



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*8th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*July 18, 2021
9:30 AM*



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www.salembridgeport.org

www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

PRELUDE

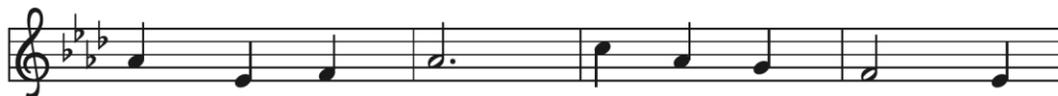
Earth and All Stars

Robert A Hobby (b. 1962)

GATHERING HYMN

God's Work, Our Hands

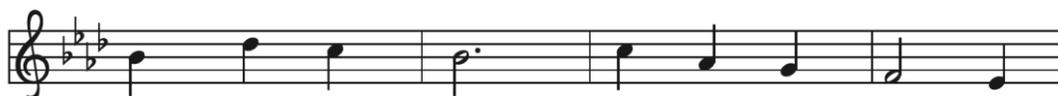
ACS 1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

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Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray....

Amen.

Word

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

Presented by members of the Southeast Massachusetts Conference



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Read by Deacon Judy Hakanson Smith, Calumet Lutheran Ministries

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 92

Presented by Cross of Christ, Waterbury, CT

It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High,
proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,
to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.
For you make me glad by your deeds, Lord; I sing for joy at what your hands have done.
How great are your works, Lord, how profound your thoughts!
Senseless people do not know, fools do not understand,
that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed
forever.
But you, Lord, are forever exalted.
For surely your enemies, Lord, surely your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered.
You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine oils have been poured on me.
My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked
foes.
The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green,
proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Read by Theodosia Salley, Concordia, Worcester

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung by members of the Boston Metropolitan Conference

Accompaniment by Mike Lembke, Faith Lutheran Church, Quincy

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

Mark 4:26-34

Presented by members of the Boston Metropolitan Conference

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds

on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

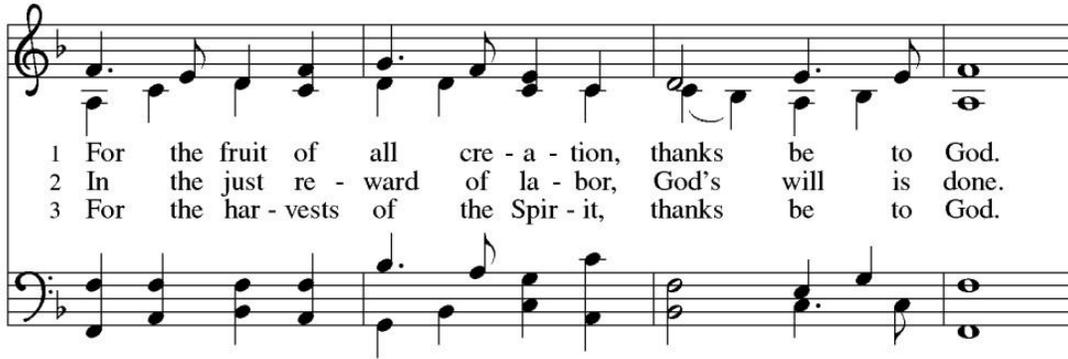
With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Bishop Patricia Davenport, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

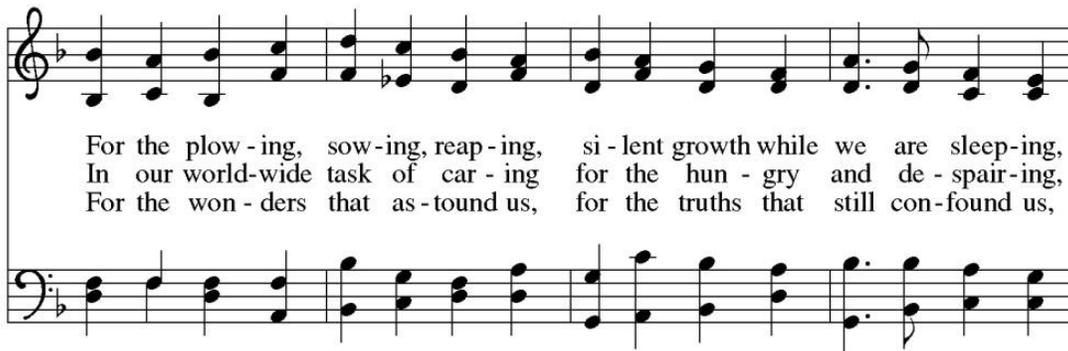
Presented by members of the Rhode Island Conference



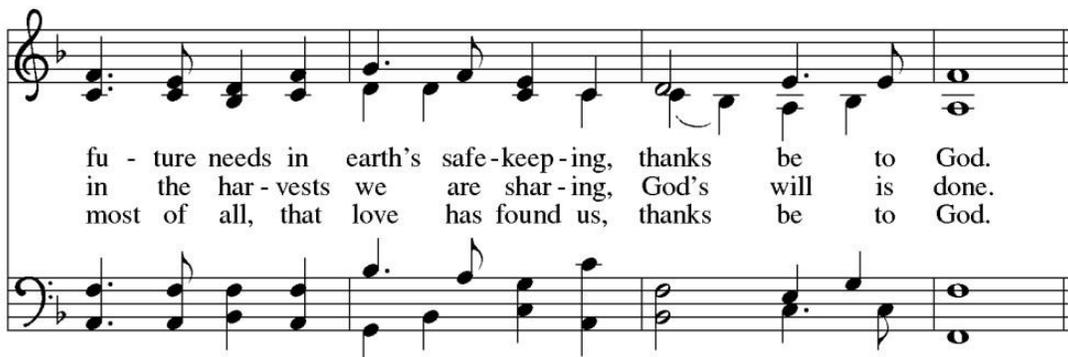
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

The Hymn of the Day is followed by an expression of praise through music and dance, presented by several congregations in the New England Synod.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Intercessions are offered by Elise Carlson, Marybeth Lewison (Bethesda, Springfield), The Rev. Abigail d'Ambrouso, (Chaplain, Maine Medical Center), and The Rev. Karen Rucks-Walker (Vice President of Development, Ascentria Care Alliance)

After each petition:

God of love and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

At this time you may pause to share an offering with your congregation. If you feel moved to do so, you may also share your gifts with the New England Synod at www.nelutherans.org/donate

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher, your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word. All that has life and breath praises your name. For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, preached your mercy, and called us to faith. For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word, that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption, and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world. For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.

We entreat you, O God.

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our
prayer, for the sake of your living Word,
Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Spread, Oh, Spread Almighty Word

ELW #663

1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;

Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav - en's gifts ex - tend to all.
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
let the gath - ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: GOTT SEI DANK, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major, BWV 564.3

Johann Sebastian Bach

Participants

Presiding Minister

The Rev. Alissa Oleson
Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, North Quincy, MA

Assisting Ministers

Jena Hill
Minister of Youth, Family & Outreach, Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester, MA

The Rev. Nathan Piphon
Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester, MA

Preacher

The Rev. Patricia Davenport
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Principal Musician

Mark Mummert
Cantor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester, MA

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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. 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.

This 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.

Flowers today are given by Dolores Kuczo in honor of her birthday and her great-granddaughter Alice's birthday.

Condolences to Pastor Andrew Holbrook of Christ Presbyterian Church and his family. His father, John Holbrook, died this past week.

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

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

Meeting ID: 828 8277 7326 Passcode: 688740

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

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.** Each session is from 7:30-9:00 pm. The dates are: 7/15, 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

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

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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Friday, July 23, 2021

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

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.

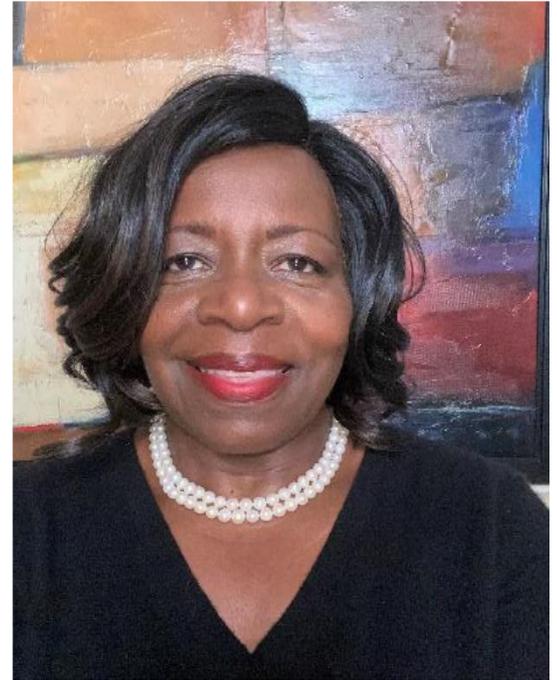
Everyone gets an official Walk the Walk 2021 T Shirt.

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.*