



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*14th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*August 29, 2021
9:30 AM*



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www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

WELCOME!

Flowers today are given by Joan Smith Crossman in memory of Winnie and Bob Smith.

You may have been vaccinated, but please bear in mind that not everyone is able to receive the vaccine due to their health condition. *Although churches may claim an exception to the government's current rule that masks be worn by all in all indoor public gatherings, the virus does not respect such exceptions. Some of our members have asked that everyone wear masks as they have people in their lives who cannot be vaccinated. PLEASE respect them and their situations.* 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 during worship or hold on to your kit until you get home. If you take the elements inside the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet. After the service, please dispose of your own kit either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.

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.*

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. She would be MORE THAN HAPPY to hear from you!**

Please contact your Parish Nurse Carol if you would like to call, or send a card or note to one of our shut-ins. Carol will let you know if the person would prefer a call or a note. If you have extra cards that you do not need, please let Carol know.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872
Thursday, September 2, 2021

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, 1 of the 2 great Danish theologians of the 19th century. As a pastor, he preached that Christianity is more than a philosophy – it is a divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

GATHERING SONG

The Heart of Worship

Verse 1

When the music fades all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

Pre-Chorus

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You all about You Jesus

Verse 2

King of endless worth no one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath

CCLI Song # 2296522

Words and Music by Matt Redman

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Performances by:

1. *Capital Life Church – 09/08/13*

*(Lead Vox: Cassandra Walker; Vox/AGT: Jeff Abyad; Vox: Vivian Stephen; AGT: Jakub Szewczulak;
Vox/Percussion: Josh Beverly; Drums: Brian Quinn)*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSGuwFf7NGg> [5:13]

2. *Rialdo Suwand, 12/22/13*

*This Heart of Worship Acoustic Cover is contemporary worship version of Matt Redman's original.
This cover only uses acoustic guitars and vocals.*

Use the lyrics to enhance the worship experience. God Bless.

Subscribe now: <http://bit.ly/RialdoSuwandi> to get more contemporary worship music regularly.

Please like and share our videos. It will inspire us to upload quality content for you. Thank you :)

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDfYhpBPIYc> [5:04]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 631)

***When we worship indoors please meditate on the text or sing it silently in your head,
or if you would like to sing softly, PLEASE wear a mask.***

While you may feel safe singing, not everyone feels safe having you sing.

They may not tell you that – they may just stop coming to worship.

When we are outdoors we can sing (softly, please, unless you are masked!)

As Christians we are to put our love for God and others before our own desires,

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

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Text: based on John 20:22, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Hebrews 4:9-10, Revelation 4:10-11, 7:15,
by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

Melody: HYFRYDOL by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1812-1887

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Performance by The Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul Montreal, QC, Canada, 05/19/20

Arr. J. Scott and J. Oldengarm

Dr. Jean-Sébastien Vallée, Conductor;

Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, Organist/Director of Music;

Stratsimir Dimitrov, Sound Editing and Video Montage

Released on the Choir's CD "A New Heaven" - available at www.standrewstpaul.com

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eb6xfRzjhg> [4:41]

Word

READINGS

Isaiah 29:13-14, 16-19, 22-24

- ¹³ The LORD said:
Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote;
- ¹⁴ so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing.
The wisdom of their wise shall perish & the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden....
- ¹⁶ You have everything backwards!
You treat the potter as a lump of clay.
Does a book say to its author, "He didn't write me"?
Does a meal say to the woman who cooked it, "She did not make me"?
- ¹⁷ And then before you know it, and without you having anything to do with it,
waste land will be transformed into lush gardens, and deforested lands reforested.
- ¹⁸ At that time the deaf will hear...[and] the blind will see.
- ¹⁹ The castoffs of society will be laughing and dancing in GOD,
the down-and-outs shouting praise to The Holy of Israel....
- ²² And finally this, GOD's Message for the family of Jacob,
the same GOD who redeemed Abraham:
"No longer will Jacob hang his head in shame,
no longer grow gaunt and pale with waiting.
- ²³ For he's going to see his children, my personal gift to him — lots of children.
And these children will honor me by living holy lives.
In holy worship they'll honor the Holy One of Jacob
and stand in holy awe of the God of Israel.
- ²⁴ Those who got off-track will finally understand,
and complainers and whiners will at last learn gratitude and accept instruction."

Mark 7:1-2a, 5a, 6, 14-15a, 21b *You may stand for the reading of the Gospel if you so desire.*

The Pharisees, along with some religion scholars who had come from Jerusalem, gathered around him. ² They noticed that some of this disciples weren't following the prescribed rituals.... ⁵ So the Pharisees and the religion scholars asked, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders...?" ⁶ He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,

⁷ and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote'

⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition" ,,,,

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand:

¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that ... can defile, but the things that [are]...²¹ from within,
from the human heart...."

SERMON

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *You may stand for the Prayers if you so desire.*

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence.

Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome.

For our mission partners, especially today the Council of Churches' Janus Center for Youth in Crisis, and its ecumenical and interfaith Bridge Building program,

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

Hazel Pasqua, Eduardo Vazquez, Joan Crossman, and **Dennis Norberg**.

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

We pray for the whole of creation,

that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish.

Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

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

We pray for individuals in positions of authority,

especially President Joe Biden, Governor Ned Lamont, Mayor Joseph Ganim,

US Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, US Representative Jim Hines,

State Senator Marilyn Moore, and State Representative Jack Hennessy.

Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments

and guide them to work for justice and equity for all persons.

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

We pray for all who are in need, especially Ed, Barbara, Bud, CathyAnn, Cindy, CJ, Darth, Dolores, Eron, Frank, Grace, Hazel, Isaiah, Joey, Justin, Natalie, Steve, Sue, Wayne, others we name in our hearts, and all of those who provide care and support for them.

Encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty.

Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life.

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

We pray those beginning a new school year,

especially the students, teachers, staff and administration of the Bridgeport public schools.

Let school boards throughout our state and country work for justice

so that every student is enabled and empowered to reach their full God-given potential.

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

We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with our heart.

Transform our hearts & renew our faith, that we might join together in an eternal song of praise.

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:

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving

LORD'S PRAYER *You may stand for the Lord's Prayer if you so desire.*

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 *You may stand for the Offering Prayer if you so desire.*

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 *Please be seated.*

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

Change My Heart, Oh God

*(as found in the ELCA worship books
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 801 and Worship & Praise # 28;
also found in Group Praise & Worship Songbook)*

*When we worship indoors
please meditate on the text or sing it silently in your head,
or if you would like to sing softly, PLEASE wear a mask.
While you may feel safe singing, not everyone feels safe having you sing.
They may not tell you that – they may just stop coming to worship.
When we are outdoors we can sing (softly, please, unless you are masked!)
As Christians we are to put our love for God and others before our own desires,
So please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.*

Chorus:

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God; may I be like you.**

Verse:

**You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.**

(Repeat as desired.)

CCLI Song # 1565

*Text: based on Psalm 51:10, Isaiah 64:8, Jeremiah 18:5-6, and Romans 9:21,
by Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953; Meter P M*

Music: CHANGE MY HEART by Eddie Espinosa

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Performance by Church of Christ the Saviour, 06/13/21 –

[If you'd like to donate, please do so by clicking this link:

<https://app.easytithes.com/App/Giving/...>

<https://ccslive.org/> #ChurchofChristtheSavior #CCSWorship] –

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQrsIqsGijY> [3:06]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU, and BLESSING

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *You may stand if you so desire.*

Blessed be the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen**

God, we have failed to be the people you have called us to be. We think back to the times when we have sought your forgiveness while harboring anger and resentment towards others... when we have recited words at worship while our hearts have been far from you... when we have worshipped our liturgy and hymnody and theology instead of you... when we have treated you as though you were our servant... when we have made worship about what we want and not about what you want... when we have failed to speak the gospel in language those outside our walls understand... when we have trusted in our own wisdom instead of taking a leap of faith... when we have whined and complained instead of being grateful and accepting instruction...

Forgive us for our failings, dear God.

Draw us into deeper relationship with you through prayer and the power of your Word.

Make us gentle and humble of heart,

forgiving one another and bearing with one another in love,

making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Beloved children of God:

The God who continues to create and form you offers you all the manna your body needs.

The Christ who continues to redeem you offers you all the mercy your heart needs.

The Holy Spirit who continues to sustain you offers you all the miracles your soul needs.

The God of All Creation forgives you and loves you into abundant life. **Amen**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!

We open them to God and one another!

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

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or hold on to your kit until you get home.*

If you take the elements inside the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet.

After the service, please dispose of your own kit either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen!**

SENDING SONG

How Great Thou Art

(as found in the ELCA worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 856)

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They may not tell you that – they may just stop coming to worship.
When we are outdoors we can sing (softly, please, unless you are masked!)
As Christians we are to put our love for God and others before our own desires,
So please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.*

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain*

3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

*Text: based on 1 Chronicles 29:10-13, Psalm 19:1-6, 48:1, 92:5, 96:4, 104, 148:3, Romans 8:32
by Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989;
Meter 11 10 11 10 & refrain*

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune, adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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Performance by First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, 01/24/16

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHBePf6xQMo> [5:19]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Draw close to God and God will draw close to you

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

(as found in the ELCA worship books

Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 401, This Far by Faith # 103, and With One Voice # 687)

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When we are outdoors we can sing (softly, please, unless you are masked!)
As Christians we are to put our love for God and others before our own desires,
So please, exercise patience, understanding, and love for your neighbor. Thank you.*

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

Refrain: Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

- 2 Come to teach us; come to nourish those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful; may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced. *(Refrain)*
- 3 Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame. *(Refrain)*
- 4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty. *(Refrain)*
- 5 Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure. *(Refrain)*

ELW # 401, TFF # 103, WOV # 687

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

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

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

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

Arr. © Egil Hovland)

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

Announcements

TONIGHT is Caribbean Night as our monthly **Sunday Night Alive** event returns for our first in-person gathering since the pandemic. **Please join us from 6:00-9:00 in the picnic grove for food, fellowship, fun, & music** as we learn about & enjoy another culture. And if you want to help plan an event to share Salem's Swedish culture, please let me know!

SALEM GIVERS ARE AWESOME!!! Our Treasurer reports that our envelope giving for July was right on target – which never happens in the summer! And today we have the opportunity to set such a record for August, too! We thank God for you and we thank you for your generosity! One of the principles in the Bible is that the more generous we are, the more God entrusts to us so that we can be even more generous. Every gift no matter how large or small is appreciated and will enable us to continue to do God's work in this place. If you'd like help signing up for online giving please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Marjo, Karl, Ray Anderson, Jean Larson, or Nancy Headford.

There are 4 days left 'til the end of the month so it's not too late to make your steps count! If you walk, run, bike, or swim, **please join Calumet's Walk the Walk 2021. Here's how:**

1. To register go to: <https://www.calumet.org/giving/walkthewalk>
When you register sign up for "TEAM God at the Center".
Everyone gets an official Walk the Walk 2021 T Shirt. Dogs get a bandana!
2. Report your miles from July 1 through August 15 to Pastor Marjo, your Team Captain by texting her at 203-982-3441 or emailing her at marjoanderson@aol.com.
Or on September 1 report your miles from July 1-August 31.

As of August 25th 174,277 miles out of the 200,000 goal have been walked. If you need help signing up, please speak with Pastor Marjo. **Even if you don't walk, you can help Calumet!**

Just go to [Calumet.org/onedayofgiving](https://www.calumet.org/onedayofgiving) and click the link to make your one time gift.

The next Salem and Friends Breakfast & Faith Discussion, sponsored by the Salem Men, will be held Saturday **September 11th** at 8:00 am. Please join us...and invite a friend!

Wednesday at 12:00 noon we meet on zoom for prayer. You can pray out loud if you want, or you can simply ask others to pray for you or for the concerns on your mind or heart.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3elI2ZmtiZEpadz09>

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](https://www.salembridgeport.org) under the Resources Tab.