



# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*Participant*

*The 3rd Sunday  
of Easter*

*April 18, 2021  
9:30 AM*



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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

# Gathering

*As you prepare for worship we invite you to read these lessons from the Revised Common Lectionary.*

## **Acts 3:12-19**

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

## **Psalm 4**

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;  
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;  
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

<sup>4</sup>Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.

## **Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

## **Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48**

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

## GATHERING MUSIC

### Open The Eyes Of My Heart

*Chorus* Open the eyes of my heart Lord! Open the eyes of my heart!  
I want to see You! I want to see You!

*Verse* To see You high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your glory,  
Pour out Your power and love, As we sing holy holy holy!

*Bridge* Holy holy holy, Holy holy holy, Holy holy holy, I want to see You!

*CCLI Song # 2298355; by Paul Baloche*

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Performance by the composer and artist, Paul Baloche as found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViBNqNukgzE> [9:21]

### Open Our Eyes

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus; to reach out and touch him and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus; to reach out and touch him and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus. (*Repeat last line.*)

*CCLI Song # 1572*

*Text: based on Matthew 17:8, Luke 24:31, Ephesians 1:17-18; by Robert Cull, b. 1949; Meter Irregular*  
*Music: OPEN OUR EYES; by Robert Cull, b. 1949*

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Performance by Jack Schrader, arranger, Kurt Runestad, conductor; and Ariel Merivil, pianist.

at First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska, on September 16, 2018, is found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oClUtImw4> [2:36]

### Emmaus

1. Oh, the times we've been through – everything we loved has died  
and all the things we cling to just can't seem to survive.  
We walk our dusty footpath without a single clue  
went up here comes a strange man,  
says, "Can I walk with you?" Says, "Can I walk with you?"

*Refrain:* Walking on the road to Emmaus, feeling like a fool in disguise.  
Someone comes along walking with us. Opens up our heart and eyes. Opens up our heart and eyes.  
Oh, my, such a surprise!

2. "All our dreams have turned to sorrow, half awake, they fade like dawn,  
And, Stranger, it's the same tomorrow, so why should we go on?"  
"Can't you see, my pilgrim, you're just dancing in a house of mirrors.  
You're searching for a kingdom I tell you is right here. Tell you is right here. (*Refrain*)
3. As the daylight left us, he turned to go his way.  
"Oh Sir, please stay and let us hear more of what you say!"  
As he prayed that evening and broke our bread like bone,  
we saw at last the meaning and knew we weren't alone. (*Refrain*)

Performance by writer, composer, singer & guitarist Michael Kelly Blanchard, with Greta Blanchard,  
from the album Quail, sold by Amazon.com Services LLC, July 7, 1977, Gotz Records, ASIN : B01LWCAO56 [3:00]

***Please note that at this point we go live on Facebook.***

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN**

**Open The Eyes Of My Heart**

***Because of the pandemic, it is still not safe to sing out loud,  
but we invite you to “sing” silently in your head as we listen to the music.***

*Chorus*

**Open the eyes of my heart Lord**

**Open the eyes of my heart**

**I want to see You**

**I want to see You**

*Verse*

**To see You high and lifted up**

**Shining in the light of Your glory**

**Pour out Your power and love**

**As we sing holy holy holy**

*Bridge*

**Holy holy holy**

**Holy holy holy**

**Holy holy holy**

**I want to see You**

*CCLI Song # 2298355*

*by Paul Baloche*

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*Performance recorded on “Take a Breath” CD by A Bunch of Guys,  
produced by David Piper and Knute Ogren.*

*John Christianson – vocals, guitar; David Piper – harmony vocals, guitar*

*Recorded October 2002-February 2003 at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford, Signature  
Sounds, the Top Floor, and First Congregational Church of Christ, UCC in Cheshire.*

*Engineered by David Piper*

*Mixed by Mark Thayer and David Piper at Signature Sounds.*

*Mastered by Scott Metcalfe at Mind’s Ear. [3:29]*

# Word

## READING: Luke 24.13-35

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## SERMON

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering.  
Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures,  
so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations.  
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for food pantries and community suppers  
at Golden Hill United Methodist church and elsewhere;  
and for Salem members & families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:  
Gabiella Rosa, and Domenick D'Andrea  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight.  
Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration.  
Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness.  
Many call on you for guidance and strength.  
Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ  
and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress.  
Grant your compassion and nurse back to health & wholeness those who are sick & 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.  
Be close to the hearts of the lonely.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God.  
Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you  
in our mutual love and bold witness.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are.  
We thank you for their lives among us.  
Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life.  
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:***

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you,  
trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

# Thanksgiving

## 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**

## 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 INVITATION

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.

*Because of the pandemic, it is still not safe to sing out loud,  
but we invite you to “sing” silently in your head as we listen to the music.*

**Day of arising, Christ on the roadway, unknown companion walks with his own.  
When they invite him, as fades the first day, and bread is broken, Christ is made known.**

**When we are walking, doubtful and dreading, blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,  
yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting our invitation: Stay, do not part.**

**Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken. This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:  
when the church gathers, when bread is broken, there Christ is with us in bread and wine.**

**Christ, our companion, hope for the journey, bread of compassion, open our eyes.  
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning that all creation with you may rise.**

*Text: based on Matthew 18.20, 28.20, Luke 24.13-35; by Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953;*

*Meter 5 5 5 4 D; © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress;*

*Music: RAABE, by Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929; © 1999 Augsburg Fortress*

*Arrangement: by Alex Lawrence and Paul Staroba*

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*Performance by Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish is found at:*

*[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5n68BsJ1\\_6E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5n68BsJ1_6E)*

## 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, please know that Jesus Christ is indeed risen from the dead  
and just as God had the power to raise Jesus from the dead,  
so God has the power to raise you to new life, too.

If you would like to know more, don't hesitate to reach out to me  
through our website or through Facebook.

In the meantime, may your eyes and ears and mind and heart be opened  
that you may know the power and love of the living God today and always. **Amen**

*Please note our FB Livestream ends here.*

## **Meal & Dismissal**

### **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.

*During communion, you may take your communion elements in church  
or hold on to your kit until you get home.*

*If you take the elements in the church,  
open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet. Grape juice stains!  
Take each element by lowering your mask, consuming, and raising your mask back  
up.*

*After the service, take the empty kit to the wastebasket in the back of the church.*

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in divine grace!  
**Amen!**

## SENDING SONG & POSTLUDE     Jesus Lifted Me

*Because of the pandemic, it is still not safe to sing out loud,  
but we invite you to JOIN IN THE MOTIONS  
and “sing” silently in your head as we listen to the music.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. I'm so glad,<br>Jesus<br>lifted<br>me.              | <i>[clap on off-beats]<br/>[make cross with index finger]<br/>[raise arms]<br/>[higher]</i>           |
| I'm so glad,<br>Jesus<br>lifted<br>me.                 | <i>[clap on off-beats]<br/>[make cross with index finger]<br/>[raise arms]<br/>[higher]</i>           |
| I'm so glad,<br>Jesus<br>lifted<br>me.                 | <i>[clap on off-beats]<br/>[make cross with index finger]<br/>[raise arms]<br/>[higher]</i>           |
| Singing “Glory! Hallelujah!”<br>Jesus<br>lifted<br>me. | <i>[raise arms, palms in, shake]<br/>[make cross with index finger]<br/>[raise arms]<br/>[higher]</i> |

### 2. Satan had me bound....

*[POSTLUDE ONLY: 3. When I was in trouble....]*

### 4. I'm so glad....

*Text: African American spiritual; Meter Irregular*

*Music: JESUS LIFTED ME; African American spiritual*

*Text & Music are in the Public Domain.*

*Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress*

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*SENDING HYMN PERFORMANCE is by the Keaton family and is found at:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F60wrqCwdvY>*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Live in the light of life resurrected!

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

## Jesus Lifted Me

*POSTLUDE PERFORMANCE by Marjo Anderson, Salem Lutheran, Bridgeport, CT, 05/10/20*

# Announcements

**You may have been vaccinated**, but please bear in mind that not everyone is able to receive the vaccine due to their health condition. No vaccine is 100% effective and so even if you have been vaccinated, it is still possible to get a mild or asymptomatic case of covid, and therefore possible to transmit it to someone else. CT, along with the rest of the Northeast (except for VT) and 6 other states, is still in the red zone, so we must remain diligent. The more cautious we are, the faster we can reach herd immunity and get back to normal. So, please, let's all do our part to end this pandemic.

As Christians Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, so please maintain 6' physical distance and keep your mask on over your nose and mouth as long as you are on church property.

At the end of service, please wait as the ushers will dismiss you by pew in order to comply with pandemic protocols. Please move quickly through the narthex to where you can safely visit outdoors.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep everyone at Salem as safe as possible!

**During communion, you may take your communion elements in church or hold on to your kit until you get home.** If you take the elements in the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet. Take each element by lowering your mask, consuming, and raising your mask back up. After the service, take the empty kit to the wastebasket in the back of the church.

**Sunday Worship Services** – WE are no having in-person worship each week and streaming it to Facebook. For those of you who enjoyed our zoom worship, we regret that we do not yet have the technology to offer a high quality hybrid/zoom worship. In fact, we're not aware of any congregation that has figured this out. If you cannot worship in person and would like communion, please contact Pastor Marjo so that that can be arranged.

## **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, and so we invite you to join our midweek prayer gathering. 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. The zoom link is on the calendar on Salem's website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

**Sunday Night Alive meets the last Sunday of the month, so please mark this event on your calendars for 04/25 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! The link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINEliYlFVd1RnYlXOT09>

*Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780*

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

*+13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)*

## **"Wrap the Capitol" - National Day of Prayer & Action - Streaming on FacebookLive**

Please save the date for National Day of Prayer. On Thursday, **May 6, 2021**, FaithActs will wrap the State Capitol in prayer and action. Through outreach from hundreds of prayer warriors across the state, we'll make sure Governor Lamont and legislative leadership stand for education justice during their closed-door budget negotiations. When they go quiet, we'll go loud! And bring God to the negotiation table. Right now, we're planning for socially distanced, in-person participation from pastors and virtual participation from other members and supporters. The FaithActs team will keep you posted as we finalize the details.

FaithActs for Education is a grassroots community organizing nonprofit based in Connecticut. We are people of faith building power to get our children the education they deserve. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to graduate from college, take care of their family, and fulfill their God-given potential. We build relationships, we build leaders, and we build power through community organizing and civic engagement. Founded in October 2014, FaithActs is more than 500 members and 70 churches strong. We've turned out thousands of Bridgeport voters, demanded stronger governance from the Board of Education, prevented busing cuts for 2,300 elementary school students, and secured millions of additional dollars for Bridgeport public education. For more info go to: RSVP - <https://faithacts.org/rsvp>

**Salem and Friends Prayer Gathering & Take-out Breakfast, sponsored by the Salem Men,** is held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 invites you their Virtual Spring Fling at 7:00 pm May 25<sup>th</sup>**. Enjoy a Broadway inspired musical performance from the comfort of your own home with special musical guests, Chris Coogan and Michele Grace.

The **Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raising the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist series continues on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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.

**There are many ways to find the zoom link for Salem events.** The most reliable way is to go to our website - [www.salembridgeport.org](http://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](http://www.salembridgeport.org/live). Or to see how to get there, [click here](#):

**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.

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552;  
Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573;  
renewers of the church**

**Monday, April 19, 2021**

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

**Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

**Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación)**

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe.

As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it. In the secular world this is known as Earth Day.

**Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960**

**Friday, April 23, 2021**

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child.

Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family.

Wishing to bring Christian principles into society,

he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

# 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](http://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](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.*