



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Ascension Sunday

(7th Sunday after Easter)

***May 29, 2022
9:30 AM***



He ascended INTO Heaven

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Welcome

Today we celebrate Ascension Sunday, the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord having taken place this past Thursday, 40 days after Easter, and 10 days before Pentecost which we will celebrate next Sunday. **(By the way, don't forget to wear red next Sunday!)** In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We, too, long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

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. There is also a 20% chance of even a mild case of covid developing into more serious 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.

Please note that on June 26th we will be worshipping with and at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford. More details forthcoming.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG Holy Spirit (You Are Welcome Here)

Verse 1 There's nothing worth more that will ever come close
Nothing can compare You're our living hope –
Your Presence, Lord

Verse 2 I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone
Your Presence Lord

Chorus Holy Spirit, You are welcome here!
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere!
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your Presence, Lord.

Interlude Your Presence Lord

Interlude Your Presence Lord Your Presence
Oh God how we love Your Presence Lord

Bridge Let us become more aware of Your Presence –
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness (Lord)

CCLI Song # 6087919

by Bryan Torwal and Katie Torwalt,

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Jesus Culture Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

On the Bryan and Katie Torwalt album "Here on Earth". Year 2011.

as found here: <https://amzn.to/3ao4OuO>

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Performance by the Times Square Church Choir, 08/08/20, Matthew Grant

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsI_ctYTLqQ [8:10]

Performance by Heavens Mutambira & Amplified Praise, 06/17/17, AmplifiedPraiseTV1

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2q7hMfmVL3I> [7:45]

Performance by the Sylvan Hills Church of Christ;

Mark Fonville, video production, 02/03/16, Kevin Hackett

as found at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlrAqZgsyP4> [4:25]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

(as found in the ELCA worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 393)

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

- 1 **A hymn of glory let us sing!**
New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 **The holy apostolic band**
upon the Mount of Olives stand, Alleluia! Alleluia!
and with his faithful foll'wers see
their Lord ascend in majesty. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 **To whom the shining angels cry,**
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" Alleluia! Alleluia!
"This is the Savior!" thus they say,
"this is his glorious triumph day!" Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 **"You see him now, ascending high**
up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
returning in great majesty." Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 5 **O risen Christ, ascended Lord,**
all praise to you let earth accord: Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: based on Luke 24:50-53, Colossians 3:1,

by Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship; Meter 8 8 8 8 and alleluias

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623

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Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: Acts 1:1-11

Luke writes: ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This”, he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

²For the Lord Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,

³who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;

⁴who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the ram’s horn.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.

⁷For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

⁸God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

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

A READING FROM PAUL’S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 24:44-53 *You may stand if you so desire.*

⁴⁴*Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,* “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

SERMON

Please be seated.

Pastor Marjo

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.

Holy One, ruler of heaven and earth,
wash us in your Holy Spirit and make us witnesses to your resurrected life in this community.
Let our fellowship be a sign to others of the presence of Christ.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's anti-racism and interfaith work.
And we pray for Salem members & their families.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through thundering, mighty waters reveal your creative power at work in creation.
Cleanse the air, land, and waters
with the movement of your Spirit and the stewardship of your people.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In faithful and diverse worship, turn all people toward you and your loving will for humankind.
We thank you that through the work of the Luis Palau Association's CityFest and CityServe, you are bridging differences across the racial and the evangelical/mainline divides.
Thank you for the over 130 congregations involved and move us to join in this work to serve our city and surrounding communities.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the suffering and death of Jesus, draw near to those who suffer and grieve,
especially Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Henry, Iris, Jocelyn, Jonathan, Kristin, Linda, Lou, Maria, Marija, Moses, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.
Hold them in the palm of your loving hand and give them rest.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us through the music, dance, and other arts ministries of this congregation.
With clapping, shouting, singing, playing, and moving,
let our bodies bear witness to the joy you alone can give.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rouse us to remember the faithful witness of the saints who have gone before us.
By their lives and the life and death of Jesus,
enlighten our hearts, give us hope, and lead us in wisdom.
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 Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying

(as found in the ELCA worship books

Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 752, This Far by Faith # 247, and Worship & Praise # 92)

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

**Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

Text: based on Psalm 5:1-3 & 1 Peter 3:12 by Ken Medema, b. 1943; Meter 9 8 9 9

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING by Ken Medema

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Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU AND BLESSING

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!**

SENDING SONG

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 401, This Far by Faith # 103, and Worship & Praise # 687)*

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

**Gracious spirit, heed our pleading; fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing; help us to follow you.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

**Come to teach us; come to nourish those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful; may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

**Guide our thinking and our speaking done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

**Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

**Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure.**

Come, Come, come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

Text: based on John 16.7-15 & 1 Corinthians 12.4-11

by Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922; Meter C M and refrain

Music: NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA by Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924

*English and Swahili text and tune: © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania,
admin. Augsburg Fortress;*

Arr. © Egil Hovland)

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that Jesus will send upon you the Holy Spirit that God promised, clothing you with power from on high!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE **God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind**

- 1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort; past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service, there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!
- 2 God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body, let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice, kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!
- 3 God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us; make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!
- 4 God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!

ELW # 400

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 7;

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Music: CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes, 1873–1932.

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*Performed by Mark Fideldy, organist
and Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins, MN, 05/27/12
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7e0kFP_JYU [3:39]*

Announcements

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.

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 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 divides between Evangelicals and Mainline Protestants & Roman Catholics. 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.

CityFest 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:

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/whaticityfest>, or speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Bill Winter, or Cindy Roberts.

Thank you to Joe Bales for arranging for 2 refrigerators to be donated to 2 food ministries in our area, including one right here in this building! That's right – the Ephraim French Seventh Day Adventist Church which now owns the premises is eager to begin a food pantry and is looking to Salem to share its expertise. Thank you, too, to the men who moved the heavy equipment to its destinations!

Thank you to Sandra Brown, Rich Lansing, Ray Anderson, Bruce Tomasko, and Pastor Marjo for their help moving items we had stored downstairs in our old food pantry rooms to other locations in the building in order to facilitate the start of Ephraim's food pantry. We are grateful, too, that Ephraim made other space available to us so that we do not have the inconvenience and expense of renting space in a facility off-site.

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 on Galatians 9:30-11:00 on zoom, led by Grace Dukenski.** There is time for sharing before we launch into our study, 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 finished chapter 4 and will pick up with 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

Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church.

He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John.

Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

Justin, martyr at Rome, died around 165

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith.

Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

The Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886

Friday, June 3, 2022

On June 3, 1886, 32 young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, died 1963

Friday, June 3, 2022

When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

CREDITS

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GOOD NEWS IN YOUR CITY

LUIS PALAU ASSOCIATION

WHAT IS CITYFEST?

You care about your city. You want to see the Good News proclaimed and lived out to every individual. And you're working hard to make that happen every day. We want to join with you to cast an even bigger vision for long-term unity and collaboration in the Body of Christ . . . serving the city and sharing the clear message of Jesus Christ on a grand scale.

VISION

- **Growing unity** in the Body of Christ
- **Increased collaboration** among the churches to love and serve their community
- **Christians mobilized** to pray for the lost and invite their friends to know Jesus
- **Gospel proclaimed** on a grand scale

UNITY

- Set aside denominational differences to focus on evangelism
- Build bridges with other churches in the neighborhood to serve the community
- Grow relationships among church, civic, and corporate communities

MOBILIZATION

- **Prayer** - God's people mobilized to pray for their unbelieving friends
- **CityServe** - God's people mobilized to serve
- **Training** - God's people trained to share the Good News with family and friends
- **Invite** - God's people challenged to invite their unbelieving friends to hear the Good News

Get ready for CITYFEST, as the Luis Palau Association arrives in Bridgeport to work for long-term unity and collaboration within the Body of Christ so that together we can more effectively transform individual lives with the good news of God's power and love made known in Jesus Christ through the power of the Spirit, and also transform the entire city of Bridgeport and beyond by serving the needs of our neighbors.

Have you ever wished that the Christian Church could be more united? While the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport has worked to unite primarily white mainline Protestant congregations and while the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport has worked to unite primarily black Evangelical and Pentecostal congregations, the Luis Palau Association comes equipped to unite all congregations across racial and denominational barriers. Just think what an impact we can have if we all work together! Stay tuned to hear more about CITYFEST!

In a time when the church is declining in membership, revenue, respect, and impact, the Luis Palau Association offers each congregation the opportunity to be part of a massive effort called CITYFEST to carry out our baptismal call not only "to proclaim the good news of God in Christ", but "to serve all people, following the example of Jesus". And as we work together, Christ will enable us to set aside denominational differences, build bridges between congregations, and develop relationships among church, civic and corporate communities. Stay tuned to hear how YOU can be involved in this exciting work of God.

Wondering how you can be involved in CITYFEST? If you are interested in action, CityServe will offer many opportunities, some new, some old. If you worry about your kids and grandkids falling away from faith, there will be training available to teach you how to share the Good News with family and friends. If inviting someone to a grand and exciting worship event is easier than individual conversations, you will have the opportunity to do just that. Or if you would simply like to help in a quiet way, you can join the hundreds of people who will provide the foundation of prayer on which this whole event will happen. In fact, begin praying now to see how God is calling YOU to be involved in CITYFEST!