



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*15th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*September 5,
2021
9:30 AM*



Be Opened!

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www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

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 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

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654
Thursday, September 9, 2021

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary & served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the slaves that arrived there.

He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

GATHERING SONG Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 800)

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art; And make me love thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee God & King? All, all Thine own soul, heart & strength & mind.
I see Thy cross there, teach my heart to cling. O let me seek Thee and O let me find.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love. One holy passion filling all my frame.
The baptism of the heaven descended dove, My heart an altar and Thy love the flame.

*Text: based on Matthew 3:13-17, 22:37; Mark 1:8-11, 12:30, Luke 3:15-22, 10:27, Romans 8:26
by George Croly, 1780-1860; Meter 10 10 10 10*

Music: MORECAMBE by Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance # 1 by 16 Singing Men - Dick Anthony

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wvoa_WfBy-o [2:10]

Performance # 2 by Biola University Chorale Alumni, 08/08/20

Arranged by Loren Wiebe

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

- 1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, and make me love you as I ought to love.
- 2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.
- 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling. Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
- 4 Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove, my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

*Text: based on Matthew 3:13-17, 22:37; Mark 1:8-11, 12:30, Luke 3:15-22, 10:27, Romans 8:26
by George Croly, 1780-1860; Meter 10 10 10 10*

Music: MORECAMBE by Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance # 3 by Sue Nixon with Walt Wagner, 10/12/15

Provided to YouTube by CDBaby, © 2000 SEMAPHONE, Released 01/01/00

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeZcdxKKzOU> [3:13]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*(as found in the ELCA worship books
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 807 and This Far by Faith # 108)*

*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 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills
my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

*Text: based on 1 Samuel 7:12, Psalm 36:8-9, Luke 15:1-7, Romans 8:12-14, Revelation 21:6
by Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.; Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

Music: NETTLETON by J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by organist Tom Trenney & the choir & congregation of First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln
Nebraska, 09/17/19*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2hlayBuC0k> [2:41]

Word

Psalm 16:2, 4a, 5, 8-9, 11

- ² I say to Yahweh God, "You are my God; I have no good apart from you"....
⁴ **Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows....**
⁵ Yahweh God is my chosen portion and my cup....
⁸ **I keep Yahweh always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**
⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure....
¹¹ **You, Yahweh God, show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore!**

Psalm 73:21-38

- ²¹ When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,
²² **I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.**
²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.
²⁴ **You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.**
²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
²⁶ **My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**
²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
²⁸ **But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.**

Mark 7:31-37

Then [Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha", that is, "Be opened". And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak".

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.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church.

Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Bridgeport Rescue Mission and the Center for Family Justice, and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Emily Sokoloski, Richard Kenyon, and Eileen Anderson.

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

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants.

Bless all who advocate for ways to reduce climate change and the devastating effects of earthquakes, wind, storms and fire on people around the world, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Inspire all people, especially those who call ourselves Christians, to show care for the world you have made.

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

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations.

Give us and our government leaders the unselfish willingness to sacrifice privilege for the sake of neighbor, working together for justice and the greater good. Unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all.

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

You accompany those who are most in need.

Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, especially those fleeing Afghanistan, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times.

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, and others we name in our hearts.

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

You support the work of your disciples.

Continue to draw us into deeper relationship with you that we may seek your will and not our own in all areas of our life together.

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

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives.

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 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song (*Jésus, je voudrais te chanter*)

(as found in the ELCA worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 808)

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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.

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey; I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey. May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song. Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant, to carry your cross & to share all your burdens & tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;

but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

And with all of the family you saved by your love, we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

*Jésus, je voudrais te chanter sur ma route; Jésus, je voudrais t'annoncer à mes voisins partout,
car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'amour: Jésus, je voudrais te chanter sur ma route.*

*Jésus, je voudrais te louer sur ma route; Jésus, je voudrais que ma voix soit l'écho de ta joie,
et que chante la terre et que chante le ciel; Jésus, je voudrais te louer sur ma route.*

*Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route, Jésus, je voudrais partager les souffrances de ta croix,
car tu livres pour moi et ton corps et ton sang; Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route.*

*Jésus, je voudrais tout au long de ma route, entendre tes pas résonner dans la nuit près de moi,
jusqu'à l'aube du jour où ton peuple sauvé, Jésus, chantera ton retour sur ma route.*

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community, tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931; Meter 12 14 12 12

Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus and L'Arche Community;

Text and Music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress;

Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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*Performance by Shenandoah Christian Music Camp (VA), sung at the 10th Annual Choral Festival 2015,
arranged and conducted by Lloyd Kauffman, 08/16/15*

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

AFFIRMATION (Luther's Explanation to the Creed) *You may stand if you so desire.*

I believe that God has made me and all that exists;
that God has given me my body and soul, my reason and my senses, and takes care of me.
God richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.
All that I have – family and friends, food and drink, clothing and shelter, everything – comes from God.
God defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.
All this God does only out of divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.
For all these things it is not only my duty but my delight to thank and praise, serve and obey God.

I believe that Jesus Christ,
true God, begotten of God from eternity, and also true human, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,
who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil;
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,
that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength
believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;
but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with spiritual gifts,
and sanctified and kept me in the true faith.
In the same way the Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies
the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
In this Christian church God daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.
On the Last Day God will raise me and all the dead & give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

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

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 818)

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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 O Master, let me walk with Thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the onward way.
- 3 Teach me thy patience; still with Thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only thou canst give;
with Thee, O Master, let me live.

Text: based on Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, John 12:35, 1 Peter 2:21

by Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.; Meter L M

Music: MARYTON by H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance by Church of St Stephen Downsvie

(Get your coffee and hangout with us online 11:15AM Sundays at <https://zoom.us/j/349377757>

To DONATE to the Church of St Stephen Downsvie, go to our website

http://www.ststephensdownsvie.com/events/#-815783179_main)

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoWzpJpyPaQ> [2:22]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Love God not only for what God does but for who God is!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Faith of Our Fathers

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 812)

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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.

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word.

Refrain

Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death.

- 2 The martyrs, chained in prisons dark,
were still in heart and conscience free;
and blest would be their children's fate
if they, like them, should die for thee.

Refrain

Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death.

- 3 Faith of our fathers! We will love
both friend and foe in all our strife;
proclaim thee too, as love knows how,
by saving word and faithful life.

Refrain

Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death.

Text: based on 2 Timothy 2:8-13 by Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.; Meter 8 8 8 8 8

Music: ST. CATHERINE by Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; James G. Walton, 1821-1905, refrain

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, 03/15/15,

arranged by John Longhurst

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxuLFgajZ04> [4:17]

Announcements

SALEM GIVERS ARE AWESOME!!! Our Treasurer reports that our envelope giving for July was right on target – which never happens in the summer! 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.

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 **September 11th** at 8:00 am. Please join us...and invite a friend!

THANK YOU to all who helped us celebrate Caribbean Night here in our picnic grove last Sunday. There happened to be a woman from Liberia there who was deeply touched by 2 things. First, it turned out that many of the things that Sharon Reid shared about her Jamaican culture were things that this woman knew from her Liberian culture! And second, she said that the man sitting across from her – a man who happened to be a white American Lutheran – a man we know as Steve – was so caring that he shared his soda with her! Just those 2 small things meant all the world to her. And that's why we are so grateful for all who help build these cross-cultural relationships. It's one of the ways we love our neighbor.

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.