



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*for those with
hearing challenges*

**6th Sunday of
Easter**

**May 22, 2022
9:30 AM**



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Welcome

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

Salem is still recommending masks, especially for singing. We know that some are only comfortable coming into a place where people are masked, and we want to provide an environment where everyone feels safe. Case numbers are rising and the latest variant is even more contagious than Omicron and its successor. While the current variants may cause only mild symptoms in most people, those who are older and who have underlying conditions remain at risk for more serious illness, including long covid. We will continue to re-evaluate based on what happens with the pandemic and what the latest advice is concerning singing protocols.

The Color of Compromise: Sacred Conversations on Race and the American Church. The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) team invites you into sacred conversations in a safe space to talk about the history of race and the American Church. Though the series will span 11 weeks, each session covers a distinct topic, so you're welcome to attend as many as you wish. Guided by the book *The Color of Compromise*, a video series by its author, Jemar Tisby, and the CCGB's capable and dedicated team of facilitators, the series moves chronologically from America's colonial past to today's Black Lives Matter movement. *The Color of Compromise* is not about shaming or blaming but rather opens our eyes to a history hidden, unknown, or ignored by White Christians and calls us to take seriously what the Bible teaches about human dignity and equality. As members of the whitest denomination in the US, this is an opportunity for those of us at Salem to learn and grow. The next two sessions will cover "Institutionalizing Race in the Antebellum Era" (May 19th) and "Defending Slavery at the Onset of the Civil War" (May 26th). For more information or questions about Raising the BAR programming, please contact Paula Coccozza at Paulacoccozza@ccgb.org or online at <https://ccgb.org/rtb> or speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Bill Winter, or Tom Larson.

CityServe Donation Drive NOW THROUGH May 31st! The following items are needed for Adoption & Foster Care agencies in our community: Shampoo, Deodorant, Combs/Brushes, Feminine Products, Diapers & Wipes, New Toys/Games, New Pajamas, New Socks, New Underwear, Gift Cards to Target and Walmart. If you can donate items or help deliver them on May 31st between 9 & 4 to Kingdom Life Christian Church, Milford, please see Nancy Headford.

The next breakfast and faith discussion will be held on June 11th at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford, at 8:00 (7:00 to help cook).

Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, the third Saturday of the month at 11:00 am. Details forthcoming.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Dona Nobis Pacem

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship #753)*

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem. Dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

Text: based on John 20:19-31, traditional; meter 8 6

Tune: DONA NOBIS PACEM, traditional

Text and Tune are in the Public Domain.

*Performance # 1 by Julie Gaulke, 05/09/13 (<http://www.juliegaulkemusic.com>)
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fhJ6XrZ4jg> [2:51]*

*Performance # 2 by One Ascension Virtual Choir, 05/21/20,
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8M8v7l9zsAM> [2:57]*

*Performance # 3 by Alan Alda & MASH 4077 DONA NOBIS PACEM CHRISTMAS,
Dear Sis episode; Father Mulcahy writes home at Christmas... M*A*S*H, 12/03/18
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3kN5uytxK4> [2:39]*

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Welcome in the name of the Creating God, the Redeeming Christ, and the Sustaining Spirit!

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 am Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the US.

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.

I'll be away Monday and Tuesday this week at the annual Dean's Retreat in New Hampshire.

We invite you to join us on Wednesday on zoom for our noon Prayer Gathering,

and our 6:30 Bible Study on Acts followed by a brief service of Holy Communion at 7:15.

On Thursday you are invited to the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport on zoom

for a discussion of how the American Church has been complicit in racism,

and how God can work in us to heal and to make whole.

The links to all our zoom events are on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar

Any other announcements?

Then, I invite you to pray with me as we begin our worship.

God, we come here today to give you thanks and praise.

And we come here today

to have our bodies restored, minds renewed, our hearts reformed, and our spirits refreshed.

Give us a vision of what you want for us and for your world.

Unite us by that vision that we might walk together.

Lead us towards that vision that we might reach it without delay.

And move us to celebrate you, our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer.

We pray this in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING SONG

Shall We Gather at the River

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 690, This Far by Faith # 179, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship #423)*

*As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.
You may stand if you so desire.*

**Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

**On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

**Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

**Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

*Text: based on Ezekiel 47:1-12, Joel 3:18, John 7:37-39, Revelation 7:13-17, 22:1-5
by Robert Lowry, 1826–1899; Meter 8 7 8 7 and refrain*

Music: HANSON PLACE by Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us". When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home". And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad
and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations on earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.
May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN: Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5

And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day — and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and God's servants will worship; they will see God's face, and God's name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 14:23-29 *You may stand if you so desire.*

Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you’. If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe in God who created us and all that is,
who loves us and desires our love in return.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
& every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God our Creator.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who calls us into relationship with God,
who gathers us in relationship with the whole human family,
who enlightens our minds, enlarges our hearts, and enables our bodies,
and who sanctifies us by helping us to grow in faith and hope and obedience to God's will.**

**It is this Triune God – the three in one and one in three – whom we worship and adore
and to whom we offer all that we have and all that we are. Amen**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

**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

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

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

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Karen Andrews, and Michael Caragol.

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

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season.

Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things.

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

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations.

When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority.

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

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace, especially Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Henry, Iris, Jocelyn, Jonathan, Kristin, Linda, Lou, Moses, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness.

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

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people.

Accomplish your will through their efforts.

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

Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints.

Gather us with those who have died when we meet together at your river of life.

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

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

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 When Peace like a River / It Is Well with My Soul

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 785)

*As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.
You may stand if you so desire.*

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, tho trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

Refrain It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul.

Refrain It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: based on Isaiah 34:4, 43:2, 48:18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16,

3 John 1:2, 2, Revelation 6:14, by Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888, Meter 1 1 8 1 1 9

Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, IT IS WELL, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

I'll be away tomorrow and Tuesday in New Hampshire for our annual Dean's retreat.

We invite you to join us on Wednesday on zoom for our noon Prayer Gathering,
and our 6:30 Bible Study on Acts followed by a brief service of Holy Communion at 7:15.

On Thursday you are invited to the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport on zoom
for a discussion of how the American Church has been complicit in racism,
and how God can work in us to heal and to make whole.

The links to all our zoom events are on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar

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,

I'd like to offer this blessing based on the reading from Psalm 67 today
to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and in cyberspace:

May God be merciful to you,
may the light of God's face shine upon you,
and may God bless you now and evermore. Amen

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may stand if you so desire and make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known & from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

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
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for all people, and for Christ's sake God forgives all who truly repent of their 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!

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 & 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

You Are Mine

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship #581 and Worship & Praise # 158)*

*As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.
You may stand if you so desire.*

1. **"I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.**

Refrain: **Do not be afraid; I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me; I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine.**

2. **I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.**

Refrain: **Do not be afraid; I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me; I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine.**

3. **I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.**

Refrain: **Do not be afraid; I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me; I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine.**

4. **I am the Word that leads all to freedom; I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live!**

Refrain: **Do not be afraid; I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me; I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine.**

*Text: David Haas, b. 1957; Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Hass,
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.,
7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.)
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with minds untroubled, and hearts unafraid!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Thine the Amen

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 801 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 826)*

Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing at thy feast at thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness only thee only thee.

Text: based on Psalm 145:10-13 by Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926; Meter 14 14 15 14

Music: THINE by Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Performance by Concordia Publishing House, 02/19/16

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n91YCW4pgCU> [2:28]

Announcements

CT CityFest is a region-wide movement focused on serving the region and proclaiming the Good News. It came about as a result of years of prayer and planning by dozens of leaders in Fairfield and New Haven Counties and the surrounding Southwestern Connecticut area. The vision is to see the Christian community come together in greater unity, service, and proclamation – showing the community at-large the joy, peace, and love of Jesus Christ. Over 130 churches and ministries have already committed to share hope and love through this movement which is focused on encouraging unity and collaboration across all communities, denominations, and ethnicities. Most impressively, this collaborative effort spans both the racial divide as well as the divide between Evangelicals and Mainline Protestants. Together, as the Body of Christ, we want to celebrate and accelerate the work of the Church, helping further influence culture, change lives, and inspire other cities.

It has already begun with the launch of **CityServe**, a massive effort to mobilize churches to serve our region's greatest needs, providing support for those needing Adoption & Foster Care, better Education, and freedom from Food Insecurity. It will culminate with a series of outreach events strategically designed to share the love of Jesus with key groups of people in our community, including university students, business/civic leaders, women, and those who are incarcerated.

Some of the events include:

May 19 Prayer Gathering; 6-8 pm; Seaside Park at the halfshell

May 26 State of CityFest and Prayer Card Launch (for 5 people in your life who need prayer)
10 am at City Wide Church

June 9 Relationship Evangelism, 7 pm at Black Rock Congregational Church
The session will be recorded and available afterwards.
For more info go to <https://www.cityfest.org/relationship-evangelism>

June 11 Festival Friend Training, 10:30 am at Cathedral of Praise

June 23 Discipleship Gathering, TBA

July 25-29 Park City SummerFest Vacation Bible Camps (in both English and Spanish sponsored by CityServe, FaithActs, Elevate, Faith & Education Coalition, Rise to Read, and local congregations) for kids age 4 and up,
12 to 4 pm at Washington Park,
with additional camps will be held at satellite locations throughout the summer.

July 30, SummerFest celebration with awards for kids to get families connected with churches,
11 am – 2 pm at Washington Park.

Aug 27-28 CityFest, an outdoor, family festival to celebrate this amazing effort and share the Gospel with thousands through the ministry of the local churches brought together by the Luis Palau Association. For more info, go to <https://www.cityfest.org/whatiscityfest>, or speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Bill Winter, or Cindy Roberts.

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.

*** And finally, every Wednesday at 6:30 pm we conclude with an Evening Bible Study 6:30-7:30 on zoom, led by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris.** Join this diverse and interesting group of people for a study that is not simply informational but transformational. We continue our study of the book of Acts, concluding at 7:15 with a brief service of Holy Communion. This past week we looked at the beginning of chapter 4 and will pick up with 4:32 & go on to chapter 5 this week.

Let's stay connected! Much of Pastor Marjo's and Salem's Office Manager, Karl's work can be done from their homes, but generally Karl is here on Thursdays to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely, and Pastor Marjo is happy to meet with you in-person here should you so desire. 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

**Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists
Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

**John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564
Friday, May 27, 2022**

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

CREDITS

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GOOD NEWS IN YOUR CITY

LUIS PALAU ASSOCIATION

STEPS OF INVOLVEMENT

PRAYER

Concerted prayer effort for our city and for those who have yet to trust Jesus

SERVE

Joining with other churches, organizations, businesses, and the civic community to meet the needs of the region

EQUIP

Receive tools and encouragement to reach out and speak with others about Jesus Christ

PROMOTE

Help publicize CityFest with a massive grassroots and marketing campaign that will reach a high level of visibility and awareness in the region

GIVE

Consider giving as an individual, as a business, organization, or church

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Help proclaim the Gospel through affinity events and gatherings leading up to CityFest

FOLLOWING UP

Follow up with new believers referred to your church, helping them grow strong in their relationship with Jesus Christ

CONTINUE

Continue the Gospel Movement in the region through unity, word, and deed

www.palaufestivals.org/greater-bridgeport



God has been working through many organizations larger than local congregations to nurture people's bodies and souls. The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (primarily white mainline Protestant congregations) and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport (black Evangelical and Pentecostal congregations) are 2 such organizations. Some congregations have set up their own non-profit organizations like nOURish BRIDGEPORT (United Church of Christ), FaithActs (Pastor William McCullough of Russell Temple) and the Mount Aery Development Corporation (Mount Aery Baptist Church). And there are other organizations having a big impact as well, such as the NAACP of Greater Bridgeport which received an award for being the most active chapter in the state. But imagine what can happen if all of these organizations, all of the congregations affiliated with them, and all of the other unaffiliated congregations were to work together! That's why the Luis Palau Association is coming to our city – so that we can do together what none of our congregations or organizations can do separately. Look over the many ways to get involved and pray to see how God is calling YOU!

GOOD NEWS IN YOUR CITY

LUIS PALAU ASSOCIATION

TIMELINE 2021-2022

2021 CURRENT - NOVEMBER: INVITATION PHASE

- Formation of a steering committee
- Accomplishment of invitation checklist provided by LPA
- Conduct an official invitation event (November 16)

2021/2022 DECEMBER 2021 - MARCH 2022: FOUNDATION PHASE

- Completion of the CityFest Executive Team
- Pastoral/Church recruitment
- Opening of local office and development of local staff
- CityServe foundation

2022 MARCH-AUGUST: MOBILIZATION PHASE

- Church mobilization/equipping events
- CityServe
- Evangelism orientation/equipping
- Publicity launch

2022 SEPTEMBER: PROCLAMATION PHASE

- Massive targeted evangelism through affinity events
- Two-day CityFest
- Media blitz

2022 SEPTEMBER + BEYOND: CONTINUATION PHASE

- Follow-up with those who respond
- Strategic Gospel Movement planning

CITYFEST is coming in September of 2022!

Prior to that, CITYSERVE will begin in the spring, ramp up in the summer, and will continue long after CITYFEST is over.

If ever there was a time when our city – our world – needed the hope we have in Christ Jesus, it is now.

Please pray and ask God how you can be involved through the Luis Palau Association in living out your baptismal call – “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ” and “to serve all people, following the example of Jesus”.

For more information, speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Cindy Roberts or Bill Winter.