



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*for those with
hearing
challenges*

*4th Sunday after
the Epiphany
of Our Lord*

*January 30, 2022
9:30 AM*



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Welcome

God's glory is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God often shows up in new and surprising ways that disrupt the way we've always done things. God often speaks through people who we'd rather not hear. God reveals God's glory where and when God chooses. We'd best take heed, lest we drive Jesus out and he slips away through our midst unnoticed.

Due to the steep rise in Covid rates and the increased pressure on our medical system, Salem is joining other responsible faith communities in requiring masks while inside the building. As Christians it is our duty to provide a place where even the most vulnerable in our midst feel safe.

Join us this morning after worship (around 10:30) for an adult forum to look at the proposed 2022 budget in preparation for our Semi-Annual Meeting. The meeting will be in-person with zoom access. The link is on the Salem calendar.

Join us this afternoon at 4:00 in the Salem Lounge as watch and discuss "The Pilgrim's Progress", this month's Sunday Night Alive Inter-Church Event. 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!

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.

Our Wednesday evening Bible Study resumed this past week as we began our study of the book of Acts and the early Church. It was written for a time like our own in that the Church was not supported by the general culture of the day, and yet it managed to grow in both numbers and in power. It could very well be that the secret to the future of the Church lies in this ancient story! **Please join us Wednesdays at 6:30 on zoom for a fascinating discussion, followed by a brief service of Holy Communion at 7:15.** The link is on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgerpot.org under the Resources Tab.

Camp Calumet Lutheran invites you to meet author (comedian, and activist) Tyler Merritt in a discussion of his book, [I Take My Coffee Black](#) this Thursday February 3rd at 10:00 am. Email knute@calumet.org for the zoom link.

Next Sunday, February 6th, Salem will hold its winter Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting following worship (around 10:30). The meeting will be in-person with zoom access. At the meeting we will officially adopt the 2022 general operating budget, receive an update on the sale of the property, elect members to Salem's Nomination Committee, Financial Compliance Review Committee and delegates to the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport and the New England Synod assembly, and receive member and financial statistical reports. Zoom link is on the calendar.

Our next Southern CT Conference Zoom Meeting will be held at 5:30 on February 6th for pastors and lay leaders to discuss the synod program, "Collaborate, for Christ's Sake". If you see the merging of congregations as a possibility for the future, the first step is to build relationships through collaboration, so come and join the conversation! The link is on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Verse 1

**The splendor of the King Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice And trembles at His voice**

Chorus

**How great is our God Sing with me How great is our God
And all will see how great How great is our God**

Verse 2

**And age to age He stands And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb The Lion and the Lamb**

Bridge

**Name above all names Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing How great is our God**

CCLI Song # 4348399

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves

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Performance # 1 by Christmas Special w/ Calvin Nowell, 12/04/08

*Calvin Nowell, B.Reith, Missi Hale, Nicole Binion, Nia Allen, & others worship
on Mercy-Full Christmas Special w/Calvin Nowell and Friends. Sponsored my Mercy Ships.
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6grqXO9SJhg&t=254s> [4:40]*

Performance # 2 by Northland Church, 11/12/15

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXcAK2UBBJ4> [5:25]

Performance # 3 by Cebu Gospel Church. Joybells Gospel Team Virtual Choir, 05/09/20

*Non-Commercial Use Permission: All rights to this material is reserved for Cebu Gospel Church.
You are free to use this item for non-commercial purposes in your house of worship
provided that this item does not comprise more than 25% of the total program in which this is used.
as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VN_ES07XqFs [4:00]*

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God who rejoices in us like a bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
in the name of Jesus who turns our water into wine,
and in the name of the Holy Spirit who offers us gifts that can transform the world!

It is so good to be here!

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 Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT,

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.

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to look at the proposed 2022 budget in preparation for our Semi-Annual Meeting.

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At 4:00 join us in the Salem Lounge as we watch and discuss “The Pilgrim’s Progress”,
this month’s Sunday Night Alive Inter-Church Event.

Written over 340 years ago when Bunyan was in prison,

the story has sold more copies than any other book other than the Bible.

Please join us as we learn & laugh & love, building relationships grounded in the joy of the Lord!

Wednesdays we meet on zoom at 12:00 noon for prayer,

and at 6:30 for Bible Study where we’ll continue our look at Acts, chapters 1 and 2.

Bible Study concludes with Holy Communion at 7:15.

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in a discussion of his book, [I Take My Coffee Black](#) this Thursday February 3rd at 10:00 am.

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following worship (around 10:30). It will be an in-person meeting with zoom access.

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for pastors and lay leaders to discuss the synod program, “Collaborate, for Christ’s Sake!”

The link is on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Any other announcements?

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

Gracious God, before you formed us in our mothers’ wombs you knew us

and before we were born you gave us all the resources we would need to find you

and to follow your purpose for our lives.

Open our eyes to see you; open our ears to hear you; open our spirits to feel your presence,

and teach us to rely on you to lead us out of our small lives into the abundance of life you give.

We pray these things in the Name of Jesus and by the Power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING HYMN

O Zion, Haste

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 668)*

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

You may stand if you so desire.

**1 O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,
to tell to all the world that God is light;
that he who made all nations is not willing
one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.**

Refrain: Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

**2 Publish to ev'ry people, tongue, and nation
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation
and died on earth that we might live above. *Refrain***

**3 He comes again! O Zion, ere you meet him,
make known to ev'ry heart his saving grace;
let none whom he has ransomed fail to greet him,
and died on earth that we might live above. *Refrain***

*Text: based on Matthew 18:14, Acts 17:28, by Mary A. Thomson, 1834-1923;
Meter 11 10 11 10 and refrain*

Music: ANGELIC SONGS by James Walch, 1837-1901

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS: Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

⁷But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

² In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;

incline your ear to me and save me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;

you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,

my confidence since I was young.

⁶ I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;

from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 4:14-30

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing".

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SERMON

Please be seated.

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**based on Luther's catechism
and our baptismal promises**

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe that all that we are and all that we have
comes from God as pure undeserved gift,
and that therefore it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey God.**

**We believe that it is Jesus Christ
who taught us how to live by faith, even to suffering death on the cross,
in order that we might belong to him and live and serve in his kingdom now
and throughout eternity.**

**We believe that we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ,
but the Holy Spirit, who draws us to seek God, is poured out upon all who ask.**

**We believe that the purpose of the Church is to evidence the gifts and fruits of the Spirit,
empowering us to worship in Spirit and in Truth,
to witness to the power and grace of God in our own lives,
to love those outside our own circles,
and to work for justice and peace in all the world. Amen**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

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!

LORD'S PRAYER

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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance;
so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

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

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture.
Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church.
Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people.
We pray for our mission partners,
especially today for Christ Presbyterian Church Fairfield, New Direction Ministries,
and CHURCH – Christ’s Home of Unity, Restoration, Charity and Hope,
and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Chris Wolff, Roberta Bellows, Keith Murphy, and Hailey Dewalt.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All creation proclaims your handiwork.
Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created.
Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between.
Guide us to support efforts to protect species at risk of extinction.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You desire that there be no dissension among us.
Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body.
Teach us to listen to and work with others that we may ease conflict, dispel violence & end war.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor.
Move us to work for justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability,
those living with pain, or those living under oppression,
especially Barbara, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Jonathan, Steve, Sue, and all we name in our hearts.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Build up the body of Christ in this place.
Open our hearts and minds to freely welcome and deeply value
each person who enters into worship and ministry among us,
especially those who are different from us.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints
for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled.
Tend to those who mourn. Bring us together in your everlasting glory.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God,
we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

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 HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 715)*

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

You may stand if you so desire.

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness, Longing for truth, we turn to you,
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see,**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled, Longing for hope, many despair,
Your word alone has pow'r to save us, Make us your living voice.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for food, many are hungry, Longing for water, many still thirst,
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless, Longing for warmth, many are cold,
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Many the gifts, many the people, Many the hearts that yearn to belong,
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

*Text: John 1:9, 3:19, 8:12, 9:5, 12:46, 2 Corinthians 4:6; Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957;
Meter 9 8 9 6 and refrain*

Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

*Text and Music: © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications
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Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Camp Calumet Lutheran invites you to meet author (comedian, and activist) Tyler Merritt in a discussion of his book, [I Take My Coffee Black](#) this Thursday February 3rd at 10:00 am. Email knute@calumet.org for the zoom link.

We invite Salem members to join us after this worship service for an adult forum in preparation for our Semi-Annual Meeting. The meeting will be in-person with zoom access.

At 4:00 today, please bring a friend and come enjoy the movie “The Pilgrim’s Progress” right here in the Salem Lounge – this month’s Sunday Night Alive Inter-Church Event.

On Wednesdays we meet on zoom at 12:00 noon for prayer and at 6:30 for a Bible Study as we look at Acts, chapters 1 & 2, with **Holy Communion at 7:15.**

Next Sunday, February 6th, Salem will hold its winter Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting following worship (around 10:30). The meeting will be in-person with zoom access.

Also, next Sunday at 5:30, a zoom meeting of the Southern CT Conference will be held for pastors and lay leaders to discuss the synod program, “Collaborate, for Christ’s Sake”.

Links for all Salem events 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 say good-bye to our online worshippers,
let me offer all who are worshipping with us this blessing:

God who formed you in the womb has consecrated you and appointed you to your unique task.
God has redeemed you from your failings and sustained you in your successes.

Therefore hope in God,
knowing that God will strengthen you on your journey to the land God has promised,
that God’s name may be praised throughout the world! Amen

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.

We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected.

We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves.

We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.

Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us

and reflect your love for all creation. Amen

Rejoice in this good news: In ✠ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!

We open them to God and one another!

It is right to give God thanks & 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!**

CLOSING HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People!

- 1 **Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.**
- 2 **See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.**
- 3 **Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.**
- 4 **Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation God's new creation.**

Text: based on Isaiah 60:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17 by Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.; Meter 11 11 11 5

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ by Dale Wood, 1934-2003

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace and good courage,
knowing that God watches over you, Jesus walks beside you, and the Spirit lives within you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Thy Word

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path (*repeat line*)

**When I feel afraid And I think I've lost my way Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear As long as You are near Please be near me to the end**

**I will not forget Your love for me and yet My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide And hold me to Your side I will love You to the end**

CCLI Song # 14301

*Text: based on Psalm 119:105, Amy Grant, b. 1960; Music: Michael W. Smith, b. 1957;
arr. Keith Phillips, Worship and Praise # 144, Augsburg Fortress;*

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Performance by The Mullett Family, 12/04/17

Join Chantaya (8) & Kyra (7) as they sing about the importance of God's Word.

Order the full DVD: TheMullettFamily.com/DVD

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Afz0q0cQjII> [3:05]

**Please JOIN US 400-6:00 pm TODAY in Salem's Lounge,
for our Inter-Church Sunday Night Alive's MOVIE NIGHT
as we watch...**



**A time to build relationships with people God has brought into our lives,
to watch a powerful film, to reflect on our faith,
and be drawn closer to God and to one another.**

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Presentation of Our Lord

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

40 days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law.

There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song

"Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace,"

as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

Thursday, February 3, 2022

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia,

Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg.

He is remembered for his love for poor people.

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

Saturday, February 5, 2022

Christianity was brought to Japan in the 16th century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries.

The religion was suppressed, however, & in 1597 26 missionaries & converts were crucified.

Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

CREDITS

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Announcements

The next Salem and Friends Breakfast & Faith Discussion, sponsored by the Salem Men but open to ALL, will be held Saturday **February 12th** at 8:00 am. Please join us...and invite a friend! Volunteers to help prepare breakfast welcome to come at 7:00 am. Thanks!

Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, Saturday February 19th at 11:00 am. Stay tuned for more info!

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart! We have an amazing God who provides for us and our Congregation in so many ways. Just as a reminder, we are still collecting pledges for 2022. If you need a pledge card, extras are available next to the offering box at the entrance to the sanctuary. Or you can simply email your pledge to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net. Remember God is good so “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”.

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!**

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.

**In our continuing quest to fight back against the power and fear of racism,
especially in those who say they are followers of Christ,
we present these opportunities of performance and dialogue
at Fairfield University's Regina A. Quick Center:**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 7pm (free, registration required)

Fairfield University's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation

"The Wrong Side of the World Resolution': King's Internationalism & Lessons for Today"

by Robin D. G. Kelley, PhD, (2022 Martin Luther King, Jr. Speaker)

Thursday, February 3, 2022 – 7pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Global Theatre: Performance Series curated by Cheryl Weisenfeld

"Shared Sentences"

by Houses on the Moon Theater Company"

A post-show discussion will follow the performance.

Saturday, February 12, 2022 – 1pm and 6pm (\$25-\$35)

The Metropolitan Opera: HD Live

"Fire Shut Up in My Bones"

by Terence Blanchard

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 7:30pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Open VISIONS Forum and The Common Ground Series presented by the College of Arts & Sciences

"Race, Liberty & Justice: Diverging Perspectives with Eyes on the Prize"

by Michael Eric Dyson, PhD & John H. McWhorter, PhD

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 – 7:30pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Open VISIONS Forum and The Common Ground Series presented by the College of Arts & Sciences

The Annual Student Forum: **"Democracy: Choices and Challenges"**

by David Brooks

Thursday, April 28, 2022 8pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Open VISIONS Forum

"Caste: Examining Race, Culture, & Consequences"

by Isabel Wilkerson

Pastor Marjo Anderson and Jeanette Harris

will host a discussion of this presentation and of the book in general

on Sunday May 1st at 4:00 on zoom at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89975646418?pwd=ZG5nSVVmR3NVTXc5dTAWbWtqTWdrZz09>

or go to SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar and click on the event for more information

Tickets and additional information is available at: <http://www.quickcenter.com>