



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*for those with
hearing challenges*

22nd Sunday
after
Pentecost

October 24,
2021
9:30 AM

Get up, Jesus is calling you!



So he sprang up
and came to Jesus!

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

Gathering

Welcome!

At our September Council meeting it was decided to move worship back indoors as the weather is growing cooler. It was also decided that properly worn masks will be required of everyone. The reason for this is that the combination of the vaccine's waning efficacy and the continuing emergence of new variants, have resulted in more and more breakthrough cases among the fully vaccinated, especially among those 65 and older. Although treatments continue to improve, many of these cases have been quite serious, requiring hospitalization. We are told the numbers are expected to rise this month and that another peak is expected in January. *If you received the Pfizer vaccine and are 65 or older and/or have comorbidities you are urged to get your booster as soon as possible. Those who received Moderna should be able to receive a booster soon – contact our Parish Nurse, Carol Lansing, for details.* No news yet on the Johnson and Johnson front. **Council also decided that since everyone will be masked, soft singing of hymns will be permitted.** While we know not everyone will be happy with this decision, please understand that whether it's about indoors vs. outdoors, masks vs. no masks, singing vs. no singing, there is simply no way we can please everyone. As Christians, however, it is our call to put aside our own preferences and focus not on our own desires, but on what God asks of us – which is to provide a place where even the most vulnerable in our midst feel safe. We have too many attendees with comorbidities and too many who are in contact with unvaccinated grandchildren to be less than cautious. Thank you for your understanding and your support.

Flowers this morning are given by Nancy Headford in memory of Virginia Headford.

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.)

Pastor Marjo is away on a spiritual retreat in Maine through tomorrow, 10/25.. If you should find yourself in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact the church office or Pastor Chris Files at 203-767-4189.

The next Sunday Night Alive Inter-Church Event will be held NEXT Sunday, October 31st, at 3:00 pm in-person in our Salem Lounge. We'll watch the movie, "Pilgrims Progress", and then discuss it. This adaptation of John Bunyan's powerful and life-changing classic story is a film you won't want to miss. Written over 340 years ago when Bunyan was in prison, the story has been smuggled to the underground church during communism, banned for a time in China, and has sold more copies than any other book other than the Bible. The story is about a man who discovers a book which prompts him to escape from his own city of destruction, and to journey towards a celestial city ruled by a good and noble King, meeting friends and foes along the way. Please join us as we learn and laugh and love, building relationships grounded in the joy of the Lord!

GATHERING MUSIC

Open the Eyes Of My Heart

Chorus Open the eyes of my heart Lord! Open the eyes of my heart!
I want to see You! I want to see You!

Verse To see You high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your glory,
Pour out Your power and love, As we sing holy holy holy!

Bridge Holy holy holy, Holy holy holy, Holy holy holy, I want to see You!

CCLI Song # 2298355; by Paul Baloche

© 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook))

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Performance #1 by the composer and artist, Paul Baloche as found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViBNqNukgzE> [9:21]

Performance #2 recorded on "Take a Breath" CD by A Bunch of Guys,
produced by David Piper and Knute Ogren.

John Christianson – vocals, guitar; David Piper – harmony vocals, guitar

Recorded October 2002-February 2003 at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford, Signature Sounds, the Top
Floor, and First Congregational Church of Christ, UCC in Cheshire.

Engineered by David Piper

Mixed by Mark Thayer and David Piper at Signature Sounds.

Mastered by Scott Metcalfe at Mind's Ear. [3:29]

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS – *Please stand as you are able and so desire*

All may make the sign of the cross where indicated.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes us righteous.

Let us receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all our sins. **Amen**

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God in whose presence we gather
to whom we offer our thanks and praise for all of the blessings of our lives.

Thank you for joining us today! Thank you, those of you who are here in person with us!
And thank you, those of you out there in cyber space, wherever – and whenever! – you are!

For those of you who don't know me,
I'm Ray Anderson, the lay president of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT,

Pastor Marjo is away on a spiritual retreat in Maine through tomorrow.
For emergency pastoral care,
please contact the church office or Pastor Chris Files at 203-767-4189.

To find out more about our ministry or to contact us,
you can go to our website SalemBridgeport.org, to our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,
and to our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin –
which has both the order of worship and announcements – as well as other resources
are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

Our Inter-Church Sunday Night Alive events have captured the attention of the synod
and the Bishop has invited Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris to speak about this collaboration
at the synod convocation next month.

That means you won't want to miss our next one –

NEXT Sunday, October 31st, at 3:00 pm in-person in our Salem Lounge.

We'll watch the movie, "Pilgrims Progress", and then discuss it.

Please join us as we watch John Bunyan's powerful, life-changing classic story.
and build relationships with people God has brought into our lives for a reason!

Please join us for weekly prayer Wednesday at noon
and for weekly Bible Study Wednesday 6:30-7:15,
followed by a brief service of Holy Communion.

Links are on the calendar on our website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Now as we begin our worship, will you pray with me?

God, we gather this morning to reflect on our many blessings
and to give you thanks and praise for who you are and for what you do!

Bless Pastor Marjo on her spiritual retreat and give her safe travels home.

Bless us this morning as we listen and learn, as we pray and praise,
and as we share and care for each other.

Enable our bodies, enlighten our minds, enlarge our hearts, and empower our spirits
so that we can worship you with our whole selves

Touch us with your transforming grace that we may love you more each day..

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING SONG

For the Fruit of All Creation

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 679)*

As long as everyone is masked, you may sing softly.

- 1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**
- 2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000; Meter 8 4 8 4 8 8 8 4

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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The Tune and Arrangement (USA) are in the Public Domain.

Word

Joel 2:21-27

- ²¹Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things!
²²Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
²³O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.
²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
²⁵I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.
²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Psalms 126

- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
³ **The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.**
⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**
⁵ Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

1 Thessalonians 5:15-18

- ¹⁵See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.
¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Mark 10:46-52

You may stand for the gospel if you so desire.

- ⁴⁶As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here". And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you". ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again". ⁵²Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well". Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

MESSAGE

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Thanks

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Worship & Praise # 41 and This Far by Faith # 292)*

As long as everyone is masked, you may sing softly.

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!**

*Text: based on Psalm 126:3, 2 Corinthians 12:10, Ephesians 5:18, Philippians 4:5-18,
Colossians 3:15-17, by Henry Smith; Meter P M*

Music: GIVE THANKS by Henry Smith

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

You may stand for the prayers if you so desire.

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth,
we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

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

Risen One, we give you thanks for congregations and ministries throughout the world
that serve as centers of prayer and action.

Empower missionaries, teachers, healers, evangelists,
and all who are sent to share your song of joy.

We pray for our mission partners,
especially today for CROP and World Vision and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.
and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Frank Claus and Katherine Larson,
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, we give you thanks for generous land that produces abundant harvests.
Strengthen and protect all soils, from rooftop gardens to prairie farmlands,
to patio planters to fertile valleys, and bless all who lovingly tend them.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, we give you thanks for leaders of nations who work to build up the common good.
Strengthen efforts of reconciliation among all nations, that peace extends in every direction.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing One, we give you thanks for all who labor for the health of others.
Comfort and strengthen all who struggle with chronic pain.
Send healing and relief to all who are sick, especially
Barbara, Dolores, Eron, Frank, Grace, Kaitlyn, Steve, Sue, and all we name in our hearts.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Providing One, we give you thanks for all who provide for others.
Inspire generosity in your people,
so that we carry out the work of making disciples of all nations.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living One, we give you thanks for the saints who have increased our faith,
especially those we commemorate this week: the apostles Simon and Jude,
and the hymnwriters, Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt.
Give us courage to follow in hope until you gather us all around your table of abundance.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are invited to offer your own prayer petition at this time, either silently or aloud.

The leader concludes:

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands;
through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. **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

We Are an Offering

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Worship & Praise # 146 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 692)*

As long as everyone is masked, you may sing softly.

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.**

**Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours:
we are an offering.**

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.**

(Repeat song as desired.)

*Text: based on Psalm 48, 141:2, Romans 12:1, Ephesians 5:1-2, Hebrews 13:16
by Dwight Liles, b. 1957; Meter P M*

Music: OFFERING by Dwight Liles

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Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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For emergency pastoral care,
please contact the church office or Pastor Chris Files at 203-767-4189.

Our Inter-Church Sunday Night Alive events have captured the attention of the synod
and the Bishop has invited Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris to speak about this collaboration
at the synod convocation next month.

That means you won't want to miss our next one –

NEXT Sunday, October 31st, at 3:00 pm in-person in our Salem Lounge.

We'll watch the movie, "Pilgrims Progress", and then discuss it.

Please join us as we watch John Bunyan's powerful, life-changing classic story.
and build relationships with people God has brought into our lives for a reason!

Please join us for weekly prayer Wednesday at noon
and for weekly Bible Study Wednesday 6:30-7:15,
followed by a brief service of Holy Communion.

Links are on the calendar on our website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

THANK YOU and BLESSING

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,
I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us.
I hope you will join us again.
If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray together,
you can reach me through our website or Facebook.

As we conclude our Facebook Live portion of our service
let me offer all who are worshipping with us this blessing,
based on our reading today from Joel, chapter 2:

*²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and you shall praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. Amen!*

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Dismissal

APOSTLES CREED

You may stand if you so desire.

Let us affirm our faith together.

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died & was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

You may stand if you so desire.

As members and friends of Salem Church,
let us remind ourselves why we are here:

**We are a community of Christian disciples
called by the Holy Spirit.
In response to God's transforming love,
we share our joy through praise and service.**

May it be so!

Amen!

SENDING SONG

Now Thank We All Our God

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 840)*

As long as everyone is masked, you may sing softly.

- 1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.**

- 3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

Text: based on 2 Timothy 1:5,

by Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878;

Meter 6 7 6 7 6 6 6 6

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT (isometric) by Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text and Tune are in the Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 840)*

As long as everyone is masked, you may sing softly.

- 1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.**
- 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Text: based on 2 Timothy 1:5,

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Meter 6 7 6 7 6 6 6 6

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT (isometric) by Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text and Tune are in the Public Domain.

Performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska, 09/23/18

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmJtef10DWw> [3:32]

Announcements

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 but open to ALL, will be held Saturday **November 13th** at 8:00 am. Please join us...and invite a friend! Volunteers to help prepare breakfast welcome to come at 7:00 am. Thx!

The baptism of McKenzie Marie Kemp, daughter of Paul Baronavski and Amy Kemp, scheduled for October 9th has been postponed until November 13th, due to quarantining because a classmate contracted RSV. We pray for the child who came down with the virus, and pray that all of her contacts stay safe and healthy.

It's not too late to donate to the 47th Annual Greater Bridgeport CROP Hunger Walk, the Community Appeal of Church World Service. It fights hunger, locally, nationally, and internationally, and emphasizes self-sustaining agricultural practices. 75% of the money collected will be used by Church World Service or whichever agency the sponsor designates. 25% remains here supporting 10 local agencies that support our vulnerable neighbors here in the Greater Bridgeport area. Contributions are tax deductible. If your company has a matching grant program, please let us know. *Please make checks out to CWS/CROP and include the walk PIN # 840005226 in memo section and send by November 15th along with a notation that it is for Pastor Marjo Anderson's team at Salem Lutheran to: CROP Walk, c/o Elaine & Robert Wood, 6 Lakeview Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484.* For further information, call Carole Fanslow at 203-375-1284 or email fanslow@juno.com.

The next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, will be held Saturday **November 20th** at 11:00 am. This is not only a wonderful opportunity for Salem members to support our friend, Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café, our Lutheran Mission in Bridgeport, but to grow in our relationship to God and to one another. Stay tuned for details.

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.

In case you have not heard, Pastor Bryan "Bud" Myers, former pastor at Salem, died, and his memorial service was held on October 8th with Pastor Marjo presiding. The recording of the service can be watched right on Salem's own Facebook page. Donations in memory of Bud may be made to Tabor Lutheran Church and mailed to 45 Tabor Drive, Branford, CT 06604. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Judy, at 45 Farm River Road, Branford, CT 06604. Please keep Pastor Myers' family, friends, and the people of Tabor in your prayers.

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!**

If you would like to call, or send a card or note to one of our shut-ins, please contact our Parish Nurse, Carol Lansing. She 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 her know.

UniteCT – Emergency Rental Assistance for Connecticut's Economy - The UniteCT Program is administered by the Department of Housing on behalf of the US Treasury. UniteCT provides up to \$15,000 rental and electricity payment assistance on behalf of Connecticut households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. UniteCT is stabilizing CT's rental housing market by financially supporting those households up to 80% of HUD's Area Median Income (AMI) - Select [here](#) for an interactive AMI map. Tenants and landlords use the UniteCT Rent Relief software to submit their own sections of the application creating a unique case file for decision making evaluation. UniteCT will provide continued rental and electric utility assistance to eligible households until all funding has been committed. There is no current end date of the program.

For more info, go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT>

You must first register to get an email invitation to start your application. Paper applications will not be accepted. Do you qualify for UniteCT funding? If you need to share your eligibility status with a new landlord or court, check your eligibility by taking this survey at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT---Survey> and print the results for your records.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676;
hymnwriters **Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

These great hymn-writers all worked in 17th-century Germany in times of war and plague.

Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week.

He wrote "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" and "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright", known as the "king" and "queen" of chorales, respectively.

Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith.

Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, Apostles **Thursday, October 28, 2021**

We know little about these apostles.

Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists.

Jude, also called Thaddeus,

asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.