



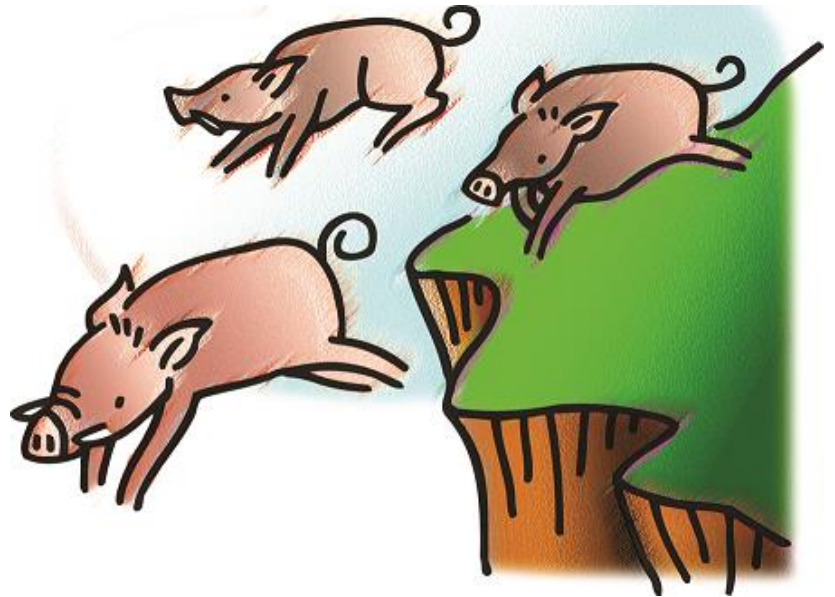
Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*2nd Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*June 19, 2022
9:30 AM*



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[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

Today, having celebrated Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we move forward into the second half of the church year. The first half focused on who Jesus was and is, while this half focuses on what it means to be the Church. This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

A Happy Father's Day to all Fathers in our midst!

Today (tomorrow is the official holiday) our country celebrates Juneteenth. It was on June 19, 1865, two years after President Abraham Lincoln presented the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, that slaves in Texas finally received word: They were free. Black communities in Texas and beyond annually celebrate this day, Juneteenth, which officially became a federal holiday in 2021. Freedom is a thread, and a fight, woven through this nation's history and current political climate. Continue to take action to celebrate and ensure true freedom for all through awareness of racial disparities, mobilization, and bold actions necessary to further the fight for social justice and equal opportunity. [<https://naacp.org/campaigns/Juneteenth>] As Christians who proclaim both our diversity and our unity in Christ as well as our baptismal call to work for justice and peace in all the world, we are urged to celebrate Juneteenth by taking action to progress policies to give Black Americans equal opportunity throughout the nation.

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.

Salem's Summer Semi-Annual Meeting will be held IN-PERSON after worship today. All members should plan on attending.

Please note that on June 26th we will be worshipping with and at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford. The day will begin with a breakfast at 8:30, worship at 9:30, followed by team building activities and a craft, ending with a barbecue. The program will end by 12:30, although socializing can continue if you'd like. We'll meet out back by the playground so please bring a chair. RSVP to Allison at 203-260-4548 or AllisonBecker1960@gmail.com.

On July 3rd, we hope to worship in the picnic grove, weather permitting. You may want to bring a chair with you.

On July 10th we have been invited to worship at 9:30 with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Road, Fairfield.

Gathering

HYMN

This Is My Song

(as found in the ELCA worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 887)

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st. 3;

Meter 11 10 11 10 11 10

Text sts.1-2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Company;

Text st.3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company; All rights reserved.

Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865—1957;

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*Performance # 1 by Cre8iv Church, a contemporary version of this hymn,
featuring members of the Tuskawilla United Methodist Church.*

Find out more about Tuskawilla UMC at <https://www.tumcfl.org>

Join Cre8iv.Church by SUBSCRIBING to this channel & hitting the bell to be notified of new videos.

Join us on INSTAGRAM at <https://www.instagram.com/cre8iv.church>

Join us on FACEBOOK at <https://www.facebook.com/cre8iv.church>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtsWndHZnNg> [3:58]

Performance # 2 by Summer Choir & Congregation, 1st Plymouth Church Lincoln NE, 07/06/14

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-zsFOa-lQ4> [4:11]

Performance # 2 by Cathedral Choir of St. John the Divine, 07/06/14

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

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 705)

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

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

- 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,**

- 3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

- 4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

*Text: based on Joshua 1:9, 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 27:14, 46:91, Proverbs 9:13-16, Isaiah 2:4-11, Micah 4:3
by Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969, Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 7*

Music: CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes, 1873-1932

Text & Music are in the Public Domain

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 65:1-9

Thus says the Lord: I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.
I said, “Here I am, here I am,” to a nation that did not call on my name.
I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;
a people who provoke me to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks;
who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places;
who eat swine’s flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels;
who say, “Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.”

These are a smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that burns all day long.

See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will indeed repay into their laps their iniquities & their ancestors’ iniquities together
because they offered incense on the mountains
and reviled me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions....
As the wine is found in the cluster,
and they say, “Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,”
so I will do for my servants’ sake, and not destroy them all.

I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it,
and my servants shall settle there.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 22:19-28

But you, O LORD, be not far away;

O my help, hasten to my aid.

Deliver me from the sword,

my life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

I will declare your name to my people;

in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

You who fear the LORD, give praise!

All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD,

all you offspring of Israel.

For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat

and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD,

who rules over the nations.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 8:26-39

You may stand if you so desire.

Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me” — for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – based on our reading today from Galatians 3

Please join me as we proclaim what we believe.

**We believe that God’s grace is all-inclusive,
and we affirm that all God’s children are welcome here.**

**We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness
in a world of alienation and brokenness.**

**As disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation between peoples,
we at Salem welcome, without exception, all people
regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity,
physical-mental ability or disability, socio-political position, age or station in life.
We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God
and by the grace of God is called a “Child of God”.**

**We proclaim that all are welcome at Salem:
to worship God, receive the sacraments and share in the fellowship and service.
As disciples, we commit ourselves to exercise our faith,
treasuring one another’s similarities and accepting our differences
in the spirit of love and good will
as we continue to discover what it means to be “Reconciling in Christ.”**

**“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”**

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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

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

Holy God, you hear the cries of those who seek you.

Equip your church with evangelists who reveal the continuous call of your outstretched hands and your promises of a home in you.

We pray for our mission partners, especially on this Juneteenth for our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, its synods, congregations, and members, that you might heal the wounds caused by the systemic racism in our denomination.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Paul Baronavski, Annika Larson, and Elise DeWalt.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of the earth.

Remind us that we occupy land taken from others – from the Pequonnock, Schaghticoke, Paugussett, and Wappinger tribes.

Restore places where land, air, and waterways have been harmed.

Guide us to develop and implement sources of energy and food production that do not destroy the earth.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of those who are marginalized or cast out. On this Juneteenth observance, guide us continually toward the end of oppression in all its forms, especially white supremacy. Bring true freedom and human flourishing to all your beloved children.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of those who suffer.

Come to the aid of all who are homeless, naked, hungry, and sick, especially Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Henry, Iris, Jocelyn, Jonathan, Kristin, Linda, Maria, Marija, Moses, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

Bring peace to any experiencing mental illness that they can feel your loving presence.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of those who celebrate and those who grieve on this Father's Day.

Help us to be grateful for the gifts of fathers and to be forgiving of their shortcomings.

Nurture mutual love and tender care in all relationships.

Comfort those for whom this day brings sadness or longing.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful departed whose lives proclaimed all you had done for them.

At the last, unite us with them as we make our home in you.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **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

Jesus Lifted Me

*(as found in the ELCA worship books, With One Voice # 673,
This Far by Faith # 191, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 860)*

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me. | <i>[clap on off-beats] [make cross with index finger] [raise arms] [higher]</i> |
| I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me. | <i>[clap on off-beats] [make cross with index finger] [raise arms] [higher]</i> |
| I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me. | <i>[clap on off-beats] [make cross with index finger] [raise arms] [higher]</i> |
| Singing "Glory! Hallelujah!" Jesus lifted me. | <i>[raise arms, palms in, shake] [make cross with index finger] [raise arms] [higher]</i> |

2. Satan had me bound....

3. I'm so glad....

Text: African American spiritual; Meter Irregular

Music: JESUS LIFTED ME; African American spiritual

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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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love endures forever. **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.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way.

Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table.

When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side.

We live unaware of the hurt and pain we have caused by personal and societal actions.

Set us back on the path of life, save us from our sin, & free us to love our neighbors. 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 HYMN Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 890)

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

You may stand if you so desire.

**1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
his truth is marching on.**

Refrain **Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.**

**2 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat.
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.**

Refrain **Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.**

**3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
while God is marching on.**

Refrain **Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.**

Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910, Meter 15 15 15 6 and refrain

Music: BATTLE HYMN, North America, 19th cent.

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

As you have been reconciled to God through Christ, now be reconciled to all God's children!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE Medley: Break Every Chain & Amazing Grace / My Chains Are Gone

Performance by Bellevue Baptist Church's choir and orchestra, 04/07/15

featuring scenes around Memphis and the rest of the world as well as depictions from the life of Christ.

Enjoy this celebratory performance of "Break Every Chain" by Bellevue's choir and orchestra

featuring scenes around Memphis and the rest of the world as well as depictions from the life of Christ.

Feel free to share on social media!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8PFHkaPogU> [5:35]

Break Every Chain

There is power in the name of Jesus;
there is power in the name of Jesus;
there is power in the name of Jesus
to break every chain, break every chain, break every chain....

All sufficient sacrifice So freely given such a price
Bought our redemption Heaven's gates Swing wide

There's an army rising up; there's an army rising up; there's an army rising up
to break every chain, break every chain, break every chain....

CCLI Song # 5910977

Will Reagan

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Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free; My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains, Unending love amazing grace

CCLI Song # 4768151

Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

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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 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 & Mainline Protestants & Roman Catholics. Together, as the Body of Christ, we want to celebrate & accelerate the work of the Church, helping further influence culture, change lives, & 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 23 Discipleship Gathering at 7pm at Gospel Light Community Church. Join a group of diverse local church leaders as they share best practices regarding discipleship programs and initiatives that have been successful in their own churches. Don't miss this great opportunity to share resources with one another. This is geared toward pastors, lay leaders, and anyone with a heart for discipleship!

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 & local congregations) for kids age 4 & up, 12-4 pm, 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.

WE ARE INVITED to the Efraim French Seventh Day Adventist worship service of dedication on Saturday July 16th. Please save the date. More details to come.

Please join Jeanette “Momma J” Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat’n’Chew, Saturday 7/16 at 11:00 am on zoom. Stay tuned for more!

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 remaining sessions will cover “Organizing the Religious Right at the End of the Twentieth Century” (June 23); “Reconsidering Racial Reconciliation in the Age of Black Lives Matter” (June 30) and “The Fierce Urgency of Now” (July 7). 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, Bonnie McWain or Tom Larson.

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.

*** 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 began our exploration of chapter 6 and will finish up the chapter 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!**

Grace/Salem Family Retreat

*Join us for a family retreat
Sunday, June 26th from 9:30-
12:30pm.*

*We'll start with breakfast by the Salem
Men's Group at 8:30, Service at 9:30,
followed by team building activities & a
craft, ending with a barbecue. The
program will end by 12:30 pm, socializing
can continue if you like. We'll be out
back by the playground (bring a chair)*



**6/26/22 at 8:30/9:30
am**

RSVP- Allison- 203-260-4548 or
Allisonbecker1960@gmail.com

PLEASE JOIN Calumet Walk the Walk 2022!

It's easy!

All you have to do is go to this link to register:

<https://www.vancoevents.com/us/events/landing?eid=21571&>

and join the Congregation Team "Salem Bridgeport"

The registration fee is a \$25 donation to Calumet.

Then all you have to do is report your miles walked to Pastor Marjo from 7/ 1-15, 16-31, 8/ 1-15 & 16-31.



Calumet will share the growing mileage total all summer long.
The goal: 350,000 miles by the end of the day on August 31!

Calumet has a special Walk the Walk Facebook page which participants all over the place are invited to join. Though out the summer, there will be daily devotions, fun contests, photo sharing, and more. This Facebook group has been a fantastic way for people to get to know one another. We have a specific group of people led by Pat Mahoney with the job of managing the page and encouraging awesome connections – a la Calumet Nation!

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!

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

Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia.

Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries.

He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

John the Baptist

Friday, June 24, 2022

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease".

And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus',

just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane.

Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

Saturday, June 25, 2022

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire.

The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560

Saturday, June 25, 2022

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession.

Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther,

Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."

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!