



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 3rd Sunday
of Easter

April 18, 2021
9:30 AM



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www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
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

¹²[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? ¹³The 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. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And 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.

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

Psalm 4

¹Answer 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.

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

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

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

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”

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

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

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

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look 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.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then 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.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You 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=9oCl_UtImw4 [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. 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

Welcome in the name of the God who raised Jesus from the dead and who raises us to new life!

Thank you for joining us today!

Thank you, those of you who are here in person with us!

And 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.

As we move forward into a future with so much that is uncertain,
the one thing that is certain is that God is there to help us if we ask.

And so I invite you to join us on zoom Wednesday at noon for a powerful time of prayer.

The link is in the announcement section of our worship bulletin and on our website at
SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar.

And next Sunday evening at 6 pm, we invite you to “zoom in” to our Sunday Night Alive event
for a conversation with a creative group of people

as we Imagine and Dream and Envision what it is that God is calling us to,
both as individuals and as communities of faith.

Today we are focusing in on the story of some disciples who were walking down a road,
depressed and despairing because the hope they had pinned on God had been dashed.
But just when things seemed their darkest, a stranger appeared, and changed everything.

No matter what challenges you face – whether they are physical or emotional or spiritual –
the God of all power and love wants nothing more than to help you overcome them.

And so, let us begin with prayer.

God of grace and glory,

We gather today to worship you, to praise you, and to bless your holy name.

Open our eyes and ears and hearts and minds

so that we might see and hear and experience your presence this morning.

And as we let you in, God, we ask that you would transform our hearts,

that we might be filled with all the gifts of your Spirit –

love & joy, peace & patience, kindness & goodness, faithfulness & gentleness, and self-control.

Light up our lives that people may see in us a joy that draws them to you.

Forgive us, fill us, and feed us, that we might forgive and fill and feed the world with your love.

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

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

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?" ¹⁹He 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But 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.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then 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:
Gabriella 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

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

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

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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=aTNKcUE4eEdINELiYlFVd1RnYlIXOT09>

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 **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 invites you their Virtual Spring Fling at 7:00 pm May 25th. 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 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.

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.

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*

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-cfb1-9836-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-4ba1-88a8-d1c2b9b86893/464704ca-cfb1-9836-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/Tc340beb1d-4d68-4800-b754-7c48a473cd23/464704ca-cfb1-9836-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.*