



Salem Lutheran Church

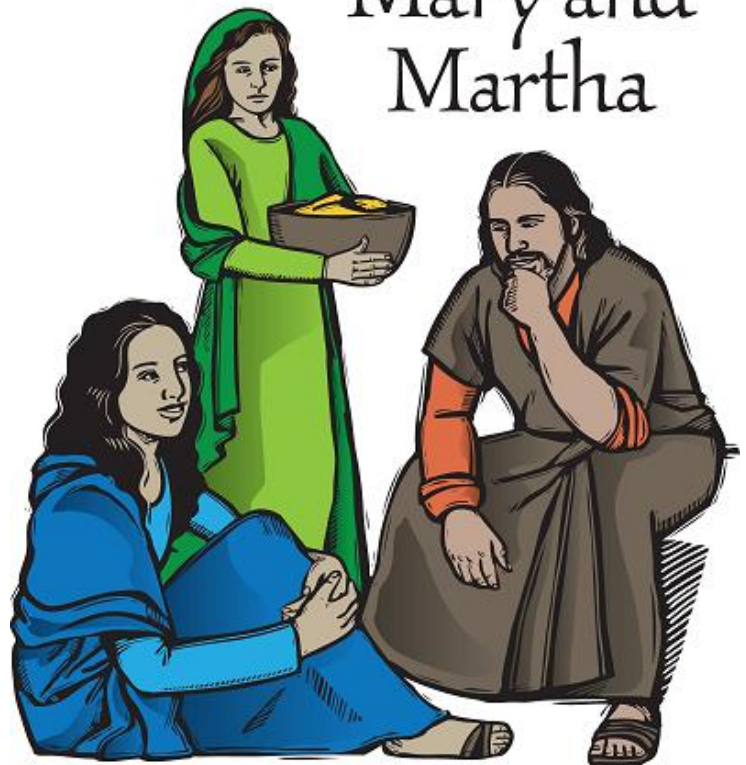
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*6th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*July 17, 2022
9:30 AM*

Mary and
Martha



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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

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. The latest variants are still more contagious than the last and seem to evade current vaccines, but thankfully seem to cause only mild symptoms in most people, although those who are older and who have underlying conditions remain at risk for more serious illness. 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.

Sundays from now through at least Labor Day weekend we will be worshipping outdoors in the picnic grove, weather permitting. You may bring your own chair or sit at one of the picnic tables.

We had such a good time at Grace Lutheran and at Our Saviour's that we've decided to invite both Grace and Our Saviour's to worship and fellowship with us at Salem. The tentative date is **August 14**, and we're looking for people to help us plan the morning. If you can help with food or getting-to-know-you activities, please speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, the Lansings, or the Tomaskos.

Pastor Marjo will be serving as the chaplain of family camp at Camp Calumet Lutheran in New Hampshire Saturday 8/6 through Friday 8/12. The Sunday that she is away, Pastor Rhonda Taylor has invited Salem to join Golden Hill United Methodist Church for worship at 9:45. This is a chance for us to build upon the relationship that we've had with Golden Hill for the many years we've volunteered at their Community Suppers as well as upon the work we share through the Council of Churches. If you will be attending, Golden Hill has two parking lots - the upper lot is located on Golden Hill Street and the lower lot is located at the main office entrance on Elm Street. Parking is also available on the street in front of the church.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

When Morning Gilds the Skies

*Text: based on Philippians 2:10-11, German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.;
Meter 6 6 6 6 6 6 D*

Music: O SEIGNEUR, from Trente quatre pseumes de David, Geneva, 1551

The Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by the Plymouth Choir & Congregation of First Plymouth Church, Lincoln NE, 02/19/17
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPQ7t8TcY5k> [2:11]*

- 1 When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Alive at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 2 Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 3 Let earth's wide circle round in Joyful notes resound: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

*Performance at Trinity Lutheran, Reading, PA, by David Lutz, piano & Karen Eddinger, organ, 07/17/16
as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksf1v_plTBc [3:39]*

- 1 When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call: may Jesus Christ be praised!
- 2 When mirth for music longs, this is my song of songs: may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer has none that can compare with "Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 3 No lovelier antiphon in all high heav'n is known than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the eternal Word the eternal psalm is heard: oh, Jesus Christ be praised!
- 4 Let all of humankind in this their concord find: may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised!
- 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face, sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er, today and evermore shall Jesus Christ be praised!

*Arrangement and Performance (all vocals!) by Dan Hefner, 09/03/20
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0U4ZU4rYxo> [5:04]*

- 1 When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Alive in work and prayer to Jesus I repair; "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 2 To God, the Word on high, the host of angels cry: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Let mortals too upraise their voice in hymns of praise "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 3 The night becomes as day when from the heart we say, "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
The pow'rs of darkness fear when this sweet song they hear: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 4 The earth's wide circle round, in joyful notes resound: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
The air and sea and sky from height to depth reply: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 5 Then let us join to sing to Christ, our loving King: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Be this th'eternal song through all the ages long: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 853)

- 1 When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call: may Jesus Christ be praised!**
- 2 When mirth for music longs, this is my song of songs: may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer has none that can compare with "Jesus Christ be praised!"**
- 3 No lovelier antiphon in all high heav'n is known than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the eternal Word the eternal psalm is heard: oh, Jesus Christ be praised!**
- 4 Let all of humankind in this their concord find: may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised!**
- 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face, sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er, today and evermore shall Jesus Christ be praised!**

Text: based on Philippians 2:10-11, German hymn, 19th cent.;

tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.; Meter 6 6 6 6 6 6 D

Music: O SEIGNEUR, from Trente quatre pseumes de David, Geneva, 1551

The Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax,
09/17/20, ELW #853, 239/655 in our hymn series.*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfRzaNz2M4s> [2:52]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: 18:1-10a

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant”. So they said, “Do as you have said”. And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes”. Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent”. Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son”.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life

and do what is right,

who speak the truth from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue,

they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected,

but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health

and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain,

nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Colossians 1:15-28

[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him — provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 10:38-42

You may stand if you so desire.

Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me". But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her".

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

*(We thank the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
for introducing us to this affirmation at its annual meeting last month.
It is from The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa & from Indonesia
and speaks especially to the ideals to which this country has always aspired:
the freedom, equality, and truth that lead to a new earth where justice and peace prevail.)*

And now, as people of the household of God, in faith, and love, and with goodwill to all,
let us in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
give ourselves afresh to him and to one another in joyous covenant,
promising to walk together with God and one another.

We believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us,
and to free us from all forms of oppression.**

We believe in the Spirit of God, who works in & through all who are turned toward the truth.

We believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.

We do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor in the power of oppression.

We believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people.

**We denounce, stand, and work against racism,
in the power that comes from wealth and privilege,
or in any established order that enslaves.**

**We believe that all people are equally human,
that order based on violence and injustice is not order.**

We do not believe that hunger and poverty are inevitable and peace unattainable.

**We dare to believe, always and in spite of everything,
in God's power to transform and transfigure,
fulfilling the promise of a new heaven & a new earth where justice & peace will flourish.**

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.

Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things.

As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you.

We pray for our mission partners, especially for food pantries and community suppers at Golden Hill United Methodist church and elsewhere.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Anita Papp, and Dolores Kuczo.

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

Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible.

Teach humankind to honor and protect all creation, including living things that remain hidden from our eyes such as air, atmosphere, molecules, and microscopic creatures.

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

Through Christ you reconcile all things.

Motivate those in power to end all enslavement, oppression, dehumanization, and brutality and to protect and improve the lives of Indigenous, Black, and People Of Color.

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

Through Christ you bring peace.

Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence.

Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit.

Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers, especially, Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Iris, Jocelyn, Jonathan, Kristin, Linda, Maria, Marija, Moses, Ruth, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

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

In Christ you make your word fully known.

Inspire this worshiping community to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus.

Draw all members of this congregation to meet together for life-transforming worship, prayer, and Bible study.

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

In Christ you brought forth the firstborn from the dead.

We give thanks for the saints you have gathered at your table.

Gather us with them in your eternal glory.

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

Knowing You

- 1 All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this**

**Chorus Knowing You Jesus knowing You There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord love You Lord**

- 2 Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness**

**Chorus Knowing You Jesus knowing You There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord love You Lord**

- 3 Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die**

**Chorus Knowing You Jesus knowing You There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord love You Lord (repeat chorus)**

CCLI Song # 1045238 by Graham Kendrick

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Accompaniment at Silver Shine's YouTube channel

*"All I Once Held Dear (Knowing You Jesus) Karaoke in Medium Key (C)
with background vocals", Artist Ingrid DuMosch,
from album "Shout! ~ Top 100 Praise & Worship Songs Volume 2, 03/19/19
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YilBqszk4FY> [4:38]*

*"The nature of God is so vast and complex
that no human being can fully know everything there is to know about Him.
But life is about continually seeking Him, learning more about Him,
and enjoying His fellowship."*

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 SONG

Give Me Jesus

(based on hymn found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books, With One Voice # 777, This Far by Faith # 165, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 770)

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

- 1 In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.**

Refrain **Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.**

- 2 When I am alone, when I am alone,
when I am alone, give me Jesus. (Refrain)**

Interlude

- 3 When I come to die, oh, when I come to die,
when I come to die, give me Jesus. {Refrain x 2}**

*Text: based on Psalm 42, Matthew 21:22, 1 Corinthians 2:2, Galatians 6:14, Philippians 1:21-24
African American spiritual; Meter Irregular*

Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version

Text and Tune are in the Public Domain

Arrangement in Evangelical Lutheran Worship © Augsburg Fortress

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Performance by Sounds Like Reign, 08/31/17

Lindsay sings "Give Me Jesus" in the Redwood Forest. #HerHeartSings

FREE Download & CDs available - <https://bit.ly/2tkaoLf>

Free Downloads - <https://tinyurl.com/2uv2rvwu>

Order CDs - <https://goo.gl/iQVTZC>

Patreon - <https://goo.gl/mkfhZF> ; Donate - <https://goo.gl/YUJ3db>

Website - <http://www.SoundsLikeReign.com> ;

Check out our weekly FAMILY VLOG - <https://bit.ly/2SFzY5y>

Subscribe on YouTube - <https://goo.gl/iZ88ko> ; Instagram - <https://tinyurl.com/yygt9y7a>

Facebook - <https://goo.gl/JnJf8f> ; Email Newsletter - <https://tinyurl.com/2uv2rvwu>

Email - Updates@SoundsLikeReign.com ; Snail Mail - Brackin Kirkland, PO Box 1415, Rosman, NC 28772

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmR0z4EWUjw> [2:59]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, in trust and obedience, and God will perfect the things that concern you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 793)

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Text: Irish, 8th century, based on Psalm 61:1-4, Matthew 6:19-21, John 9
vss by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931;
Meter 10 10 10 10*

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

*Performance by Shenandoah Christian Music Camp, 11/04/19
Sung at the 14th Annual Choral Festival 2019 of Shenandoah Christian Music Camp (VA).
Conducted by Lloyd Kauffman
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UVwEnShpYA> [4:26]*

Announcements

On Wednesdays we have 2 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 every Wednesday at 6:30 pm we gather on zoom for Bible Study, led by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris,** that is not simply informational but transformational, in that we seek not simply to learn about God, but to hear God speak to our own hearts and minds. as we continue our study of the book of Acts, continuing with chapter 7. At 7:25 we conclude with a brief service of Holy Communion.

On Sundays July 17th through at least Labor Day Weekend, Salem will be worshipping in the picnic grove at 3160 Park Avenue in whenever weather permits.

Pastor Marjo will be serving as chaplain at Camp Calumet Lutheran Saturday 8/6-Friday 8/12.

On Sunday, August 14, we've invited Grace Lutheran, Stratford, and Our Saviour's, Fairfield to join us for breakfast worship, and.... Stay tuned for details

Please join Calumet Walk the Walk 2022, beginning July 1!

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.
Oh, and you can sign up your dog as well!

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. Throughout 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!



Through **SATURATE BRIDGEPORT 2022** every resident of Bridgeport will be presented with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Join the **PRAYER WALK – 9 am–1 pm Saturday July 23** For info or to sign up: www.SaturateBridgeport.org, Info@SaturateBridgeport.org
203-984-7499. At the end of the walk, all will meet back at Washington Park to end & seal everything in prayer. There's also an optional **PRE-WALK PRAYER, PREP & TRAINING at 7-9 pm Tuesday July 12th** at the Cathedral of Praise, 45 Gregory Street, Bridgeport.

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:

Jul 25-29 Park City Summer Fest Vacation Bible Camp “Powering Up”, 12-4 pm,
Washington Park, 318 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport

Jul 30 SummerFest celebration with awards for kids
to get families connected with churches, 11 am–2 pm,
Washington Park, 318 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport

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

The New Paradigm Theatre Company is most GRATEFUL to Salem for supplying so many costumes for its upcoming presentation of “The Little Mermaid”, produced in partnership with The Maritime Aquarium with its theme of “Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse”. Our partnership with NPT in the donation of costumes was a great example of this theme! for “The Little Mermaid”, **Friday August 19 at 7pm or Saturday August 20 at 2pm and 7pm** at Black Rock Church, 3685 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield. All tickets (except VIP) are General Seating: Adults – \$35.00, Seniors – \$30.00, Students 12 and over with ID – \$20.00, Children 12 and under – \$10.00. VIP tickets get reserved seating and a backstage tour- up-close and personal – of sets, costumes and props and cost \$50.00. For tickets go to NPT’s website: <https://nptheatre.org/thelittlemermaid/>

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566

Sunday, July 17, 2022

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Friday, July 22, 2022

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Saturday, July 23, 2022

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

CREDITS

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CITYFEST

ANDREW PALAU

CITYSERVE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT

We believe that everyone in Southwestern Connecticut should hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and His followers should serve in their communities to bring Shalom.

CityServe is a movement focused on encouraging, equipping, and empowering the Body of Christ to love and serve our region through united, long-term efforts focused on the area's greatest needs.

For months, we'll provide opportunities for the Church in Southwestern Connecticut to set aside differences and come together with the goal of producing a pattern of love and care modeled by Jesus Christ. Our serving together will lead to long-lasting impact and our community seeing Jesus more clearly.

FOOD INSECURITY



- 500,000 people in Connecticut struggle with hunger
- 140,000 children struggle with food insecurity every day

EDUCATION



- 76% of third graders in Bridgeport are not reading at grade level and are not able to pass a third grade literacy test
- Nearly 60% of those graduating from Bridgeport public schools are functionally illiterate

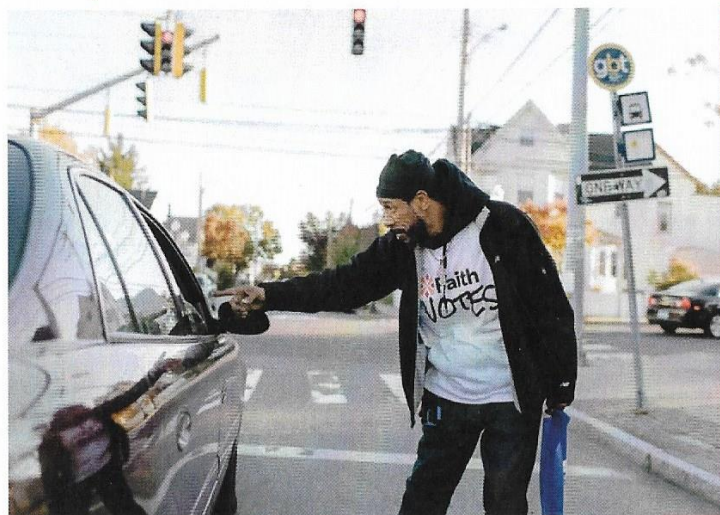
ADOPTION + FOSTER CARE



- New Haven County alone has over 1,200 children in need of foster families, and over 200 are sent to other counties to be cared for

For more information on how you and your church can engage with CityServe to meet the needs of your community, please visit www.CTCityServe.org.

Did you know that the prisons are built based on the reading scores of third graders? And that 76% of third graders in Bridgeport cannot pass their third grade literacy test? That was the impetus for Pastor Gabrielle Beam to found Rise to Read, in order to eradicate childhood illiteracy in Bridgeport and throughout the United States, thereby breaking generational curses and stopping the school-to-prison pipeline. Using the Bible as a primer, Rise to Read-trained volunteers provide free reading literacy education to primary school children in afterschool and Sunday School programs, and vacation bible camps. To volunteer or to donate, go to www.risetoread.net.



If you don't vote, they don't listen.

Faith Votes is a campaign to get the faith community in Bridgeport involved in voter education and voter turnout. **We don't endorse candidates.** We just want to get out the vote.

OUR MISSION

We are people of faith building power to get our children the education they deserve.

WHAT WE DO

We build relationships, we build leaders, and we build power through community organizing and civic engagement across Connecticut.

OUR VISION

We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to graduate from college, take care of their family, and fulfill their God-given potential.

Faith Votes' Work

Last year, in the middle of a pandemic, we secured an additional **\$160 million** in **education funding** for Black, Brown and low-income students and activated over **5,000 voters** across the state.



In 2019, Bridgeport Public Schools met our demand to publish how it spends per child, per school within the district – **information** that has never been public in Bridgeport.

Questions about voting? Contact our Civic Engagement Manager Toni at 203-751-7256 or toni@faithacts.org

Our Values

GUIDED BY FAITH: We have deep faith in God and in the power of communities to take on the important work of providing all our children with a transformative education.

SERVE THE CHILDREN: We are here to relentlessly serve and responsibly invest in what works best for our children.

BUILD BRIDGES: We believe in forming authentic relationships that bring our community together, collaborating with the greatest sense of mutual respect and integrity.

TAKE OWNERSHIP: We humbly accept our share of responsibility for the current educational inequity, and take ownership of changing it for our children.

DRIVE TOWARD IMPACT: We believe results should be measured with transparency and rigor.

Save the Date

October 27 – 29, 2022

New England

Women^{of the} **ELCA** 

Biennial Convention and Gathering

Camp Calumet, Freedom, NH



*Come with your stories and/or come to listen to other's stories.
Come and share the Love and/or come to be loved, give love or
Just Love.*

... and leave to share the love and tell the stories.

1 John 4:19 – we love because he first loved us

Ade Monareh – 603-866-6556 or ade234@msn.com

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!

