



Salem Lutheran Church

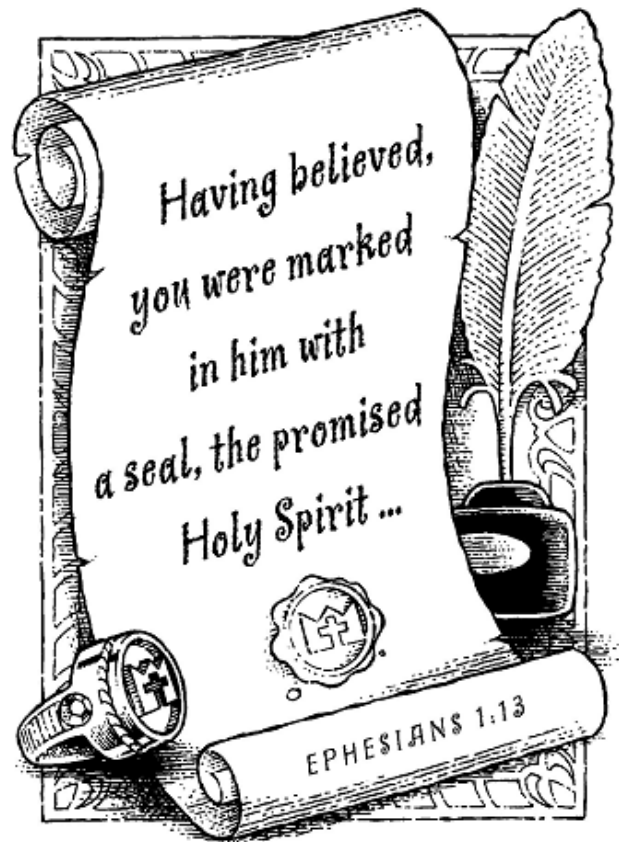
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

participant

7th Sunday
After
Pentecost

July 11, 2021
9:30 AM



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor

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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

GATHERING READINGS

As you prepare for worship, we encourage you to read and reflect on these lessons.

Amos 7:7-15

This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;
the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.’”

And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.” Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.
Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love & faithfulness have met together; righteousness & peace have kissed each other.
Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540 Sunday, July 11, 2021

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement.

Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit,

and eventually gathered a community of monks around him.

He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931 Monday, July 12, 2021

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566 Saturday, July 17, 2021

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military.

Granted a large estate with indigenous slaves, he freed them after he was ordained a priest.

He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

GATHERING SONG

Indescribable

*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 (softly, please, unless you are masked!)
and one day soon we will be able to sing indoors as well.
Please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.*

**From the highest of heights to the depths the sea Creation's revealing Your majesty.
From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of Spring,
Ev'ry creature unique in the song that it sings. All exclaiming:**

Indescribable! Uncontainable!

**You placed the stars in the sky, and You know them by name; You are amazing, God!
All powerful! Untameable!**

Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim: You are amazing, God!

**Who has told ev'ry light'ning bolt where it should go;
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light,
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night? None can fathom:**

Indescribable! Uncontainable!

**You placed the stars in the sky, and You know them by name; You are amazing, God!
All powerful! Untameable! Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim:
You are amazing, God! You are amazing, God!**

Indescribable! Uncontainable!

**You placed the stars in the sky, and You know them by name; You are amazing, God!
All powerful! Untameable!
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim: You are amazing, God!**

Indescribable! ! Uncontainable!

**You placed the stars in the sky, and You know them by name; You are amazing, God!
Incomp'able! Unchangeable!
You see the depths of my heart and You love me the same; You are amazing, God!
You are amazing, God!**

CCLI Song # 4403076

Jesse Reeves | Laura Story

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Performance by the Times Square Church Choir, 05/15/21

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUZwYgOONwI> [5:21]

WELCOME

*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 (softly, please, unless you are masked!)
and one day soon we will be able to sing indoors as well.*

Please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Text: based on Psalm 45:2, Ephesians 1:3-10, Hebrews 1:3-4,

from Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904; Meter 5 5 7 5 5 8

Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

The Text and Music of this hymn are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by the Virtual Choir & Orchestra of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
directed, mixed & produced by David E. Chávez, Music & Worship Minister
with background video clips courtesy StoryBlocks.com*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoMSAHocTlc> [4:00]

Word

READINGS

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The Word was in the beginning with God. ³Through the Word all things came into being and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light – ⁵a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken....

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world –¹⁰was in the world – and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. ¹¹Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. ¹²Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God – ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh, nor human will – but born of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory – the favor and position a parent gives an only child – filled with grace and truth....

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Child, who is close to the Divine parental heart, who has made God known.

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.

Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself.
Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us,
and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today
for our Southern CT conference, the New England Synod and Region 7 of the ELCA,
and for Salem members & families.

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

Awesome Creator, you tend to the smallest of seeds & the mightiest of sycamore trees.
Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops,
and bless the work of farmers and laborers.

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

God of the oppressed, turn the ears of those who are in power
to the voices of prophets in our own day.
Protect those who speak difficult truths when it is risky to do so.
Give us the courage to speak truth to power.

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

God of strength, you are near to those who endure difficulty.
Comfort all who are survivors of violence, guard all refugees and the immigrants,
and protect all who are victims of prejudice, discrimination, and oppression.

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

Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear,
and bring wholeness to those in need,
especially Justin, Barbara, Bud, Dolores, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Steve & all we name in our hearts.

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

God of love, we pray for this holy house and all those who worship here.
We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed;
for our pastor, Marjo, for our office manager, Karl, for our sextons, Jennifer and Pablo,
and for all of our volunteers.

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

We thank you, God, for the saints, martyrs, and prophets who have died in the faith.
We remember those in this community who have recently died.
United with them as God's children, assure us that we are yours forever.

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 encourage you to give to your home congregation first,

but invite you to contribute to our ministry also

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 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O My Soul)

Steve Kuczo, vocalist

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and one day soon we will be able to sing indoors as well.*

Please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.

Refrain Bless the Lord, O my soul! O my soul, Worship His holy name!
Sing like never before, O my soul! I'll worship Your holy name!

1 The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

Refrain Bless the Lord, O my soul! O my soul, Worship His holy name!
Sing like never before, O my soul! I'll worship Your holy name!

2 You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Refrain Bless the Lord, O my soul! O my soul, Worship His holy name!
Sing like never before, O my soul! I'll worship Your holy name!

3 And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come,
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

Refrain Bless the Lord, O my soul! O my soul, Worship His holy name!
Sing like never before, O my soul! I'll worship Your holy name!

CCLI Song # 6016351

Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman

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Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

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.
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!

ORIGINAL TEXT: Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona, Di thabile kaofela.

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*When we are outdoors we can sing (softly, please, unless you are masked!)
and one day soon we will be able to sing indoors as well.*

Please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.

*Refrain: Hallelujah! We sing your praises! All our hearts are filled with gladness!
Hallelujah! We sing your praises! All our hearts are filled with gladness!
Hallelujah! We sing your praises! All our hearts are filled with gladness!
Hallelujah! We sing your praises! All our hearts are filled with gladness!*

1. Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger.
Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger. (*Refrain*)
2. Now Christ sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel.
Now Christ sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel. (*Refrain*)

*Text: South African traditional based on John 6 and transcribed Freedom Is Coming, 1984;
Meter 6 6 6 8 and refrain; © 1984 Peace of Music Publishing AB,
admin. Walton Music Corp., a div. of GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.*

Music: South African traditional HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA

Text and music © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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Performance from the album "49 Hidden Treasures from the African American Heritage Hymnal"

*Licensed to YouTube by NaxosofAmerica (on behalf of GIA Publications, Inc.), 02/03/17
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xw9sll8oLA> [1:20]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise God. And live out your calling!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Performance by Fjedur, Swedish Christian singing group

with roots in Dalarna and Swedish folk music, released on 01/01/83.

The group emerged in the early 1970s from a small youth choir in Malung .

In 1978 , they traveled to South Africa and met the blacks' music,

which was the start of a broadening of the folk music tradition

to be supplemented over the years with songs, jazz, world music & traditional choral music.

During the 80's, Fjedur worked full time and toured in several European countries

as well as in the USA and Canada.

It was this Swedish group that introduced the South African Freedom songs to this country.

After ten years of silence, the group re-emerged in 1996 at the Choir Meeting

in Skinnskatteberg and Music by Lake Siljan. 06/25/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftZ4TKqfR5s> [3:45]

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 all 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.*

Today we welcome into our space, Pastor Errol Johnson and his congregation, Christ Home of Unity, Restoration, Charity and Hope – or CHURCH. They will be worshipping in our sanctuary from 12-1:00 on Sundays. If you see them, please give them a warm welcome!

Next Sunday, July 18th, we will be participating in a Synod Sunday pre-recorded worship which you can watch on Facebook or Youtube from wherever you are, or, if you prefer, you can watch it on the TV right here in the sanctuary.

Pastor Marjo will be on vacation this Tuesday through the following Monday, as she helps prepare for her son Hans' wedding celebration next Sunday. **In case of pastoral emergency, please contact the church office at 203-336-3300 or Jeanette Harris at 203-366-6778.**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3elll2ZmtiZEpadz09>

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 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

Come one, come all! to a Trunk-Tag Sale, THIS Saturday, June 17th, from 10:00 – 2:00 held in Salem’s parking lot. All kinds of good things for sale! Sponsored by Genesis Gospel Café. For additional information re: vending opportunities or for other questions, call 203-452-6252.

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

Thanks for attending Salem’s Semi-Annual Meeting. Elected to new terms on Council were John Bryk, Frank Dukenski, Richard Lansing, and Steve Kuczo. Following the congregational meeting, the Council met to elect officers. Congratulations and Thanks to President Ray Anderson, Vice-President Tom Larson, Secretary Nancy Headford, and Treasurer Rich Kenyon.

Salem and Friends Breakfast & Faith Discussion, sponsored by the Salem Men, is held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. Please join us...and invite a friend!

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, Documentaries, Animation, and more. Please consider supporting our city with your attendance. For tickets and schedule go to www.BridgeportFilmFestival.org

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.

Calumet's Walk the Walk 2021

If you haven't already done so, check out all the details on Camp Calumet's website:
www.calumet.org/giving/walkthewalk

1. It's the goal to have 1,500 people/dogs registered by June 30. Each registrant is \$25 (which is actually a donation from you to Calumet!).
2. "Walk the Walk 2021" will begin on July 1 and end on August 31.
3. Everyone will be on a TEAM (those who are connected to New England Synod congregations will, we hope, join their congregation TEAM). Be sure to enter the name of your team option below.
4. Four times during the 62-Day walk, each TEAM captain will gather mileage from every TEAM member and report the total miles to Calumet. Some will walk lots and lots. Some will walk just a few. Every mile, and portion there of, matters.
5. All together, we hope to reach 200,000 miles in the 62-Day period -- July & August!

****PARTICIPANT GOALS****

6. If 100 walkers sign up by May 27, Calumet will receive \$5,000 in matching money it won't otherwise receive.
7. If we can register 1,400 additional walkers after that -- totaling 1,500 registrants by June 30 -- a group of donors will donate \$27,500 (and counting). But we won't get those funds if we don't hit our 1,500 walker goal by June 30.

****MILEAGE GOAL****

8. If we reach 200,000 miles walked, another hunk of dollars (amount not yet known) will come to Calumet by a group of Angel Donors.
9. During early August, each participant will have the chance -- if they wish -- to invite friends & family to support them with one-time gifts to Calumet in support of their "Walk the Walk 2021."
10. If everything works perfectly, Calumet will raise at least \$106,250 from "Walk the Walk 2021." How cool is that!

Who do you know who can join Calumet's "Walk the Walk 2021" this summer?

A one-time gift of \$25 is the registration fee.

Everyone gets an official Walk the Walk 2021 T Shirt.

Dogs get an official Walk the Walk 2021 bandana!

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 17th.

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**

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. *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.*