



Salem Lutheran Church

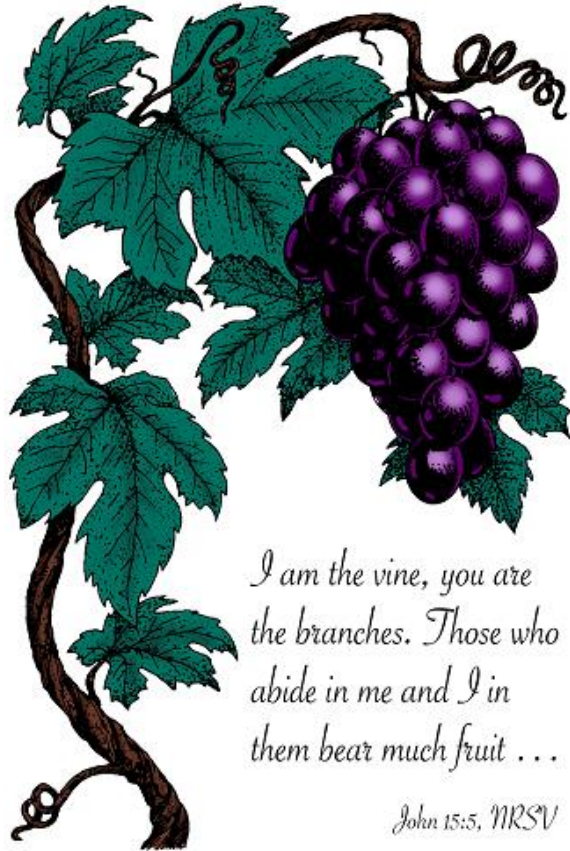
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*The 5th Sunday
of Easter*

*May 2, 2021
9:30 AM*



*I am the vine, you are
the branches. Those who
abide in me and I in
them bear much fruit . . .*

John 15:5, NRSV

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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

We'll only be reading 2 of the 4 assigned readings during worship today, so as you prepare for worship we invite you to read the others, as follows:

Psalm 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied.
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.
Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God", and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

GATHERING MUSIC

Awake, O Sleeper

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Once you were darkness, once you were lost in the shadows.
Once you were darkness, now you are children of light.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Live as God's people, live as God's justice and mercy,
filled with compassion, filled with the power of love.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Shine out with the splendor of love, shine with justice and righteousness.
Sing the music your spirit has heard, the songs of glory and light.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

OneLicense Song # #03165

Text: based on Ephesians 5 by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;

Music: AWAKE, O SLEEPER by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;

Text and Music: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.)

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Performance by artist Marty Haugen

as found on the album "Shepherd Me, O God"

& licensed to YouTube by NaxosofAmerica (on behalf of GIA Publications, Inc.),

is found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X-ApQ289Fc> [3:30]

Performance by Mark's Lutheran Church in Winnipeg

is found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvAUSL5gxAE> [3:30]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

O blessed spring, where Word and sign
embrace us into Christ the Vine:
here Christ enjoins each one to be
a branch of this life-giving Tree.

Through summer heat of youthful years,
uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
sustained by Christ's infusing rain,
the boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold,
when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
then through us, warm, the Christ will move
with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

As winter comes, as winters must,
we breathe our last, return to dust;
still held in Christ, our souls take wing
and trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,
be praised for this blest mystery:
that Word and water thus revive
and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953;

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Music: BERGLUND by Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950;

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Performance is by [Halifax Lutheran Church](#), 07/26/20,

*(Hymn #447 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship is 246/655 in their hymn series)
and is found at this link:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YBSE8cdKpQ> [3:30]

Word

READINGS

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza”. (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury who had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home, seated in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it”. So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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.

So they can be heard online, these petitions will be offered by the leaders at the microphones.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you.
Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth
so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for GROUP Workcamps;
and for Salem members & families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Conner Anderson-Dollhopf, Hannah Dollhopf, Bonnie McWain, Hans Anderson-Dollhopf,
Joan Bromley, and Isaiah Vasquez
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth.
As we wonder at the beauty of creation,
may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love.
Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence,
that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others.
We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful.
Provide for the needs of all, 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 gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit.
With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping.
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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM **Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring**

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table.
We do not worship as we ought but only as we're able.

The vines were planted, seeds were sown. They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food becomes a holy treasure.

Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in pray'r before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as humbly we adore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957; Meter 8 7 8 7; © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune is in the Public Domain.

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Performance is by [Halifax Lutheran Church](#), 07/26/20,

(Hymn #691 in [Evangelical Lutheran Worship](#)) is 148/655 in their hymn series)

and is found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPLWefXfLNc> [1:42]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING

Please note our FB Livestream ends here.

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.

*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, discard your empty kit in the wastebasket in the back of the church.

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

*After our Sending Song and the Dismissal, 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.

SENDING SONG

Now the Green Blade Rises

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days had lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that never he would wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; love is come again like wheat that springeth
green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my risen Lord is seen; love is come again like wheat arising that springeth
green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead & bare have been; love is come again like wheat that springeth
green.

*Text: based on Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 12:20-33,
& 1 Corinthians 15:30-31 by John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958;
from Oxford Book of Carols © Oxford University Press (New York) 1928;
Meter 11 10 10 11*

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol; this tune is in the Public Domain

Arrangement: © Oxford University Press (New York)

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Performance by Steve Winwood, 08/11/20, © 2020

is found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpU01KQIUJM> [2:48]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, drink deeply of the Spirit, and live in the light of the Son!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Now the Green Blade Rises

[see Sending Song above for lyrics]

Performance by Laura Wright, 09/22/12, by Ron Davis

is found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-5Bi2jM40E> [2:46]

Performance by First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska, 04/29/18

is found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYA0tFX2tV4> [2:37]

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. 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. It's not about how safe WE feel, but about how safe we make OTHERS around us feel. 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.

Forward on the FIRST! Now that we are worshipping in-person, we needed to come up for a new plan for adult forum and specifically for our Forward discussions. We realized that not everyone is able or comfortable meeting in person. Plus, since we used to have trouble hearing at Council meetings even when we were sitting side by side(!), trying to hear in the lounge with every one spaced 6' apart isn't going to work. So we want to meet by zoom. Yet as wonderful as zoom technology is, it doesn't work when you have more than one person in a small space on zoom – there's too much sound feedback. So here's the plan: if you want to participate in adult forum, please bring your laptop or tablet or smart phone with you, and after worship, we can spread out into different rooms – lounge, music room, music office, workroom, church office, narthex – or you can sit outside or in your car. For those who prefer, you may stay in the sanctuary and have that be your shared zoom room. And of course for those who are worshipping via Facebook live, simply join from the comfort of your own home – or wherever you are. We are also moving our Forward discussions to the FIRST Sunday of the month, since that follows our Council meeting and will allow us to bring you the most timely information possible. As always, the zoom link will be on the calendar at SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar. PLEASE JOIN US! :D

"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>

"DAY OF ABSENCE" – What would happen if all of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People Of Color) suddenly disappeared? Our conference's Anti-Racism Task Force invites you to ponder that question raised in the "Day of Absence", a virtual play reading on Friday, May 7th at 6:30. For the invitation, registration, and more details, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/day-of-absence-virtual-reading-theatre-tickets-151731802907?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing> or if you are online, simply click [here](#).

Wednesday at 12:00 noon Prayer Gathering at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3ell2ZmtiZEpadz09>

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.

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, so mark your calendars for May 8th.** 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.

Inner-View Chat'n'Chew meets the **3rd Saturday of the month at 11:00, so mark your calendars for May 15th.** 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.

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, so mark your calendars for May 20th. 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.

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County invites you to their Virtual Benefit Fundraiser, "Back to the Future: Take 2", a Video Program Premiere on **May 22nd, 7:30-8:00 pm.** Hear homeowner stories, tour sites, and get an update on Habitat CFC's work during the past year. Gather with your close ones, relax from the comforts of your own home, and enjoy the show! Your generous financial support is crucial to helping families build a place to call home. This event is FREE but requires registration. Visit: HFHBenefit.givesmart.com to register. Questions? Interested in sponsorship? Contact: Suzanne Francis, Events Coordinator: sfrancis@habitatcfc.org 203-520-7690.

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.

Sunday Night Alive meets the last Sunday of the month at 6 pm so mark your calendar for 5/30. You won't want to miss this chance to gather together with old friends and new, people like you and people unlike you - who LIKE you, even LOVE you, as the beloved child of God you are! So PLEASE, join in our faith-filled fun and fellowship – and invite someone else to come with you! Stay tuned for more details! The link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINeIiYlFVd1RnYlXOT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780;

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

+13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)

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.

THANK YOU!!! – Even though our staff works primarily from their homes, 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**, 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](#)**:

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

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

Saturday, May 8, 2021

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303

Saturday, May 8, 2021

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

TROOP 103

Our

22nd Annual

PASTA DINNER TAKE OUT

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3160 PARK AVENUE

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06604

SATURDAY EVENING, May 22, 2021

DINNER PICK UP From 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

PASTA, Homemade "HOPCO: Sauce, Treva's old-fashioned Meatballs, fresh Salad, bread/butter, dessert, & bottled water.

Adults \$10

Family Pack \$30

(2 Adults/2 children- Three Full Meals)

Purchased tickets should be presented at Pick Up.

Tickets can be purchased electronically in advance of Saturday Pickup using the following three options

- **Zelle Payment Info:**
 - Name: Luis Valbuena
 - Phone: 203 536-2735
 - Memo: 103 Pasta Dinner
- **Venmo Payment Info:**
 - Name: Luis Valbuena
 - Phone: 203 536-2735
 - Memo: 103 Pasta Dinner
- **PAYPAL Payment Info**
 - Name: Wes Murphy
 - email: wmurphycpa@gmail.com
 - Memo: 103 Pasta Dinner

*For More Information, call or text WES MURPHY (203-892-9477),
ANGELA ARBOLEDA (203) 543-3056*

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.*