



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

16th Sunday
After
Pentecost

September 12,
2021
9:30 AM



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[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Gathering

Welcome!

You may have been vaccinated, but please bear in mind that not everyone is able to receive the vaccine due to their age or health condition. *Although YOU may not get seriously ill, you could transmit covid to your grandchildren or to someone else who could end up seriously ill. Some of our members do not come because we do not have a mandatory mask policy.* We know that EVERYONE is tired of wearing masks, but it's the best thing we can do as the efficacy of the vaccines wane over time and as new variants learn to elude the vaccine's defenses. 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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407 **Monday, September 13, 2021**

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher.

His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth").

Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court.

As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Holy Cross Day **Tuesday, September 14, 2021**

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what she believed to be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion.

Her son built two churches there,

and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258 **Thursday, September 16, 2021**

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians.

He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress.

He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179 **Friday, September 17, 2021**

A mystic who was widely influential within the church,

Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns,

& produced treatises in medicine, theology, & natural history. She was also a musician & artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961 **Saturday, September 18, 2021**

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the 2nd Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia.

His journal, published as Markings, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

GATHERING SONG

Trust In You

Verse 1 Letting go of every single dream I lay each one down at Your feet
Every moment of my wondering Never changes what You see

Verse 2 I've tried to win this war I confess My hands are weary I need Your rest
Mighty warrior King of the fight No matter what I face You're by my side

Chorus When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through
When You don't give the answers As I cry out to You
I will trust I will trust I will trust in You

Verse 3 Truth is You know what tomorrow brings There's not a day ahead You have not seen
So in all things be my life and breath I want what You want Lord and nothing less

Bridge You are my strength and comfort You are my steady hand
You are my firm foundation The Rock on which I stand
Your ways are always higher Your plans are always good
There's not a place where I'll go You've not already stood

CCLI Song # 7025522

Lauren Daigle | Michael Farren | Paul Mabury

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View the original song version at: https://youtu.be/n_aVFVveJNs

*Performance # 1 by Six Year Old Sophia, 09/02/20,
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75Ifgg8hU4c> [3:54]*

*Performance # 2 by Antonette Grace Ompad & Eue Valdehueza via MUSIC OF HOPE, 04/13/21
Arrangement by Seli & Ari from Elenyi; Audio Editing and Mixing by Kyrie Engaño Pepania
Accompaniment by Kyrie Engaño Pepania; Cover by Antonette Ompad & Eue Valdehueza
From Pagadian City
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZ-EwJFGZbE> [3:30]*

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

*Performance # 3 by The Bellevue Student Choir of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, 07/28/17
(Feel free to share on social media!)
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iyYUGcW6w0> [3:30]*

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

(as found in the ELCA worship books *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 803 and *This Far by Faith* # 79)

*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.*

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down,
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Text: based on Mt 27:29, Mk 15:17, 39, Jn 19:2, 1 Cor 1:18, 27-31, Gal 6:14, Eph 3:7-9 by Isaac Watts

Music: HAMBURG by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872; Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska, 03/29/18

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7ry0-ZDoik> [3:32]

Word

Judges 7.2-8

Jehovah tells Gideon to get an army, so Gideon gathers together 32,000 fighting men. But there is an army of 135,000 men against Israel.

^{7:2}Jehovah now said to Gideon: “There are too many people with you for me to give Mid'i-an into their hand. Otherwise, Israel might brag about itself against me and say, ‘My own hand saved me.’ ³Now, please, announce in the presence of the people: ‘Whoever is afraid and trembling, let him return home.’” So Gideon put them to the test. With that, 22,000 of the people returned home, and 10,000 remained. ⁴Still Jehovah said to Gideon: “There are yet too many people. Have them go down to the water so that I may test them for you there. When I say to you, ‘This one will go with you,’ he will go with you, but when I say to you, ‘This one will not go along with you,’ he will not go along.” ⁵So he took the people down to the water. Then Jehovah said to Gideon: “Separate everyone who laps up the water with his tongue just as a dog laps, from those who bend down on their knees to drink.” ⁶The number of those lapping up the water, putting their hand to their mouth, was 300 men. The rest of the people bent down on their knees to drink. ⁷Jehovah now said to Gideon: “I will save you with the 300 men who lapped the water, and I will give Mid'i-an into your hand. But let all the other people go back home.” ⁸So after they took the provisions and the horns from the people, he sent all the other men of Israel back home, and he kept only the 300 men.

The time comes for the fight. Gideon puts his 300 men in three groups. He gives to each man a horn, and a jar with a torch inside it. When it is about midnight, they all gather around the camp of enemy soldiers. Then, at the same time, they all blow their horns and break their jars, and shout: ‘Jehovah’s sword and Gideon’s!’ When the enemy soldiers wake up, they are confused and afraid. They all begin to run, and the Israelites win the battle.

I Corinthians 1.18-31

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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.

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word.
Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced & shared.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts,
and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Al Dewalt and Tom Larson.

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

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good.
Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, & other disasters.
Restore forests and curb overflowing waters.

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

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety.
Provide for all who are in danger.
Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others.
Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves.

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,
the Hintz family, the d'Andrea family and others who experienced flooding,
and all we name in our hearts.

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

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed.
Break chains of discrimination and injustice.
Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked.

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

Forming God, you gather this community together.
Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship,
we honor you and encourage one another.
Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together.

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

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life.
We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace.

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

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

(as found in the ELCA worship book, This Far by Faith # 152)

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or if you would like to sing softly, PLEASE wear a mask.*

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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 Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way.
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.**

**2 Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way.
Search me and try me, Master, today.
Purer than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.**

**3 Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way.
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray.
Power, all power surely is thine.
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.**

**4 Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way.
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.**

Text: based on Isaiah 64:8, by Adelaide A. Pollard, 1862-1934; Meter 5 4 5 4 D

Music: ADELAIDE by George C. Stebbins, 1846-1945

Text, Tune and Arrangement are in the Public Domain.

Performance by The Champaign Church of Christ worship team, 05/10/20

Sound mixed & mastered by Ben Kelly. Video edited by Joshua Lutz.

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_F5Ukj2bFhg [2:49]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may stand & make the sign of the cross if you so desire.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

God of all mercy and consolation,

come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will & walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

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.

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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

All to Jesus I Surrender

(as found in the ELCA worship book This Far by Faith # 235)

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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.

All to Jesus I surrender; All to him I freely give.

I will ever love and trust him, In his presence daily live.

I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; Humbly at his feet I bow;

Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me, Jesus, take me now.

I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; Make me, Saviour, wholly thine;

Let me feel thy Holy Spirit, Truly know that thou art mine.

I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee;

Fill me with thy love and power, Let thy blessing fall on me.

I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.

CCLI Song # 4836083

Text: Judson W. Van de Venter (1855-1939); Meter 8 7 8 7 with refrain

Music: Winfield Scott Weeden (1847-1908)

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Performance by Maranatha Christian Church located in United Kingdom.

“We do not ask for money. The gospel is free!”

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4WbR_AtoK0 [4:23]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Have faith enough to trust God's foolishness!

Thanks be to God!

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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.*

**Who breaks the power of sin and darkness? Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory the King above all kings!**

**Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder and leaves us breathless in awe & wonder?
The King of Glory the King above all kings!**

**(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace! This is unfailing love
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross!
You laid down Your life that I would be set free!
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me!**

**Who brings our chaos back into order? Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory the King of Glory!**

**Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory the King above all kings! (Refrain)**

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy! Worthy! Worthy! (Refrain)**

CCLI Song # 6333821 – by Jeremy Riddle | Josh Farro | Phil Wickham

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Performance by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, 08/07/21

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hm2ld1edGfE> [6:31]

Announcements

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, so please bring a lawn chair if you want, or you are welcome to sit at the picnic tables.*

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.

The link is also on the calendar on our website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Wednesday evenings we gather on zoom from 6:30-7:15 for Bible study. Currently our Bible Study is focused on the Purpose and Principles of Worship, so if you'd like to help plan worship or simply would like to get more out of worship, please join us. Following Bible Study at 7:15 we will have a brief service of Holy Communion together.

The link is also on the calendar on our website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

The next Salem and Friends Breakfast & Faith Discussion, sponsored by the Salem Men, will be held Saturday **October 9th** at 8:00 am. Please join us...and invite a friend!

The next Sunday Night Alive event is tentatively scheduled for the last Sunday of the September, the 26th, at 6:00 pm. Stay tuned for details!

Thank you to Calumet's Walk the Walk Team "God at the Center" – comprised of Eileen and Ray Anderson, Susan and Gustav the Dog Murphy, Jean and Tom Larson, Jeanette Harris, Elaine and Keith Weston, and Pastor Marjo – which made up 5/10^{ths} of 1% of Calumet's walkers and walked 2,254 miles or about 8/10^{ths} of 1% of the 255,789 miles walked in July and August! That means we did more than our share per person (or dog)! And it means Calumet exceeded its 200,000 mile goal by over 25%. Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

The Connecticut Hospice in Branford is accepting applications for new volunteers! Their patients and families are in need of your care and support. If you have an interest in Reception or Patient Companionship, please call Joan Cullen, Director of Volunteers at 203-315-7510.

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.