



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*18th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*September 26,
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!

Give thanks with a grateful heart – This past year has been full of challenges for each of us personally and for Salem as a congregation. But God has been with us through all of it. Over the next several weeks, let's reflect on the things for which we are thankful. In your bulletin is a slip of paper; please fill that out and deposit it in the offering box. We will collect these thoughts, post them on a board, and include them in the next week's prayers. (Those who are not worshipping in person can participate by emailing your thankful thoughts to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net so we can include them.)

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

TONIGHT Sunday Night Alive presents MOVIE NIGHT! We'll gather at 6 pm in our picnic grove for a time of fellowship, and then watch the movie, "The Insanity of God", the true story of a couple, who after the death of their son, journey into the depths of the persecuted church, where they are drawn to see Christ more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly day by day.

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!

GATHERING SONG

More Precious Than Silver

*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 1 (Oh) Lord You are More precious than silver Lord You are More costly than gold
Lord You are More beautiful than diamonds And nothing I desire Compares with You

Verse 1 And who can weigh the value Of knowing You
Oh who can judge the worth Of Who You are
Lord who can count the blessing Of loving You
Who can say just how great You are, How great You are

Chorus 2 (Oh) Lord You are More precious than silver Lord You are More costly than gold
Lord You are More beautiful than diamonds And nothing I desire Compares with You
Ooo nothing I desire Compares with You Ooo nothing I desire Compares with You

CCLI Song # 11335

by Lynn DeShazo

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*Performance #1 by Dr. Linda Beckman, piano, and Michelle Bessemer, violin,
arr. Mark Hayes, 0/10/15*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLtLklttIYI> [3:14]

Performance # 2 by Clearfield Presbyterian, 05/18/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn8bl77VgUY> [2:15]

Performance #3 by Randy Ekstedt for Antelope Springs Church, 07/08/20

Just me and my guitar - enjoy!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXsqNrOpZ2g> [1:38]

*Performance #4 by the Chancel Choir & Orchestra of Hayes Barton Baptist Church,
Raleigh, NC, 12/16/18*

(<https://vimeo.com/306082263>) titled "Portraits of The King"

at Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC <http://www.hbbc.org/>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOH0gTU8-s4> [1:45]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG Spirit (aka Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness)

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 396 and With One Voice # 684)*

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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.***

Refrain Spirit Spirit of gentleness Blow through the wilderness Calling and free
Spirit Spirit of restlessness Stir me from placidness Wind wind on the sea

Verse 1 You moved on the waters You called to the deep
Then You coaxed up the mountains From the valleys of sleep
And over the eons You called to each thing
Wake from your slumbers And rise on your wings (*Refrain*)

Verse 2 You swept through the desert You stung with the sand
And You goaded Your people With a law and a land
And when they were blinded With their idols and lies
Then You spoke through Your prophets To open their eyes (*Refrain*)

Verse 3 You sang in a stable You cried from a hill
Then You whispered in silence When the whole world was still
And down in the city You called once again
When You blew through Your people On the rush of the wind (*Refrain*)

Verse 4 You call from tomorrow You break ancient schemes
From the bondage of sorrow The captives dream dreams
Our women see visions Our men clear their eyes
With bold new decisions Your people arise (*Refrain*)

CCLI Song # 101393

Text: based on Genesis 1.1-5, Joel 2.28-29 by James K. Manley, b. 1940; Meter Irregular

Music: SPIRIT by James K. Manley

Text & Music © 1978 James K. Manley

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Performance by Strathroy United Church, 11/13/11

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IpJ_S0ueo [4:58]

Word

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

The...Israelites...wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt..., the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Moses heard the people weeping.... Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once — if I have found favor in your sight — and do not let me see my misery."

So the LORD said..., "Gather...70 of the elders...[&] bring them to the tent of meeting...."

So Moses went...and gathered 70 elders..... Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the 70 elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad & Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, & that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

Psalm 19:7-14

- ⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸ The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Mark 9:38-50

John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us”. But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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 and its ministry.

Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith.

Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Seafarers and International House, the Lions Club and 12-step groups,

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

Jennifer Reyes, Samantha Baronavski, and Brandon DeWalt.

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

We pray for natural wonders of your creation.

Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats

and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided.

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

We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts.

Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved.

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

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease, especially Barbara, Bud, CathyAnn, CJ, Darth, Dolores, Ed, Eron, Frank, Grace, Hazel, Justin, Steve, Sue, Wayne, and all we name in our hearts.

Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead.

Sustain caregivers with energy and patience.

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

We pray for the staff and lay leaders of this congregation. Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service.

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

We give thanks for all your saints, those we have known and loved from every time and place.

Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation.

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

We are thankful for God always being with us & continuing to bless us, even in difficult times, for our picnic grove and those who keep it ready for our use, for all our good friends at Salem, for the rapid development of vaccines, for loving family and steadfast friends and for sunshine.

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 a member of another congregation,
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

Make Me a Servant

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Worship and Praise # 96)*

*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.
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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.*

Make me a servant, humble and meek.

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be:

make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

*Text: based on Isaiah 42:1, Matthew 20:26-27, Mark 10:35-45, John 13:14-16
by Kelly Willard; Meter P M*

Tune: SERVANT by Kelly Willard

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*Performance by Sue McNary, mezzo-soprano, and Dan Inglis, Director of Music,
First Church of Christ, Longmeadow, MA, 06/23/20*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pv5Q112-SyE> [1:29]

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, we come to you, not just with beautiful words, but with humble hearts, malleable minds, and spacious spirits.

As we meet you at the throne of grace, open us completely to all you have to give. **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, & 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.

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.

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

SENDING SONG

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 719)*

*When we worship indoors please meditate on the text or sing it silently in your head.
When we are outdoors we can sing (softly, please, unless you are masked!)*

- 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
- 2 In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.
- 3 From tender childhood's helplessness, from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress, your heart has never known recoil.
- 4 The cup of water giv'n for you still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view the strong compassion in your face.
- 5 O Master, from the mountainside make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide; oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heav'n above shall come the city of our God.

*Text: based on Mtt 9.36, 10.42, 22.9, Mk 6.34, Lk 14.21-23, James 2.14-18, Rev 21.2
by Frank M. North, 1850-1935, alt.; Meter L M*

Music: WALTON by W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815; Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by Choir of The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 07/17/20; Descant by Stuart Forster (b. 1971)
as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0l_ND_XSks [3:10]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Humble yourselves before God and God will exalt you! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Go, Make Disciples

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 540 and Worship and Praise # 47)*

**Go, make disciples, baptizing them, teaching them.
Go, make disciples, for I am with you till the end of time.
Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.
Go, be a city on a hill, so all can see that you're serving me.**

CCLI Song # 659058

Text: based on Matthew 5:13-14, 28:19-20 by Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Meter P M

Tune: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES by Handt Hanson, b. 1950

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*Performance by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection / Halifax Lutheran Church, 01/18/21
435/655 in our hymn series.*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRxlJnw99pw> [1:44]

Announcements

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.

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.

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 walked 2,254 miles to raise money for Camp Calumet Lutheran. Together about 1800 walkers walked about 270,000 miles and raised about \$120,000. THANKS BE TO GOD!

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

Michael and All Angels **Wednesday, September 29, 2021**
Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels.
The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420 **Thursday, September 30, 2021**
Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.