



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

6th Sunday
After
Pentecost

July 4, 2021
9:30 AM

**He called the twelve
and began to send
them out two by two ...**

Mark 6:7, ESV



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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.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

[A voice] said to me: “O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you”. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, “Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD’. Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.”

Psalm 123

To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.
As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.
Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt,
too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows — was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness”. So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

GATHERING SONG

Knowing You

*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.*

1 All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this

Chorus Knowing You Jesus knowing You There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord love You Lord

2 Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness

3 Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die

CCLI Song # 1045238

by Graham Kendrick

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Performance by Marjo Anderson, sung to accompaniment at Silver Shine's YouTube channel

"All I Once Held Dear (Knowing You Jesus) Karaoke in Medium Key (C)

with background vocals", Artist Ingrid DuMosch,

from album "Shout! ~ Top 100 Praise & Worship Songs Volume 2, 03/19/19

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YilBqszk4FY> [4:38]

"The nature of God is so vast and complex

that no human being can fully know everything there is to know about Him.

But life is about continually seeking Him, learning more about Him,

and enjoying His fellowship."

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

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

- 1 Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word".
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 2 Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach".
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 3 Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood".
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 4 Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive".
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 5 Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

*Text: based on Luke 24:44-52, Acts 1:1-11, Romans 12:3-18, Ephesians 4:11-16,
by Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934; Meter 8 7 8 7 D;
© 1978 Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP)*

*Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH by Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991;
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Performance for Faith United Methodist Church, Rockville, MD

by Faith's Virtual Choir and Bob Holder, organ, 01/31/21,

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STNfRdK2wz8&t=60s> [5:19]

Word

READINGS

Mark 6:1-13

[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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 all, through the waters of baptism
you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children.
Sustain the baptized and increase their faith,
that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth.

We pray for our mission partners,
especially today for our Southern CT conference, the New England Synod and Region 7,
and for Salem members & families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Teresa Roehrich, Dick Bellows, Jonathan Baronavski, and Paul Baronavski, Jr.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe.
We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy,
and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death
and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression.
Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption.
Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ
in solidarity with the disempowered.
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 holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love.
We pray for our outreach ministries.
Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks that in every time and place
you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom.
Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers,
and all who strive for liberty for all.
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

God's Work, Our Hands

All Creation Sings* # 1000

(*The most recent worship book of the ELCA, published in 2020.)

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

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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.

- 1 God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and sheltering the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.
- 2 God's work, our feet: traveling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your gospel.
- 3 God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least. Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.
- 4 God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love. Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.

Text: based on Isaiah 58:7, Matthew 4:30-31, 13:3, 25:37-43, Romans 10:15, Phillipians 3:13-14, Hebrews 12:1, by Wayne L. Wold, b.1954; Meter 4 5 10 4 5 10 10 9;

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

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Performance for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 08/13/19,

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkUINcJ3KXA>

A hymn titled "God's Work, Our Hands" written by Wayne Wold

was selected as the winning entry in the ELCA's "God's work. Our hands" Sunday hymn contest.

People submitted original compositions to be considered as a hymn for the ELCA's annual day of service.

Wold is also the director of music ministry at First Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, MD.

The selected hymn represents the official tagline of the ELCA

and expresses how the people of this church live in service for the life of the world.

The hymn is available as a year-round worship resource. <https://www.elca.org/dayofservice>

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian denominations in the US, with nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region.

Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands,"

the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world.

The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

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!

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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.*

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st. 3;

Meter 11 10 11 10 11 10

Text sts.1-2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Company;

Text st.3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company; All rights reserved.

Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865—1957;

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Performance by Summer Choir & Congregation, First Plymouth Church, Lincoln NE, 07/06/14

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-zsFOa-lQ4> [4:11]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Grow in faith. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Freedom Is Coming

as recorded by Fjedur, a Swedish Christian Singing Group

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.

[A leader may sing the words in parentheses]

- 1 (Oh, freedom!) Freedom is coming!
(Oh, freedom!) Freedom is coming!
(Oh, freedom!) Freedom is coming! Oh, yes, I know!
(Oh, freedom!) Freedom is coming!
(Oh, freedom!) Freedom is coming!
(Oh, freedom!) Freedom is coming! Oh, yes, I know!

(Oh, yes, I know!) Oh, oh, yes, I know!
(Oh, yes, I know!) Oh, oh, yes, I know!
(Oh, yes, I know!) Oh, oh, yes, I know! Oh, yes, I know!
(Oh, yes, I know!) Oh, oh, yes, I know!
(Oh, yes, I know!) Oh, oh, yes, I know!
(Oh, yes, I know!) Oh, oh, yes, I know! Oh, yes, I know!
- 2 Oh, Jesus! Jesus is coming!

*Text: South African traditional based on Isaiah 61:1 transcribed Freedom Is Coming, 1984;
Meter P M; © 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 FREEDOM IS COMING

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

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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*

*Provided to YouTube by The Orchard Enterprises; Auto-generated by YouTube.
as found at this link:*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6FIomXtDz0&list=PL-P3QBcKpOZ2meHlg_GDzP_o1LeLWCKgm&index=1
[4:04]

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!

Flowers today are given by Mr and Mrs David Albers in memory of their son Michael David Albers.

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.*

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 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

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

Inner-View Chat'n'Chew meets the **3rd Saturday of the month at 11:00**, so mark your calendars for **July 17th**. 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.

Thanks for attending Salem's Semi-Annual Meeting last week. 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.

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

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

Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church, and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake.

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.*