



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

19th Sunday
After
Pentecost

October 3, 2021
9:30 AM



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor

marjoanderson@aol.com

203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager

salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

Jennifer Reyes and Pablo Cruz, Sextons

jen92979@optimum.net

203-455-7583

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Telephone: 203-336-3300;

www.salembridgeport.org

www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

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

Gathering

Welcome!

At our Council meeting on Monday 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. 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 its 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.

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.)

This afternoon at 4:00 Pastor Joshua Sullivan will be installed as the new pastor at Christ the Good Shepherd in Hamden. Christ the Good Shepherd is a merger of the former 2 ELCA congregations in Hamden, Christ Lutheran and the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. The building of the latter is being sold and the new congregation will worship at the former's building at 600 Shepard Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514. *Pastor Sullivan is connected to our congregation as his in-laws are the Robertson family, formerly of Salem!*

The next Salem and Friends Breakfast & Faith Discussion, sponsored by the Salem Men but open to ALL, will be held THIS Saturday **October 9th** at 8:00 am. Please join us...and invite a friend! Volunteers to help prepare breakfast welcome to come at 7:00 am. Thx!

McKenzie Marie Kemp, daughter of Paul Baronavski and Amy Kemp, will be baptized this Saturday, October 9th at 11:30 in the picnic grove. Godparents are James and Ashley Baronavski Palmarozza.

The next Sunday Night Alive event is tentatively scheduled for the last Sunday of October, the 31st, at 6:00 pm. Stay tuned for details!

GATHERING READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are encouraged to read and reflect on God's Word, either these lessons or others from your Bible.

Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

GATHERING SONG

Majesty

(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book, Worship & Praise # 94)

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

Majesty! Worship his majesty! Unto Jesus be glory, honor and praise!
Majesty! Kingdom authority flows from his throne unto his own -- his anthem raise!
So exalt! Lift up on high the name of Jesus!
Magnify! Come glorify Christ Jesus the King!
Majesty! Worship his majesty – Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings!

CCLI Song # 1527

Text: Jack Hayford; Meter P M; Music: MAJESTY by Jack Hayford

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Performance # 1 by Rob Charles, All Saints Church, Oystermouth Swansea, 11/18/10

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8NAk6SDm1A> [2:56]

Performance # 2 by CCHS Cantate Choir, 11/05/12

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2k608-uwHo> [3:08]

Performance # 3 by the youth of the Baptist Church in Spokane, posted on 07/05/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vEbtRKghuo> [2:16]

Performance # 3 by St. George's Church, posted on 06/28/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLv9z6HoJxw> [5:32]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 835)

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

- 1 All creatures, worship God most high! Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4 All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain and sorrow grieve:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: based on Psalms 97.6, 98.1,4-9, 104, 145.1, 148

by Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite; Meter 8 8 8 8 8 and alleluias

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623

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Word

Psalm 8

YHWH, our Sovereign, how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

your glory is above the heavens!

From the lips of infants and children you bring forth words of power and praise,

to answer your adversaries and to silence the hostile and vengeful.

When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars which you have set in place –

what is humanity that you should be mindful of us?

Who are we that you should care for us?

You have made us in your image,

and crowned us with glory and honor.

You have made us responsible for the works of your hands, putting all things at our feet –

all sheep and oxen, yes, even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea

and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

YHWH, our Sovereign, how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

Hebrews 1.1-4, 2.5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but now ² in these last days, God has spoken to us through the Only Begotten, who has been made heir of all things and through whom the entire universe was created. ³ Christ is the reflection of God's glory, the exact imprint of God's very being; and all things are sustained by God's powerful Word. Having cleansed us from our sins, Jesus Christ sat down at the right hand of the Glory of heaven — ⁴ having become as much superior to the angels as the name Christ has inherited is superior to theirs."

...Now God did not create the inhabited earth of which we speak to have it be ruled by angels.

⁶ But someone has testified somewhere:

“What is humanity that you should be mindful of us?

Who are mere mortals that you should care for us?

⁷ You have made us little less than the angels, and crowned us with glory and honor....”

⁸ You have put all things under our feet.”

In subjecting all things to us, God left nothing unsubjected. At present, we don't see all things thus subject; ⁹ but we do see Jesus, who was made “for a little while less than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor” by dying on the cross — so that, through the gracious will of God, Jesus might taste death for us all.

¹⁰ Indeed, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, when bringing many to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ The one who makes holy and those who are made holy are all from the One God. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call us sisters and brothers, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your Name to my sisters and brothers!

In the midst of the assembly I will sing your praise!”

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 have raised up faithful leaders throughout history.

Empower those discerning a call to ministry, especially Thomas Conroy and Jeanette Harris, that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel.

We pray for those beginning new ministries,

especially Pastor Joshua Sullivan as he is installed today at Christ the Good Shepherd in Hamden, and Pastor Maria Hammons who begins as interim today at Tabor in Branford.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for our Southern CT conference, the New England Synod and Region 7, and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Peggy Claus and John Kemp.

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

You have established a diverse and beautiful creation.

Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands.

Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created.

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

You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another.

Strengthen relationships between nations & peoples that we celebrate & support one human family.

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

You share in our experiences & struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability.

Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable.

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

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us

and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith.

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease,

especially Barbara, Bud, CJ, Darth, Dolores, Ed, Eron, Frank, Grace, Hazel, Justin, Steve, Sue, Wayne, and all we name in our hearts.

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

You promise eternal life to all your children.

Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us, especially Pastor Bud Myers.

Console his family, friends, the people of Tabor, and all those who mourn his passing and the passing of other loved ones. Strengthen our trust we have in you.

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

We are thankful for God's wonderful creation and each beautiful day, for the outdoors, and for the beautiful weather that has enabled us to worship outside.

We thank you for health, and for friends.

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 Praise the Lord! O Heavens

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 823)*

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

- 1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him;
praise him, angels, in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him;
praise him, gleaming stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken;
worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
laws which never shall be broken
for their guidance he has made.**

- 2 Praise the Lord, for he is gracious;
never shall his promise fail.
God has made his saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim;
heav'n and earth, and all creation,
laud and magnify his name!**

*Text: based on Psalm 148, in the Foundling Hospital Collection, London, 1796;
Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

*Music: AUSTRIA, AUSTRIAN HYMN by Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

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

As you let go of all pride and arrogance and love of self, God, from whom all holiness springs, makes you holy.

As you set aside your own needs and desires,

Jesus, who set aside his freedom in love for you, is not ashamed to call you his friend.

As you open your heart and mind and soul and body to be changed, the Spirit continues to shape and mold you into the likeness of Christ.

Through faith God forgives you your selfishness and sin & fills you with love and light and life.

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

Our Father, by Whose Name

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 640)*

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

- 1 **Our Father, by whose name all parenthood is known,
in love divine you claim each fam'ly as your own.
Bless mothers, fathers, guarding well,
with constant love as sentinel, the homes in which your people dwell.**
- 2 **O Christ, yourself a child within an earthly home,
with heart still undefiled to full adulthood come:
our children bless in ev'ry place
that they may all behold your face and, knowing you, may grow in grace.**
- 3 **O Holy Spirit, bind our hearts in unity
and teach us how to find the love from self set free;
in all our hearts such love increase
that ev'ry home, by this release, may be the dwelling place of peace.**

Text: based on Luke 2.39-40, Ephesians 3.14 by F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.;
Meter 6 6 6 6 8 8 8

Music: RHOSYMEDRE by John D. Edwards, 1806-1885

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim God's Name! Sing God's praise! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

How Majestic Is Your Name

((as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book, Worship & Praise # 66)

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

**Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth
Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth
Oh Lord we praise Your name Oh Lord we magnify Your name
Prince of Peace Mighty God Oh Lord God Almighty (Repeat song.)**

CCLI Song # 26007

Text: based on Psalm 8:1, 34:3, Isaiah 9:6, by Michael W. Smith; Meter P M

Music: HOW MAJESTIC by Michael W. Smith

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Performance by the United Voices Choir w/ Anthony Brown, 08/21/13

at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, <http://fbcglenarden.org>, Pastor John K. Jenkins Sr.

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dugb_8SIWU0 [3:54]

Announcements

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE OUR SUNDAY NIGHT ALIVE MOVIE NIGHT A SUCCESS The film, “The Insanity of God”, was so powerful that we’ve had requests to show it again – this time with time for discussion following. **Our tentative plan is to show it in the Lounge Sunday afternoon October 10th, from 3:00-4:30, with a discussion beginning at 4:30.** In addition to the film itself, the event was powerful in another way. As God calls us to collaborate with the others, we are grateful that God brought such a diverse group together to our “inter-church” event. The 17 people who braved the chill night air represented EIGHT different congregations, 4 Lutheran and 4 Pentecostal, and was evenly divided between black and white Christians. Praise God for drawing us closer to Him and to one another!

Pastor Bryan “Bud” Myers, a former pastor at Salem, died this past week. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am Friday 8 October 2021 at Tabor Lutheran Church, 45 Tabor Drive, Branford, CT 06604, and the plans are to live-stream it over FB. Interment at Tabor Cemetery will follow. Pastor Marjo will officiate. Donations in memory of Bud can be made to Tabor Lutheran Church and mailed to the address above or made online at <https://www.taborchurch.net/> Condolences can 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.

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!**

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

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226 Monday, October 4, 2021

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant,
Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people.
He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans),
who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary".
Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864 Monday, October 4, 2021

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans.
He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met.
The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany,
inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536 Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English.
He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany.
He completed the New Testament in 1525,
but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787 Thu, October 7, 2021

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe
to send someone who could take charge and unite their work.
Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans.
Among other accomplishments,
his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.