2, 4, alt.;
Richard Whately, 1787–1863, st. 3, alt.; Meter 8 4 8 4 8 8 4*

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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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 of Lent are confession, prayer, and works of love.

This year we include confession and forgiveness each Sunday

and our main focus will be on prayer.

Our theme is "Y PRAY? – Lenten Adventures in Prayer.

Last week we looked at "Y" we pray,

and today we'll begin to go deeper into how to pray

by looking at the first letter P in the word PRAY – P for PAUSE.

And so, let us PAUSE for a bit and then PRAY.

Grand and Glorious God, Source of All That Is:

Scripture tells us that even you paused in your creating to rest.

Created in your image, we, too, need to pause, and so you have commanded that we rest also.

We pause now,

to enter into your presence,

to offer you our thanks and praise,

and to pray for peace and patience and power.

Restore our souls that we may know the joy of your salvation,

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

READINGS

1. ^{1:1} In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the 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.... [Six days later...] ²¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.... ^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. [*Genesis 1*]

2. ¹ God spoke all these words: ² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.... ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. [*Exodus 20*]

3. ¹⁰ Be still & know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." [*Psalms 46*]

4. ²⁴ Teach me, and I will be silent; make me understand how I have gone wrong. [*Job 6*]

5. ¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD.... ¹³ But Moses said to the people, "...¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." [*Exodus 14*]

6. ¹⁶ ...But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray. [*Luke 5*]

7. ¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² God makes me lie down in green pastures.... [and] ³ restores my soul.... [*Psalms 23*]

SERMON

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.

There is no God before you.

Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you.

Your name is holy.

Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and the Center for Family Justice

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

Tracey Hintz and Josephine Hahn.

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

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation.

Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water;

protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems;

give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies.

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

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.

Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable.

Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement

to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all.

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

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Give Sabbath rest to all who labor.

Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others.

Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering,

especially Andrea, Audry, Barbara, Bud, Jerry, Diane, Dolores, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Katherine,

Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

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

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified.

Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders,

so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort.

Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests.

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

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved.

Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross.

Give us the same trust in life and in death.

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

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 offices at 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, CT

are 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

Be Still and Know that I Am God

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Be still and know that I am God.

God gave the Son for us in love. God gave the Son for us in love.

Dying upon the tree, Christ rose to set us free. God gave the Son for us in love.

Make me a channel of your grace. Make me a channel of your grace.

Pour your love into me and let it flow through me. Make me a channel of your grace.

Text: based on Psalm 46.1 and John 14.27 by Marjo Anderson

Music: BE STILL by Marjo Anderson

Text & Music © 1982 by Marjo Anderson. Used with permission.

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 Pause this week that you may find rest, refreshment, and renewal. **Amen**

SENDING SONG When Peace like a River / It Is Well with My Soul

ELW # 785

- 1 **When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain **It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.**

- 2 **Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain***
- 3 **He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain***
- 4 **Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain***

Text: based on Isaiah 34:4, 43:2, 48:18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 3 John 1:2, 2, Revelation 6:14

by Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888, Meter 1 1 8 1 1 9

Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, IT IS WELL, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

Meal & Dismissal

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 & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **men!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Take time to Pause. And may God grant you Purpose, Patience and Power.

Thanks be to God!

Announcements

Sunday Worship Services, Coffee Hours, and Forward on the Fourth Adult Forums:

While we are most grateful to God for the vaccines, we need to remember that the pandemic is not over - yet. Someday it will be, but in the meantime we must continue to exercise care (and prayer!). Although we cannot have in-person coffee hours or adult forums following in-person worship, we can still have these via zoom on the Sundays we worship online.

On the **2nd Sunday** of the month we will have **Coffee Hour** immediately following online worship, where the conversation is informal and free-flowing.

On the **4th Sunday** of the month we will have **Forward on the Fourth** immediately following online worship, at which we'll have a guided discussion of how we as a congregation are moving forward into God's promised future.

If worship on one of these Sundays is on **Zoom**, we will simply stay in the same zoom room.

If worship on one of these Sundays is a **Pre-recorded one**, you'll have to click on the zoom link to join at 10:30.

If you don't know what the difference is between Zoom and Pre-recorded worship, please don't hesitate to ask. Our pastor and our office manager are both happy to explain, as are many other of our congregational leaders. **Remember: the best way to get answers is to ask questions!**

Lent 2021

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

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89939840751?pwd=amlvTnJIU1c5MWlIOFozcUtTVnJuQT09>

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,

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)

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 Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Salem and Friends Prayer Gathering & Take-out Breakfast, sponsored by the Salem Men, is held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. Although this used to be a men's event, it's now open to everyone, and we are most grateful for the men who sponsor it. (Thank you, Bruce for ensuring that this important time for talking informally about our faith lives continues even in the midst of a pandemic!) It's been outdoors until this month when we met in the lounge. We're working on figuring out how to make the sound work so we can offer this important time on zoom as well.

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](#) by [clicking here](#) 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.

Sunday Night Alive meets the last Sunday of the month, so please mark this event on your calendars for 03/28 at 6 pm. You won't want to miss this chance to gather together with old friends and new, people like you and people unlike you - all of which...like you, even love you, as the beloved child of God you are! Stay tuned for details, but when the time comes, the link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINEliYlFVdIRnYlIXOT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780

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

+13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)

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](#):

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.

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!**

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!

Let's stay connected!

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.

Please contact your Parish Nurse Carol if you would like to call, or send a card or note to one of our shut-ins. Carol will let you know if the person would prefer a call or a note. If you have extra cards that you do not need, please let Carol know.

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.

THANK YOU!!! – 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.

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.*