



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*Ascension
Sunday
(6th Sunday
of Easter)*

*May 9, 2021
9:30 AM*



He ascended INTO Heaven

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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

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

Psalm 47:1-4, 9

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

² For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,

³ who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

⁴ who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves....

⁹ The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Psalm 93 (alternate)

The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting.

The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;

the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,

mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.

Your testimonies are very sure, & holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever & forevermore.

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.-

GATHERING SONG Holy Spirit (You Are Welcome Here)

Verse 1 **There's nothing worth more that will ever come close
Nothing can compare You're our living hope –
Your Presence, Lord**

Verse 2 **I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone
Your Presence Lord**

Chorus **Holy Spirit, You are welcome here!
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere!
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your Presence, Lord.**

Interlude **Your Presence Lord**

Interlude **Your Presence Lord Your Presence
Oh God how we love Your Presence Lord**

Bridge **Let us become more aware of Your Presence –
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness (Lord)**

CCLI Song # 6087919

by Bryan Torwal and Katie Torwalt,

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Jesus Culture Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

On the Bryan and Katie Torwalt album "Here on Earth". Year 2011.

as found here: <https://amzn.to/3ao4OuO>

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Performance by the Times Square Church Choir, 08/08/20, Matthew Grant

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsI_ctYTLqQ [8:10]

Performance by Heavens Mutambira & Amplified Praise, 06/17/17, AmplifiedPraiseTV1

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2q7hMfmVL3I> [7:45]

Performance by the Sylvan Hills Church of Christ;

Mark Fonville, video production, 02/03/16, Kevin Hackett

as found at : <https://www.facebook.com/MarkFonzhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlrAqZgsyP4> [4:25]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

ELW #752, TFF #247, WOV #775, W&P #92

Text: based on Psalm 5:1-3 & 1 Peter 3:12 by Ken Medema, b. 1943; Meter 9 8 9 9

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING by Ken Medema

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*Performance by musicians of 1st Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Selma, CA, 03/15/20,
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2esRhyCv2dI&t=3s> [1:05]*

Word

READINGS

Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the realm of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Psalm 47:5-8

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.
For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.
God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.

Luke 24:44-53

[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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.

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

You call the whole church on earth to worship and bless you.

Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Genesis Gospel Café in Bridgeport,

Our Saviour's Lutheran in Fairfield, Cross of Christ Lutheran in Waterbury,

Christ Presbyterian Church Fairfield, New Direction Ministries in Bridgeport,

and East Bronx Apostolic Church, in Mount Vernon, NY;

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

Nancy D'Andrea, Beverly Marshall, and Ray Lansing.

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

You have fashioned a habitat for all your creatures and you fill the earth with your glory.

Give rain where it is needed and rescue those inundated by floods.

Mend what we have torn in the fabric of creation and replenish and nourish your world.

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

In the majesty of your love, you rule the world with justice and mercy.

Give those in authority the spirit of your love,

so that all who are hungry and poor receive food and resources,

and all people flourish and live in peace.

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

You heal those who are sick and bind up the brokenhearted.

Attend to the cares and needs of the hopeless and the hurting

in our congregation, community, workplaces, schools, and families,

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 have gathered us in this congregation, enlightened our hearts,

and given us a share of the immeasurable greatness of your power.

Help us love one another, be reconciled where we are divided,

and share the riches of your grace with our neighbors.

In raising Christ from the dead, you put your great power to work in the world.

Raise us and all who have died in the faith with Christ, especially the renewer of the church and
hymnwriter, Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, of the Moravian Church.

We remember saints in our lives and in our community. Thank you for their gifts among us.

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 SONG Veni Sancte Spiritus / Holy Spirit, Come to Us ELW # 406

Ostinato [i.e., music which is repeated continuously](in Latin):

Veni Sancte Spiritus. Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Verses (in English & Latin)

Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light. Veni Sancte Spiritus

Come, Father of the poor, come, generous Spirit, come, light of our hearts. Veni Sancte Spiritus

ELW # 406, WOV # 686

Text: based on Ezekiel 37, Pentecost sequence; Taizé Community; Meter Irregular

Music: TAIZÉ VENI SANCTE by Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994, of the Taizé Community;

Text and Music: © 1978, 1980, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

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Performance by the Contemporary Choir of Saint Dominic's Catholic Church, San Francisco, 05/29/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwUurCKa0Q8> [3:20]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING

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 & 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

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

**Gracious spirit, heed our pleading; fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing; help us to follow you.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

**Come to teach us; come to nourish those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful; may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

**Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

**Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

**Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

ELW # 401, TFF # 103, WOV # 687

Text: based on John 16.7-15 & 1 Corinthians 12.4-11

by Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922; Meter C M and refrain

Music: NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA by Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924

*English and Swahili text and tune: © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania,
admin. Augsburg Fortress;*

Arr. © Egil Hovland)

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Performed by

*musicians at Faith Lutheran Church in Bellaire, Texas. <https://faithbellaire.org/>, 04/04/20,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2m0QkYctaFo> [2:39]*

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace, devote yourself to prayer, and may the Spirit direct your every step.
Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

- 1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort; past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service, there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!**

- 2 God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body, let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice, kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!**

- 3 God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us; make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!**

- 4 God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!**

ELW # 400

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 7;

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Music: CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes, 1873–1932.

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Performed by Mark Fideldy, organist

and Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins, MN, 05/27/12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7e0kFP_JYU [3:39]

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.

NEXT SUNDAY we will be joining the New England Synod on Facebook or YouTube for an all-synod pre-recorded worship service. You are welcome to watch from the comfort of your home, or if you prefer you can watch in the sanctuary on the big TV.

Sunday Worship Services – In-person worship with live-streaming to Facebook will resume the following week, May 23rd. 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 who is doing this well. 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=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3elllZmtiZEpadz09>

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.

Moving Forward – You are invited to join others from around the synod as we engage in curious and creative conversation about where God is leading the Church. The next zoom gathering is this Thursday, May 13th at either 9:00 am or 7:00 pm.

The zoom link for 9:00 is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83797014547?pwd=YW5qSHpGb25TNW5LdUJ1TUFBMG95dz09>

Meeting ID: 837 9701 4547; Passcode: 377908;

One tap mobile +16465588656,,83797014547#,,,,*377908# US (New York)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

The zoom link for 7:00 is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86946253537?pwd=cWFUREpjYnZ4ekZjdWtiUEMxR05pUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 4625 3537; Passcode: 860659

One tap mobile +16465588656,,86946253537#,,,,*860659# US (New York)

+13017158592,,86946253537#,,,,*860659# US (Washington DC)

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.

Sunday Night Alive will meet **Sunday evening either 5/23 or 5/30 either in person or on zoom – Stay tuned for details!** 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! If we end up meeting on zoom, the link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224426828?pwd=aTNKcUE4eEdINElYlFVd1RnYlUxOT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2442 6828 Passcode: 209780;

One tap mobile +13017158592,,82224426828# US (Germantown); +13126266799,,82224426828# US (Chicago)

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.

Our next "Forward on the FIRST" adult forum is scheduled for Sunday June 6th on zoom! 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

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 June 12th.** 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.

Salem's semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 27th, following worship. We are currently discussing whether to have an all in-person meeting, a hybrid in-person/zoom meeting, or a zoom meeting with the sanctuary open as a zoom location. If you have a preference or other input, please speak with Pastor Marjo.

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

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760 **Sunday, May 9, 2021**

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

Matthias, Apostle

Friday, May 14, 2021

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot.

He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry.

Formerly commemorated on February 24,

Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

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
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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.*