



# Salem Lutheran Church

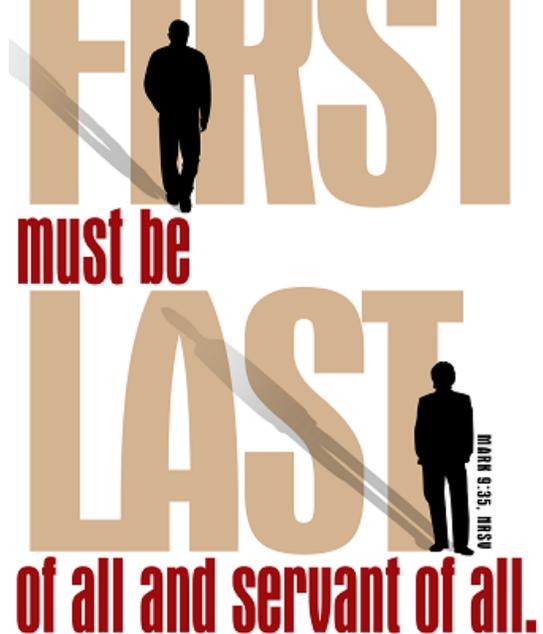
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
After  
Pentecost

September 19,  
2021  
9:30 AM

Whoever wants to be  
**FIRST**  
must be  
**LAST**  
of all and servant of all.



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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.

**Our next Sunday Night Alive event** will be a movie night the last Sunday of the month, **September 29<sup>th</sup>** around 6 pm, and will be held in the picnic grove, weather permitting. We'll be watching the film, "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 end up being taught how to follow Jesus, how to love Jesus, and how to walk with Him day by day even when it doesn't make sense.

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

## GATHERING SONG

## Holy Ground

*(as found in the ELCA worship book Worship & Praise # 59)*

*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.*

### *Verse 1*

As I walked through the door I sensed His presence  
And I knew this was the place Where love abounds  
For this is a temple Jehovah God abides here  
We are standing in His presence On holy ground

### *Chorus 1*

We are standing on holy ground  
And I know that there Are angels all around  
Let us praise Jesus now  
We are standing in His presence (On holy ground)

### *Verse 2*

In His presence There is joy beyond measure  
And at His feet Peace of mind can still be found  
If you have a need I know He has the answer  
Reach out and claim it child You're standing on holy ground

### *Chorus 2*

We are standing in His presence (2X)  
On holy ground

### *CCLI Song # 21198*

*Text: based on Exodus 3.5 by Geron Davis; Meter 8 1- 6 12*

*Music; HOLY GROUND by Geron Davis*

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*Performance at Pastors' Conference 2006, by First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAbvVzpLGMk> [4:25]*

***Please note that here we go live on Facebook.***

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN      For All the Children / God, We Gather as Your People**

*(as found in the ELCA worship book All Creation Sings # 1038)*

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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. God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,  
and we dare to claim the promise of Your love,  
though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be,  
when your children will be free.**

*Refrain:*

**O, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide.  
May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside.  
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.  
May that welcome be our song.**

- 2. Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free;  
and we sing for generations yet to be,  
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest,  
May they, in Your love, find rest. *Refrain***

- 3. Oh we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear & shame  
so afraid of who they are & whom they love.  
May the message now be banished that Your love is for the few;  
may their faith in You renew. *Refrain***

- 4. God, we're working for the future when children far and wide  
can live their lives with dignity and pride.  
As they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand,  
as against all hate we stand. *Refrain***

*Text: based on Matthew 18:5, Mark 9:37, Luke 9:48, Romans 15:7, Galatians 3:27-29  
by David Lohman, b. 1961; Meter 14 11 14 7 and refrain*

*Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG by David Lohman*

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*Performance by Lay Catholic Christians and friends who stood up and sang out to spread the  
good news of Christ's love, gathering to encourage voters to vote for LGBTQ rights  
as they sung their hearts out in support of LGBTQ young people.*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wLQ63LMC-A> [6:25]*

# Word

## Genesis 18.1-10

**18** <sup>1</sup> ...while [Abraham] was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> he looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way — now that you have come to your servant”.... <sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick”, he said, “get ...[your] finest flour and... bake some bread.” <sup>7</sup> Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.... <sup>10</sup> Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son”.... <sup>12</sup> ...[And] Sarah laughed.

## Psalm 54

<sup>1</sup> In you, God, I put my trust.	<sup>2</sup> ...do not let me be put to shame....
<sup>4</sup> Show me your ways...	<b>teach me your paths.</b>
<sup>5</sup> Guide me in your truth and teach me,	<b>for...my hope is in you all day long.</b>
<sup>6</sup> Remember, God, your great mercy and love.... <sup>7</sup> ...according to your love remember me.	
<sup>8</sup> Good and upright are you, O God.	<b>You instruct sinners in the way of truth,</b>
<sup>9</sup> You guide the humble in what is right	<b>and teach them the way of life.</b>

## Philippians 2.3–8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his or her own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of human beings. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

## Mark 9.30-37

*[Jesus and the disciples went on]* and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

## 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.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response & the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's World Hunger Appeal, and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Ashley Rosa, and Kyle DeWalt  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness, especially Barbara, Bud, CathyAnn, CJ, Darth, Dolores, Ed, Eron, Frank, Grace, Hazel, Justin, Steve, Sue, Wayne, those who experienced flooding, and all we name in our hearts. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, renew in us your call to reach out to the children in our community with words and deeds of love to transform their lives.  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and we pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints.  
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

## O Savior, Blessed Savior

*(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 820)*

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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 Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love;  
O name of might and favor, all other names above:  
we worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;  
we praise thee and confess thee, our holy Lord and King.**
- 2 O bringer of salvation, who wondrously hast wrought,  
thyself the revelation of love beyond our thought:  
we worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;  
we praise thee and confess thee, our gracious Lord and King.**
- 3 In thee all fullness dwelleth, all grace and pow'r divine;  
the glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is thine.  
We worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;  
we praise thee and confess thee, our glorious Lord and King.**
- 4 Oh, grant the consummation of this our song above,  
in endless adoration and everlasting love;  
then shall we praise and bless thee where perfect praises ring,  
and evermore confess thee, our Savior and our King!**

*Text: based on John 20:29, Philippians 2:9, Colossians 1:19, 1 Peter 1:8  
by Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879; Meter 7 6 7 6 D*

*Music: ANGEL'S STORY by Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929*

*Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

*Performance by the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church, Hubbard, IA, 10/01/17*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAGeEZ6a94Q> [3:21]*

## 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, & 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

## Beauty for Brokenness

*(as found in the ELCA worship book Worship & Praise # 17)*

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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. **Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair: Lord, in the suffering this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace; sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.**

*Refrain:*

**God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion, we pray;  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.**

2. **Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;  
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak. *Refrain***
3. **Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share;  
peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain. *Refrain***
4. **Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,  
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;  
make us content with the things that we need. *Refrain***
5. **Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,  
until your justice burns brightly again,  
until the nations learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation, and bring you their praise.**

*CCLI Song # 1236690*

*Text: based on Isaiah 28, Psalm 34, Psalm 50:1-6, Psalm 147:1-6 by Graham Kendrick; Meter irregular*

*Music: GOD OF THE POOR by Graham Kendrick*

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*Performance by A BRITISH CHRISTIAN MUSIC PROGRAMME, 01/23/14*

*Licensed to YouTube by [Merlin] Absolute Label Services (on behalf of Integrity Music); CMRRA,  
Polaris Hub AB, and 5 Music Rights Societies,*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kj4Km0tLYck> [2:22]*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Humble yourselves under the almighty hand of God who will lift you up in due time!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

### Lift High the Cross

*(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 660)*

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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.*

*Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.*

- 1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain*
- 2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain*
- 3. All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain*
- 4. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain*
- 5. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain*

*CCLI Song # 5169*

*Text: based on John 12:32, 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, Ephesians 1:13, Philippians 2:10-11  
by George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956;  
Meter 10 10 10 10*

*Music: CRUCIFER by Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947*

*Text and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.*

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*Performance by the Plymouth Choir & Congregation of 1st Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE  
Tom Trenney, organist. 03/05/17*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C59j6p6iOZ4> [3:33]*

# 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](http://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](http://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 – which made up 5/10<sup>ths</sup> of 1% of Calumet's walkers and walked 2,254 miles or about 8/10<sup>ths</sup> 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!

**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

**Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996**

**Monday, September 20, 2021**

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

**Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Tuesday, September 21, 2021**

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.