



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*The
Resurrection of
Our Lord -
Easter Day*

*April 4, 2021
9:30 AM*



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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

GATHERING HYMN Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today – Alleluia! –
our triumphant holy day – Alleluia! –
who did once upon the cross –
suffer to redeem our loss – Alleluia!**
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing – Alleluia! –
unto Christ our heav'nly king – Alleluia!–
who endured the cross and grave – Alleluia! –
sinners to redeem and save – Alleluia!**
- 3 But the pains which he endured – Alleluia –
our salvation have procured – Alleluia! –
now above the sky he's king – Alleluia! –
where the angels ever sing – Alleluia!**
- 4 Sing we to our God above – Alleluia! –
praise eternal as his love – Alleluia! –
praise him, all you heav'nly host – Alleluia! –
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – Alleluia!**

*Text: based on Matthew 28:6, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-7,
from Latin carol, 14th cent., sts.1-3; tr.J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.;
Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4; Meter 7 7 7 7 and alleluias*

Music: EASTER HYMN, by J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

*Performance by First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska, Easter Day, April 1, 2018
and is found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkWaoJZGvsA>*

WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome in the name of the all-powerful God who raised Jesus from the dead,
the all-loving God who raises us to new life, beginning not at our death, but right this moment!

Thank you for joining us today!

Thank you, those of you who are gathered with us here at Salem!

And thank you, to those of you who are watching on Facebook or YouTube
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.

We invite you to join us in ministry through our website: SalemBridgeport.org,

our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,

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

Links to our donate page, and worship bulletin

(which has both the order of worship & announcements) as well as sermons and other resources
are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

And now, let us begin our worship with a call to worship from the Psalm assigned for this day.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(selected verses from Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24)*

Give thanks to God, for God is good!

God's mercy endures forever!

Let God's people now declare:

"God's mercy endures forever!"

Open for me the gates of righteousness!

I will enter them and give thanks to God!

God is my strength and my song!

God has become my salvation!

The right hand of God is exalted!

The right hand of God acts valiantly!

I give thanks to God who has answered me!

I give praise to God who has saved me!

This is the day that God has made!

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Word

READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality.... You know the message he sent to the people of Israel.... That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify...about him...”

GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus’ body]. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

SERMON

Standing here not knowing how we'll get through this test But holding onto faith You know best,
Nothing can catch You by surprise, You've got this figured out, and You're watching us now.

And when it looks as if we can't win, You wrap us in your arm and step in.
Ev'rything we need, You supply. You've got this in control, and now we know that...

You made a way when our backs were against the wall And it looked as if it was over!
You made a way and we're standing here only because You made a way! You made a way!

Now we're looking back on where we've come from Because of You and nothing we've done
To deserve the love & mercy You've shown But Your grace was strong enough to pick us up &...

You made a way when our backs were against the wall And it looked as if it was over
You made a way and we're standing here only because You made a way.

You made a way when our backs were against the wall And it looked as if it was over
You made a way and we're standing here only because You made a way.

Cause You move mountains, You cause walls to fall With your power, You perform miracles
There is nothing that's impossible And we're standing here Only because You made a way

You move mountains, You cause walls to fall With Your power, perform miracles
There is nothing that's impossible And we're standing here only because You made...

You move mountains, You cause walls to fall With Your power, perform miracles
There is nothing that's impossible And we're standing here only because You made...

You move mountains, You cause walls to fall With Your power, perform miracles
There is nothing that's impossible And we're standing here only because You made...

And we're standing here only because You made...

And we're standing here only because You made...

You made a way, You made a way, You made a way, You made a way

Don't know how but You did it, made a way Don't know how but You did it, made a way
Don't know how but You did it, made a way Don't know how but You did it, made a way

Don't know how but You did it Don't know how but you did it

Don't know how but You did it Don't know how but you did it

Don't know how but You did it Don't know how but you did it

Don't know how but You did it Don't know how but you did it

Don't know why but I'm grateful Don't know why but I'm grateful

Don't know why but I'm grateful Don't know why but I'm grateful

And we're standing here only because You made

And we're standing here only because You made

And we're standing here only because You made a way.

CCLI Song # 7071768. Travis Greene

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Performed on March 8, 2020 by New Direction Ministries musicians:

Wayne Reid, Jr, soloist; Davis Good, keyboard; Derron Simmonds, percussion; Bishop Eron Simmonds, guitar.

Wayne or JR is one of the youth who developed his musical gifts

at Salem's SummerSong and Musical Theatre programs under the direction of Mark Adamy and Sarah Fox.

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.

You are invited to offer the following petitions as you are so moved by the Spirit.

Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection!
Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death.
Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for our Southern CT conference,
the New England Synod and Region 7;
and for Salem members & families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Pastor Marjo Anderson, Bert Andren, Miles Wilkins, Sarah Murphy, and Carissa Gulyas
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life.
Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace.
Cultivate our care for what you have made.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace.
Draw together people of all nations and languages;
reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope:
those who are afraid or confused, those who are dying, those who grieve,
those who are sick or 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. Assure them of your promises.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection!
Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism.
Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection!
Fill us with trust so that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming:
“your mercy endures forever!”
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

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

*On Passion Sunday, we heard the beginning of the cantata, ending with Jesus dead in the tomb.
Today we hear the rest of the story.*

“Do You Love Me” and “The Call” from Upon This Rock by Pepper Choplin

Do You Love Me?

Do you love me? Yes, Lord. Do you love me? Yes, Lord.
If you love me, if you truly love me, feed my lambs. Feed my lambs.
Do you love me? Yes, Lord. Do you love me? Yes, Lord.
If you love me, if you truly love me, feed my lambs. Feed my lambs
For if you truly love Me, if you love me more than these
Show your love and feed my lambs, take care of them and understand that I will be with you.
Yes, Lord.
Do you love me? Yes, Lord. Do you love me? Yes, Lord.
Follow, follow, follow me, follow me. Follow, follow me.

The Call (What Is Your Passion / Upon This Rock reprise)

What is your passion? What is your call? Who do you live for? Who do you offer all?
How we answer will surely answer who we shall be. Who shall we be?
While Jesus is calling, He's calling, “Come, follow Me”.
So let us live with a passion, live the call. Rise up and follow, follow the Lord of all.
Come on a journey that will lead us to life on this earth and beyond.
Jesus is calling, He's calling, “Come and follow Me”. Jesus is calling, “Come and follow Me”.
And so our love, our love, our love for Christ, our love will be the cause, the cause,
the reason why, it's why we live our days, our days,
to walk in faith in faith, faith in the rock, this rock, this solid rock, this rock.
And we say, “You are the Christ, You are the Son of the living God.
You are the Christ, You are the first begotten Son, born from the love, the love of heaven.
And we are the church, and we will serve and glorify.
We are the church, to be a living sacrifice, offered to You through all we are.”
Upon this rock, this rock, I'll build My church, My church.
Upon this rock, this rock, I'll build my kingdom here upon this earth.
I'll build, I'll build My church, My church upon this rock, this rock, this solid rock, this rock.
I'll build My church, My church upon this rock, this rock.
I'll build My church, I'll build My church upon this rock.

This cantata was performed by the Salem Choir in 2013.

Director of Music: Liz Frohrip
Narrator: Rich Lansing
Photo: Rich Lansing

Soloists:
Bert Andren,
Ron Schlegel,
Bruce Tomasko,
Rich Kenyon,

Janet Swanson,
Jean Larson,
Denise Bukovan.

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,
know that if God can raise Jesus from the dead, God has the power to work in your life, too.
If you would like to know more, don't hesitate to reach out to me
through our website or through Facebook.
And most important of all, know that God not only has the power to be able to help,
God has the love to be willing to help.
May you be blessed this Easter Day and always! **Amen**

Please note our Facebook Live stream 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, take the empty kit to the wastebasket in the back of the church.*

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

DISMISSAL *(followed by Sending Anthem)*

Go in peace.

Live in the light of life resurrected!

Thanks be to God!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world Is become The kingdom of our Lord & of His Christ & of His Christ

And He shall reign for ever and ever! And He shall reign for ever and ever!
And He shall reign for ever and ever! For ever and ever! Forever and ever!
And He shall reign for ever and ever!

King of kings! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
King of kings! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
King of kings! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords! (King of kings!) And Lord of lords!

And He shall reign, And He shall reign, And He shall reign, And He shall reign forever & ever!

King of kings! (Forever and ever!) And Lord of lords! (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And He shall reign! (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!) And He shall reign forever and ever!

King of kings! and Lord of lords! King of kings! and Lord of lords!
And He shall reign forever and ever!

Forever and ever! Forever and ever!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

Text & Music by George Frideric Handel

This song is in the Public Domain.

*The performance is by 300+ members of The Mormon Tabernacle Choir
along with over 2,000 voices worldwide and can be found at:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akb0kD7EHIk>

Announcements

Pastor Marjo will be taking vacation days Monday-Saturday this week.

For emergency pastoral care,

please contact the church office (203-336-3300 or salemsec123@sbcglobal.net)

or Jeanette Harris at 203-366-6778 (call or text) or jharris524@yahoo.com

You may have been vaccinated, but please bear in mind that not everyone is able to receive the vaccine due to their health condition. 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.

If you have ordered Easter flowers, the plants may be picked up outside by the Sacristy door. An usher will hand you the plants outside.

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 – Beginning on Easter we will have in-person worship each week which we will stream 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.

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.

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.

"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>

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.

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=aTNKcUE4eEdINEliYlFVd1RnYUXOT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780

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

+13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)

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 worship and all other Salem events. The most reliable way is to go to our website - www.salembridgeport.org, choose the Resource tab, and click on Calendar. Then on the calendar, go to the day, the event, and when you click on it, it will open up the zoom invitation. You can click on the link, or copy and paste it into your browser. To see how to do this, [click here](#):

We also include the zoom links in our weekly email blasts, and in this announcement section of our Sunday bulletin. You can find links to Sunday worship materials like the bulletin, sermon, and donate page at www.salembridgeport.org/live. Or to see how to get there, [click here](#):

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

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589
Sunday, April 4, 2021

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528;
Matthias Grünewald, died 1529;
Lucas Cranach, died 1553;
artists
Tuesday, April 6, 2021

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945
Friday, April 9, 2021

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557
Saturday, April 10, 2021

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

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.*