



Salem Lutheran Church

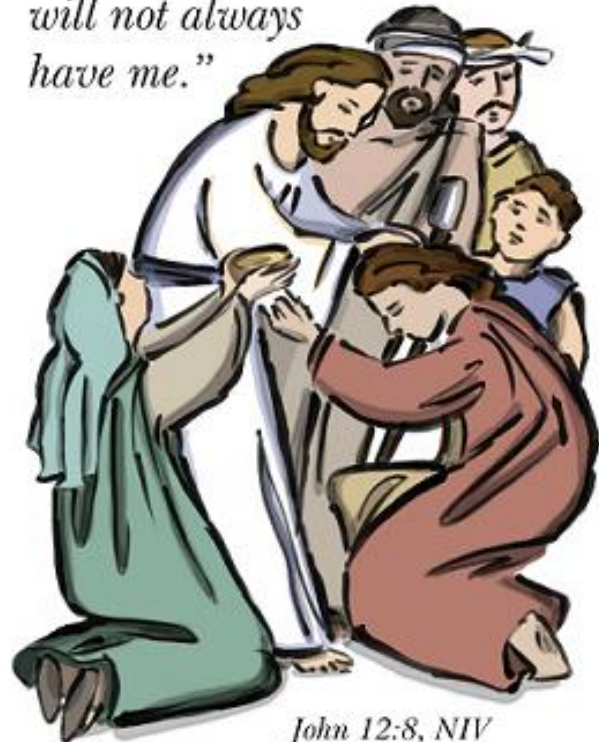
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

5th Sunday in
Lent

April 3, 2022
9:30 AM

*“You will always have the
poor among you, but you
will not always
have me.”*



John 12:8, NIV

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Welcome

We are called to love God with all everything we have! In the first reading God promises to take care of us in order that we might declare God's praise. In the gospel Mary loves Jesus so much that she "wastes" a year's worth of income just to anoint his feet with perfume! In the 2nd reading Paul says he counts everything in his life as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord. God calls YOU into that same kind of intimate, passionate relationship with God in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Love God with everything you have, & then just see what happens!

THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING 9:30 WORSHIP (10:30ish) ON April 24th (the Sunday after Easter) FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON WHETHER WE STAY AT 3160 PARK AVENUE OR MOVE TO ANOTHER LOCATION. This will be an in-person meeting ONLY. Vote will be by written ballot. We have closed on the sale of our property to the Ephraim French Seventh Day Adventist Church and we are currently renting back space from them. They have graciously offered us all that we need to stay here, including time in the sanctuary for 9:30 Sunday worship and time in the lounge following that for coffee hour and/or adult forum. They have also offered us the former music director's office for Pastor Marjo and Karl to share, half of the workroom behind what will now be their church office for such things as our copier, printers, router, and file cabinets, a section of the paper supply closet in the workroom, storage for larger items in one of the closets off the stage, as well as a temporary "staging area" in the former food pantry space for things we will be moving off-site to long-term storage. First Presbyterian in Fairfield has also made us an offer. **This is a chance for you, the congregation, to choose where you wish to worship.**

Salem is still requiring masks. We know that some are only comfortable coming into a place where people are masked, and we want to provide an environment where they feel safe. We will continue to re-evaluate based on what happens with the pandemic and what the latest advice is concerning singing protocols.

Welcome to WONDROUS WEDNESDAYS! On Wednesday we have 3 wonderful opportunities to live into our mission of Encountering God, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives. The links are all on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

*** First, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month through June, we begin with a Morning Bible Study 9:30-11:00 on zoom, led by Grace Dukenski.** There is time for sharing before we launch into our study of the book of Romans, and time for prayer at the end.

*** Every 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 more we talk with God and the more we listen to God, the more God is able to work through us. And the more we pray TOGETHER the more the power of prayer is multiplied.

*** On the Wednesdays during Lent – March 16th, 23rd, 30th, and April 6th – we'll gather at 6:30 ONLINE with other congregations from our conference for a Virtual Dinner Theatre Worship experience.** Bring your dinner to your desk - or your laptop to the dinner table - and enjoy your meal while participating in a kind of dinner church/cabaret theatre. The theme is "Looking for Joy in Lent", and each week's worship will incorporate a play, scripture, music, prayer, and some time to get to know one another. Each week's play will be self-contained but the same characters will return each week. We're looking for volunteers to read a part in the play. Please let Jeanette "Momma J" know if you can play a part. You can call or text her at 203-366-6778 or email her at jharris524@yahoo.com. The worship will be streamed live to Facebook so if you can't join us in real time you can watch it later. Please invite your family and friends to this novel Lenten experience.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Christ, the Life of All the Living

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suffering, death, and merit life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
- 2 You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
- 3 Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry, praise you evermore on high.

*Text: based on Isaiah 53, Matthew 27:33-46, Matthew 27:50, Mark 15:22-39, Luke 23:33-46,
Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Meter 8 7 8 7 8 8 7 7*

*Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687
Text and Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance #1 by St. John's Lutheran Church, Richlandtown, PA, organist Zack von Menchlofen
Mar 14, 2021*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Z4dqzMZDbM> [2:15]

*Performance #2 by Tim McNabb, Halifax Lutheran Church, 02/11/21
(485/655 in thier hymn series.*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbARvvtK2mk> [2:15]

Performance #3 by Mary Munson

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhfelOA6lFs> [2:31]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.**
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.**
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

Text: based on Galatians 6:14, by John Bowring, 1792–1872, Meter 8 7 8 7

Music: RATHBUN, by Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

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."
The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul writes:

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 12:1-8

You may stand if you so desire.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

I believe it is a matter of faith to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

**I believe it is a matter of faith to recognize equally
and love all members of God's human family
whatever their race, creed, color, gender, marital status,
physical or mental capacity, or sexual orientation.**

**I believe Jesus Christ came to us to free all people from sin and to make disciples –
people willing to live Christ's discipline of love and justice for all.**

**I believe the Holy Spirit is that power within us
that gives us courage and stamina to face the truth and to live it,
even to die for it, as Jesus died.**

**I believe in the resurrection, the victory over death,
the truth that is life for all in Jesus' name.**

**Glory be to God, the One-in-Three:
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustaining Power of Love. 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

Drawn close to the heart of God,
we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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

Draw us into your loving embrace.
Free us from paradigms that no longer serve the gospel,
encourage us to follow those you have called to lead us,
and give us courage to build relationships with people who are different from us.
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:
Bob Reichelt, Marjo Anderson, and Miles Wilkins.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Draw us into your loving embrace.
Motivate each one of us to do our part
to reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe.
Enable us to restore habitats already impaired by human disregard.
Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Draw us into your loving embrace.
Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all.
Make a way for peace and collaboration among the nations.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Draw us into your loving embrace.
Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed,
for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle financially.
Comfort those who grieve and restore those who are sick, especially
Barbara, Bernedette, Christiane, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Jonathan, Linda, Steve,
and all we name in our hearts.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Draw us into your loving embrace.
Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience.
Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued. Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Draw us into your loving embrace.
Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection
as we give thanks for all the saints who have attained the prize of their heavenly call.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
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 SONG

Take My Life, That I May Be

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 685)*

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

- 1 Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**
- 4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**
- 5 Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

*Text: Mark 12:41-44, Luke 7:36-50, John 12:1-8, Romans 12:1, Galatians 2:20
by Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.; Meter 7 7 7 7*

Music: PATMOS by William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

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

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Holy One,
we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you, teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for Christ's sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. 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 and 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 SONG

All to Jesus I Surrender

(as found in the ELCA worship book This Far by Faith # 235)

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

**All to Jesus I surrender; All to him I freely give.
I will ever love and trust him, In his presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.**

**All to Jesus I surrender; Humbly at his feet I bow;
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me, Jesus, take me now.
I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.**

**All to Jesus I surrender; Make me, Saviour, wholly thine;
Let me feel thy Holy Spirit, Truly know that thou art mine.
I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.**

**All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee;
Fill me with thy love and power, Let thy blessing fall on me.
I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.**

CCLI Song # 4836083

Text: Judson W. Van de Venter (1855-1939); Meter 8 7 8 7 with refrain

Music: Winfield Scott Weeden (1847-1908)

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, surrender all to Jesus, and joy will fill your hearts!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Trading My Sorrows

Chorus

I'm trading my sorrows

I'm trading my shame

I'm laying them down

For the joy of the Lord

I'm trading my sickness

I'm trading my pain

I'm laying them down

For the joy of the Lord

Vamp

Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord

Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord

Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord amen

Verse

I am pressed but not crushed

Persecuted not abandoned

Struck down but not destroyed

I am blessed beyond the curse

For His promise will endure

That His joy's gonna be my strength

Though the sorrow may last for the night

His joy comes with the morning

Interlude

Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai

Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai

Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai

CCLI Song # 2574653

Darrell Evans

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Performance by Solid Foundation Baptist Church Praise Team, 11/21/20

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZOV_QI8dwI [4:24]

Announcements

Join the Journey as we Look for Joy in Lent!

* **We encourage everyone to spend the 6 weeks of Lent reading** what we have been studying in our Bible Study these last 2 months – **Acts chapters 1 & 2**. As you read this story reflect on what God is saying to YOU through this story and listen to how it applies to your life and then pay attention to how God works to transform you through this story.

* **Palm Sunday, 9:30 April 10th – in-person at 3160 Park Ave, & streamed live to Facebook.**

* **Maundy Thursday, 7:30 April 14th – in-person at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield, and streamed live to YouTube.**

* **Good Friday, 7:30 April 15th – in-person at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield, and streamed live to YouTube.**

* **Easter. 9:30 April 17th –** We will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord right here at 3160 Park Avenue with a festive service, complete with choir, brass players and the Hallelujah Chorus!

* **After Easter we will return to our Wednesday Bible Study from 6:30-7:15**, followed by Holy Communion, 7:15-7:30 – and we’ll begin by reflecting on how God has been using Acts 1-2 to transform our lives during Lent!

Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat’n’Chew, Saturday April 16th (the day before Easter) at 11:00 am. Details to come.

The next breakfast will be held on May 14th at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford, at 8:00 (7:00 to help cook).

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:

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>

Thank you also to all who attended our Sunday Night Alive Inter-Church Cabaret Night. We had representatives from 7 different congregations there, including Salem, Genesis, Our Saviour's, CHURCH, Tabor, and even the Seventh Day Adventist congregation who is purchasing our property! We had a lot of fun enjoying stories, poems, songs, and the reading of a short play – all while getting to know each other – which is exactly what God calls us to do!

God is SO good that we cannot help but give thanks with a grateful heart! At last week's congregational meeting we heard in the report of the Treasurer that your giving has remained consistently strong over these past 2 years despite the pandemic. **THANK YOU!** We also heard that we made so much money in the stock market that it more than covered our budgeted deficit! **PLUS!** we received \$40,000 in grants from the federal government! But the vitally important thing to note is that **ALL of these gifts are from God** who gave this year through you, through our investments, and through our government. It doesn't matter if someday the stock market loses money. It doesn't matter if we never get money from the government again. Why? Because if God desires to bless us financially, God can and will find a way to do it. Our trust is not in each other, nor in banks, nor in governments. Our trust is in the God of all power and love who will give us all the resources we need to do whatever it is God calls us to do. So pray that God make our mission known to us and give us the courage to do it. And then the rest is easy: Don't worry! **BE THANKFUL!**

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!**

Invitation from Joe Bales - As I'm sure you'll remember the Salem Food Pantry ended in early 2020 with the onset of the Covid 10 pandemic. It was a very disappointing period for Salem and personally for me as we had created a great community outreach program. While our pantry has been silent a small contingent of Food Pantry volunteers have continued to be involved in meeting the needs of the hunger challenged. Today seven men meet weekly at the Brooklawn Deli for fellowship — followed by picking up food from the Bridgeport Food Bank with delivery to the PTBarnum Food Pantry. The group consists of Dr. Peter Mitchell, Fred Schaefer, Bert Andren, Ray Anderson, Tom Larson, Charlie Beaver and myself. **YOU** are welcome to join us and as in the past we welcome your support through monetary contributions. Your donation should be directed to Feed The People Food Pantry, c/o Roberta Marson, 240 Hanson Avenue, Bridgeport, Ct 06605. Contact Joe Bales at 203-434-6308 for additional information.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589

Monday, April 4, 2022

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans.

Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation.

Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time.

Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work.

Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light.

Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther.

Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner.

In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement.

Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

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