



# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*for those with  
hearing challenges*

5th Sunday  
After  
Pentecost

June 27, 2021  
9:30 AM



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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

# Gathering

## GATHERING READINGS

**Lamentations 3:22-33** (*an alphabet psalm, letters 8-11 of 22*)

*heth*

<sup>22</sup>YHWH's favor is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed.

<sup>23</sup>They rise up anew each morning, so great is God's faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup>“YHWH is all I have”, I cry, “so I will wait in patience”.

*teth*

<sup>25</sup>The Most High is good to those who hope in God, to all who seek God's presence.

<sup>26</sup>It is good to wait patiently for YHWH to set us free.

<sup>27</sup>It is good for anyone to bear a burden from youth.

*yod*

<sup>28</sup>Let those who bear such a burden, sit in silence – for YHWH has laid it on them;

<sup>29</sup>Or lie prostrate on the ground – for there may yet be hope.

<sup>30</sup>Let them offer their cheek to those who would strike them;

let them submit themselves to grave insult.

*kaph*

<sup>31</sup>For YHWH will not reject them forever.

<sup>32</sup>God may punish now, but will show compassion and the fullness of love.

<sup>33</sup>God does not willingly torment or punish any human being.

## **2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has — not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,

*“The one who had much did not have too much & the one who had little did not have too little.”*

## GATHERING SONGS

*When we worship indoors, please meditate on the texts or sing it silently in your head.  
While you may feel safe singing, not everyone feels safe having you sing, and we want everyone to feel safe.  
When we are outdoors we can sing, and one day soon we will be able to sing indoors as well.  
Please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.*

### Open Our Eyes

**ELCA hymnals:  
Worship & Praise # 113  
This Far by Faith # 98**

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

*CCLI Song # 1572*

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

*Music: OPEN OUR EYES; by Robert Cull, b. 1949*

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

at First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska, 09/16/18,

as found at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oCl\\_UtImw4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oCl_UtImw4) [2:36]

***Please note that here we go live on Facebook.***

### Draw Me Close

Draw me close to You. Never let me go.  
I lay it all down again To hear You say that I'm Your friend.  
You are my desire. No one else will do  
'Cause nothing else could take Your place To feel the warmth of Your embrace.  
Help me find the way. Bring me back to You.

You're all I want. You're all I've ever needed.  
You're all I want. Help me know You are near. (Help me know You are here.)

*CCLI Song # 1459484*

*by Kelly Carpenter*

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Performance by Marjo Anderson, Salem Lutheran Church, 06/26/21,

to accompaniment track by Worship Audio Tracks, provided to YouTube by The Orchard Enterprises,

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as found at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz\\_8N7IWmJY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz_8N7IWmJY) [4:10]

## WELCOME

*When we worship indoors, please meditate on the text or sing it silently in your head.*

*While you may feel safe singing, not everyone feels safe having you sing,  
and we want everyone to feel safe.*

*When we are outdoors we can sing, and one day soon we will be able to sing indoors as well.*

*Please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor.*

*Thank you.*

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

Open our ears, Lord;  
and help us to listen.

Open our eyes, Lord;  
we want to see Jesus.

*CCLI Song # 1572*

*Text: based on Matthew 17:8, Luke 24:31, Ephesians 1:17-18; by Robert Cull, b. 1949;*

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*Music: OPEN OUR EYES; by Robert Cull, b. 1949*

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*Performance by Jeanette Harris, vocalist, & Marjo Anderson, accompanist,  
at Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT, 08/15/20 [2;53]*

# Word

## READINGS

### Psalm 30

*Leader:* I will exalt you, O God, because you have lifted me up  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

*Women:* **O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.**

*Men:* **You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.**

*Leader:* Shout to God, all who love God! Praise God's holy Name!

*Women:* **God's wrath is fleeting but God's favor lasts a lifetime.**

*Men:* **Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.**

*Leader:* While I presumed I was secure, I said, "I will never be defeated!"  
When I stood in your favor, God, I stood as firm as a mountain.

*Women:* **But then you hid yourself from me and I was filled with terror.  
So I called to you, God; I pleaded for your help:**

*Men:* **"What profit comes from my destruction, from my going to the grave?  
Does dust praise you, God? Can the dead proclaim your unfailing goodness?  
Hear me, God, and be merciful!  
Help me, O my God!"**

*Leader:* Then you turned my wailing into dancing;  
you stripped me of my death shroud and clothed me with joy.

*All:* ***That's why my heart sings to you!  
That's why I can't keep silent!  
For you, God, are awesome!  
You, God, are my Deliverer!***

## **Mark 5:21-43**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

## **SERMON**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

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

God of hope, the ministry of your church extends outside our walls.

Guide each one of us to share with others the good news of your power and love.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Seafarers and International House, the Lions Club and 12-step groups, and for Salem members & families.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land that provides our food.

Guard all species of plants and animals from harsh changes in climate and empower us to protect all you have made.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we pray for nations and their leaders.

Give them a spirit of compassion and steer them towards a fair distribution of resources; that none among us would have too much or too little.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, your touch has the power to make us whole.

We pray for those who are bound by addictions and compulsions that you would free them.

We pray for those suffering from any kind of mental illness, that you would heal them.

Draw close to you all who need your touch,

especially Barbara, Bud, Dolores, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

Let them feel your warm embrace.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly and all those gathered together in worship.

Revive our spirits, renew our relationships, and rekindle our faith,

that we might experience you healing and declare your praise.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful ancestors in every age whose lives have pointed us towards you.

Envelop them in your love,

that with all your saints we may be reunited with one another in the last days.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*You are invited to offer your own prayer petition at this time, either silently or aloud.*

*The pastor concludes:*

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **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.  
We are grateful for your generosity,  
which not only is an exercise of and witness to your faith,  
but which funds our ministry together here at Salem.



If you are worshipping with us, we invite you to contribute to our ministry  
so that we can continue to take our worship online  
as a witness to the power and love of the amazing God we serve.

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

## Come, Touch the Robe

by Pepper Choplin

### *Narration 1*

She had suffered for 12 years and had spent all she had, searching for a cure.  
Then one day, in an act of faith,  
this woman from Galilee quietly reached out to touch the hem of Christ's robe.  
She was instantly healed.

The robe was just a piece of cloth.  
Yet when Christ was present, there flowed a great healing power,

As we gather here today, this could be just another choral presentation.  
But we pray that the Spirit of Christ will live in our words & music as we invite you to come...  
Come encounter the presence and power of Christ.  
Come... Touch the robe.

### *Come, Touch the Robe*

Come, touch the robe, through faith, touch the robe.  
Feel the power that flows to all who believe.  
Come to his side, no one is denied all the life-giving power  
when we come to kneel to touch the hem of his robe.

I was lost in the crowd, my very life blood was drained from me.  
No one there knew my suffering, I suffered all alone.  
I saw him there on the road, though I never tried to speak to him,  
I made my way through the crowd to him to kneel by his side. I kneeled and...

I touched his robe, just the hem of his robe.  
And I felt healing flow till my pain was relieved.  
And though I tried, still I could not hide the healing power  
that flowed through me so I bowed at his feet, and I touched his robe,  
I simply touched the hem of his robe.

The Lord says, "Who will come to touch me? Who will come to be set free?  
Who comes in faith to believe in me, to receive my saving power, receive my saving power?"

"Come, touch my robe, in faith touch my robe.  
Feel the power that flows to all who believe.  
Come to my side, no one is denied the life-giving power.  
O come to me now in faith, to pray, to touch the hem of my robe. Come, touch my robe."

**Music Director:** *Liz Frohrip;*

**Flute:** *Lisa Aschen;* **Oboe:** *Kristin Kall;* **Drums:** *Frank Dukenski*

**Reader:** *Rich Lansing*

**Soprano:** *Carey Andren, Anita Papp, Christiane Wolfe, Liz Bales, Sandra Brown*

**Alto:** *Jean Larson, Denise Bukovan, Janet Swanson*

**Tenor:** *Dick Bellows, Ron Schelegel, Bruce Tomasko, Steve Kuczo*

**Bass:** *Bert Andren, Rich Kenyon, Rich Norell*

# Sending

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today at 10:30 is our semi-annual congregational meeting in person here, with zoom access.

On Wednesday you are invited to join us on zoom at noon for our weekly prayer gathering and from 6:30-7:15 for Bible study.

## 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.  
If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray together,  
you can reach me through our website or Facebook.

In the meantime let me offer all who are worshipping with us this blessing  
May your eyes be opened to see God.  
May your ears be opened to hear God.  
May your heart be opened to feel God's love.  
And may that touch fill you with such love and light and life  
that you cannot help but share your faith and hope and joy.  
Amen

*Here ends our Facebook live stream.*

## 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.  
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!**

*When we worship indoors, please meditate on the text or sing it silently in your head.  
While you may feel safe singing, not everyone feels safe having you sing, and we want  
everyone to feel safe.*

*When we are outdoors we can sing, and one day soon we will be able to sing indoors as well.  
Please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.*

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in Thy name,  
two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them;  
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
then with thanks to God our Maker break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit Thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make us sacraments of Thee,  
that by caring, helping, giving, we may Thy disciples be.  
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve Thee faithfully.

*CCLI Song # 3393589*

*Text: based on Matthew 18.2- \* 1 Corinthians 12 by Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt.*

*from Songs of Praise, Enlarged Edition © Oxford University Press 1931; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7;  
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*Music: UNION SEMINARY by Harold Friedell, 1905-1938,*

*© 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin*

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*Performance for The Marble Church, 10/05/20*

*by The Marble (Virtual) Choir,*

*Kenneth Dake, director; Nicholas Prior, producer; Sam Nesbitt, audio & video engineer;*

*Singers: Rachel Barg, Clark Baxtresser, Joshua Bouchard, Robbie Cowan, Ethan Crystal,*

*Lila Duffy, Ethan Garner, David Michael Garry, Phenisher Harris, Brian Hurst,*

*Laura Inman, Marcus Jefferson, Mark Johnson, Lauren-Rose King, Tesia Kwarteng,*

*Jonathan May, Alex McCoy, Shelley Mihm, Joan Mohre, Kathryn Papa, Max Parsons,*

*Nicholas Prior, Martin Schreiner, Elizabeth van Os, and Anna Willson*

*as found at this link:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwSRd4UEYeU&lc=UgzrwuMQ-hC9pJOTDAI4AaABAg> [3:28]*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace,

knowing that when you reach out and touch Jesus your life will be transformed!

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE** **Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)** *as recorded by Michael W. Smith*

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.  
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; God's Word my hope secures.  
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.  
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.  
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;  
but God, you called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine. We are forever thine.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.  
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.  
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.  
unending love, amazing grace, , unending love, amazing grace.**

*CCLI Song # 4768151*

*Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio*

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*Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)*

*worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)*

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*Performance by the Virtual Choir of Mount Carmel Christian Church, 06/25/20*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IjWPJlj4dU> [4:40]*

*"During this pause in our busy lives (also known as quarantine)*

*some of us joined together to produce a virtual music video.*

*It was definitely a team effort and truly a joy on which to work.*

*We hope it is an encouragement to you and brings glory to God.*

*Please remember, in the midst of all that you are enduring in life,*

*God is with you and He loves you so much that He gave His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ,*

*for you. God's amazing grace has set us free from the bondage of our sin, our chains are gone.*

*'He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains.' [Ps. 107:14 NIV]"*

# 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 healthier those around us will be. As Christians Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, so, please, let's all do our part to end this pandemic. 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. After the service, please dispose of your own kit in a waste receptacle.

**Sunday Worship Services** – We are now doing in-person worship with live-streaming to Facebook. Although we will be indoors this Sunday due to the semi-annual meeting, *weather permitting, we will be worshipping outdoors as much as possible this summer, so please bring a lawn chair if you can, or you are welcome to sit at the picnic tables.*

**Salem's semi-annual meeting is scheduled for today at 10:30.** It will be an in-person meeting and with zoom access as well. If you would like to participate via zoom while in the church building, please bring your phone, tablet or laptop, and we will find you an available room.

**NO Sunday Night Alive tonight.** We are a planning an in-person Caribbean night later this summer, so stay tuned for details!

**Wednesday at 12:00 noon YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO JOIN our Prayer Gathering at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3ellI2ZmtiZEpadz09>

Meeting ID: 828 8277 7326 Passcode: 688740

One tap mobile +13017158592,,82882777326# US (Washington DC)

The link is also on the calendar on our website at [Salembridgeport.org](http://Salembridgeport.org) under the Resources Tab.

**The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport ENCOURAGES ALL MEMBERS of our congregations to join in their Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) 2021 Summer Series via ZOOM.** This summer we will join in facilitated conversations on Jemar Tisby's new book, How to Fight Racism. **You are welcome to attend any or all of the 5-part series, every other Thursday beginning July 1.** Each session is from 7:30-9:00 pm. The dates are: 7/1, 15, 29, 8/12 & 26. **Register here:** <https://ccgb.salsalabs.org/summerserie2021/index.html> You will receive the Zoom link a week before the first session. The Zoom link will remain the same for all sessions. Check out the reviews for Tisby's book here:

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/How\\_to\\_Fight\\_Racism/G7bWDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/How_to_Fight_Racism/G7bWDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)

**Please help feed the hungry!** The ELCA World Hunger Appeal not only provides food for hungry people, it also works to alleviate the root causes of hunger and poverty. To participate in this effort, Salem received a request that is focused on specific projects in Malawi and Rwanda—including providing food, school supplies and mattresses for orphans and vulnerable children (at a cost of \$6. per child). Also included is training in welding, tailoring, entrepreneurship and cooperatives. Pastor David and Doreen Rinas for the World Hunger Team announce a matching grant for the first \$100 that each congregation in the New England Synod contributes to the World Hunger Appeal this year. Please consider making a contribution to the World Hunger Appeal. If you do this by check, make it payable to Salem and on the memo line note WH Rwanda & Malawi 2021. If you contribute to Salem online, use the ELCA World Hunger option. We are asking that contributions be made by July 31. Contributions will be sent on to Synod as a total amount from Salem. – Social Ministry Committee

**The First Annual Bridgeport Film Fest** will be held **July 23=25, 2021** at the Klein Memorial Auditorium, 910 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport 06605, featuring over 70 short films from 12 countries including: Black narratives, Female Directed Projects, LGBTQ+ Stories, Documenaries, Animation, and more. Please consider supporting our city with your attendance. For tickets and schedule go to [www.BridgeportFilmFestival.org](http://www.BridgeportFilmFestival.org)

**Salem and Friends Prayer Gathering & Take-out Breakfast, sponsored by the Salem Men,** is normally held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 8:00 am, so mark your calendars.** 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!)

**Inner-View Chat'n'Chew** meets the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 11:00, so mark your calendars for June 19th.** 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.

**Let's stay connected!** 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. If we can help in any way, please know that you can 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.

**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.

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

### **Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444 Sunday, June 27, 2021**

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.

### **Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202 Monday, June 28, 2021**

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

### **Peter and Paul, Apostles Tuesday, June 29, 2021**

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.

### **Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators Thursday, July 1, 2021**

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

## **The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport Names The Reverend A. Iona Smith Nze as its Next President & CEO**

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport is pleased to announce that after a nation-wide search, its Board of Directors has selected the Reverend A. Iona Smith Nze (of Bridgeport!) to serve as its the next President & CEO following the upcoming retirement of its current President & CEO, the Reverend Cass Shaw on June 30, 2021.

The Rev. Smith Nze has been the Senior Pastor of Bethel AME Church in Bridgeport since 2017 and will continue to perform certain pastoral duties at Bethel AME Church through spring of 2022. She has extensive leadership experience in public, non-profit and religious settings. Prior to her first pastoral assignment in 2007, the Rev. Nze managed a variety of outreach programs addressing crisis prevention, food insecurity and immigrant support. Throughout her sacred and secular careers, she has been a visionary thinker, gaining valuable experience in both managing budgets and raising funds. Having served on the Board of Directors of the Council for the past two years, she has a keen understanding of the Council's programs and the strategic partnerships and alliances that provide critical support. She is a gifted orator who holds the distinction in the First Episcopal District for preaching Annual Sermons in three Annual Conferences in under five years. She will be an exceptional spokesperson for the Council throughout the greater Bridgeport community where she is already an advocate through Congregations for a New Connecticut (CONNECT), the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport (IMA) – the predominantly black organization of congregations, of which Pastor Marjo is a part, that predates our predominantly white Council of Churches) – and FaithActs for Education.



With experience as pastor of a member congregation of the Council, The Rev. Smith Nze is deeply committed to strengthening ties with current members and connecting with new congregations. “The Board of Directors is confident that the Council will continue to thrive under the spirited leadership and direction of the Reverend Smith Nze, and is grateful to the Reverend Shaw for her outstanding service to the community over the past eight years,” said Board Chair Doug Varga.

The Council formally introduced the Rev. Smith Nze at its Annual Meeting held virtually on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**New Directors elected are:** Beswick Channer, Assistant Principal, Bassick High School; Father Reggie Norman, Priest, Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church; the Rev. Rhonda Taylor, Pastor, Golden Hill United Methodist Church, Bridgeport; and Carolyn Vermont, Community Liaison for Mayor of Bridgeport

**Directors nominated for new term or office are:** Aileen Brill, Esq., Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Westport; the Rev. Curtis Farr, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fairfield; **and our own Bonnie McWain, of Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport**