



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*7th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*July 17, 2022
9:30 AM*



For everyone who *asks receives*,
and everyone who *searches finds*,
and for everyone who *knocks*,
the *door will be opened*.

Luke 11:10, NRSV

The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
marjoanderson@aol.com
203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: 203-336-3300;

www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

Salem is still recommending masks indoors, 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.

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, August 7th, , Salem will be joining Golden Hill United Methodist Church for worship at 9:45, by invitation of Pastor Rhonda Taylor. This is a chance for us to build upon the relationship that we've had with Golden Hill for the many years (decades!) we've volunteered at their Community Suppers as well as upon the work we share through the Council of Churches. 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.

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.

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 10. At 7:25 we conclude with a brief service of Holy Communion.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne, Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare By Thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer, The joys I feel, the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits burn With strong desires for Thy return.
With such I hasten to the place Where God my Savior shows His face
And gladly take my station there And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face, Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height, I view my home and take my flight.
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise To seize the everlasting prize,
And shout, while passing through the air, "Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

Text: William Walford; Music: William Bradbury; This hymn is in the public domain.

Performance # 1 – Celtic Instrumental Hymn - Sweet Hour of Prayer, 01/14/16

Music arranged by Christian Music World

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5L-DKyW4pE> (4:01)

Tennessee Ernie Ford - "Sweet Hour of Prayer", 09/24/14

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INcdxnPZyLE> (2:53)

The Vine

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMsPHY5MPiE> (3:38)

The Protégé Group

Jazz a cappella vocal arrangement of a classic hymn. "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Arranged and produced by Jon Waller Vocals: Asia Green and Jon Waller

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRrIF30Jn8Q> (2:24)

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 533)

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!**
- 2 Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!**
- 3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.**
- 4 Thou my faith increase and quicken, let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken, may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife.**
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.**

*Text: based on Psalm 100:4, Matthew 13:8, Mark 4:8, Luke 8:8, 2 Corinthians 6:16
by Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Meter 8 7 8 7 7 7*

Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, NEANDER by Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

*Performance by Lutheran Church of the Nativity, North Conway, NH, 07/14/20
Pianist Jed Wilson, with Vocalists Kathry Lees, Jen Meers, Mary Edes, Sandy Wolner,
Miriam Englund, Laura Hall, Nathan Hall, and Paul Mathieu
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HD1cQ6ynqc> [2:44]*

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Genesis 18:20-32

Then Yahweh said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.”

So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before Yahweh. Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” And Yahweh said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake”. Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to Yahweh, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And Yahweh said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there”. Again Abraham spoke to Yahweh, “Suppose forty are found there?” Yahweh answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it”. Then Abraham said, “Oh do not be angry if I speak again. Suppose thirty are found there?” Yahweh answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” Abraham said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to Yahweh. Suppose twenty are found there?” Yahweh answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it”. Then Abraham said, “Oh do not be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there?” Yahweh answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it”.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart;

before every other god I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple

and praise your name,

because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength within me.

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of your ways, O God, and of the greatness of your glory.

You, O God, are high, yet you care for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;

your right hand shall save me.

You will make good your purpose for me;

O God, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Colossians 2:6-19

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 11:1-13

You may stand if you so desire.

[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Abba God, hallowed be your Name! May your reign come!

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, as we ourselves forgive everyone who has sinned against us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him’. And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything’. I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Creator give the Holy Spirit to those who ask!”

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

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

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

Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church.

Embolden church leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel,
and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world.

We pray for our mission partners, especially for Camp Calumet Lutheran.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Corey Dewalt.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world.

Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance.

Protect water sources and strengthen those who defend them.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world.

Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice.

Guide the work of legislators and public officials,

that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need.

To all who have hunger, give daily bread.

To all who have bread, give hunger for justice.

Open us to the cries of those who suffer,

especially Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Iris, Jocelyn, Jonathan, Kristin,
Linda, Maria, Marija, Moses, Ruth, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Abounding in thanksgiving, we pray for this congregation.

Bless the prayer and learning ministries in this place.

Call us together in times of praise and blessing, trouble and sorrow, in your holy name.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life,

we give thanks for your saints who rest in your eternal presence.

Join our voices with theirs as we sing of your great glory.

Merciful God, **receive 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 It's Me, O Lord / Standing in the Need of Prayer

(as found in the ELCA worship book This Far by Faith # 240)

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

Text: African American spiritual;

Music: STANDING IN THE NEED, African American spiritual

*Performance by Charles (Chuck/Chaz) Szabo, an American singer songwriter and educator
from Ohio, who covers old public domain songs to give them new life
and who also performs his originals.*

He specializes in lyric videos with words for people to sing along with.

His recordings are mostly simple, straightforward vocal & piano or guitar arrangements.

Szabo's original songs range from love songs to songs for celebrating each holiday.

His music is available on YouTube at the Charles Szabo or Szabo Music channels.

On Spotify and all other streaming services (Apple, iTunes, Amazon, Deezer, etc.)

he can be searched and found as Charles Szabo Music.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kyd1M3U5VsQ> [2:13]

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*(based on a hymn found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 742)*

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

*Text: based on Psalm 41:9, Matthew 11:28-30, 21:22, Mark 11:24, Luke 7:34, John 15:13-15,
by Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886, Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

Music: CONVERSE, ERIE, Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

*Performance by the Reverend Marjo Anderson, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT,
02/27/21*

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace, knowing that God will make good God's purpose for you!
Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Down to the River to Pray

Chorus **As I went down to the river to pray Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown Good Lord show me the way**

Verse 1 **O sisters let's go down Let's go down come on down
O sisters let's go down Down to the river to pray**

Verse 2 **O brothers let's go down Let's go down come on down
O brothers let's go down Down to the river to pray**

Bridge **Shall we gather at the river Where bright angel feet have trod have trod
With its crystal tide forever Flowing by the throne of God**

Verse 3 **O sinners let's go down Let's go down come on down
O sinners let's go down Down to the river to pray**

CCLI Song # 4568784 by Lloyd Larson

Words: Public Domain; Music: 2005 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 11092038

Performance by Tiffany Goodrick and the Virtual Choir, 08/18/17

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BumCkswUUDA> [3"06]

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:

**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/>

**It's not too late to join Calumet's Walk the Walk 2022
which continues through August 31st**

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 7/16-31, 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!



Salem's Food Assistance Fund - While we may not have our own food pantry anymore, some of those people are still in need of food and Pastor distributes \$25 stop and shop cards as needed from that fund which only has \$45 in it at present. Also a number of Salem members support the food pantry at PT Barnum with their time, and we'd also like to support it financially. We encourage you to donate to Salem's food assistance fund. You can give using the envelopes found in your quarterly envelope packet or you can put a check in the donation box marked "food assistance." In addition, you may send check to office or drop it in church mailbox or give it or cash to Pastor. You can also give to the fund online by **[clicking on this link](#)**.

FaithActs for Education says, "If you don't vote, they don't listen!" FaithActs is a campaign to get the faith community in Bridgeport involved in voter education and voter turnout in order get all children the education they deserve. Believing that every child deserves the opportunity to graduate from college, take care of their family, and fulfill their God-given potential, FaithActs builds relationships, builds leaders, and builds power through community organizing and civic engagement across Connecticut. In 2019 Bridgeport Public Schools met FaithActs' demand to publish how much it spends per child, per school – information that has never been made public before. Last year, in the middle of a pandemic, FaithActs secured an additional \$160 million in education for Black, Brown, and low income students of all races, and activated over 5,000 voters across the state. Guided by faith, FaithActs continues to Serve the Children, Build Bridges, Take Ownership, and Drive toward Impact. If you want to change the life of a child, become a part of FaithActs by going to www.faithacts.org, emailing hello@faithacts.org, or calling 203-868-0443. If you have questions about voting, contact Civic Engagement Manager, Toni, at 203-7 51-7256 or Toni@Faithacts.org

New England Women of the ELCA will host its Biennial Convention and Gathering – "We love because he first loved us [1 John 4:19]" – October 27-29 at Camp Calumet. Come with your stories, or come to listen to the stories of others. Come share the Love and/or come to be loved, give love or Just Love, and leave to share the love and tell the stories. For more info, contact Ade Monareh at 603-866-6556 or ade234@msn.com.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

James, Apostle

Monday, July 25, 2022

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus.

He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).

Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians

Thursday, July 28, 2022

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church.

Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts.

Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music.

Handel's great work, Messiah, is a setting of scriptural texts.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany

Friday, July 29, 2022

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him —

Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him.

Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030

Friday, July 29, 2022

Considered the patron saint of Norway,

Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway.

He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly.

Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.

CREDITS

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS005794.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989,

Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

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!

CITYFEST WEEK

• Outreaches:

- Affinity events for women
- Special gatherings for business and civic leaders
- Prison outreaches

• Culminating Events:

- 2-day CityFest in the heart of the city
- Andrew Palau presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Well-known Christian musical groups
- Action sports
- Family Fun Zone

ONGOING IMPACT

- **Follow-up** – Collaborative effort between local churches and the Palau Association
- **Discipleship** – Face to face efforts as well as an email discipleship course managed by the Palau Association
- **CityServe** – Ongoing effort to continue building unity, collaboration, and good will throughout the region, focused on serving the city and sharing the Good News



PO Box 50 | Portland OR 97207 | www.palau.org

Get ready because CITYFEST is coming! In addition to all the service opportunities we will have through CITYSERVE, we will also have the opportunity to participate in CITYFEST a week of outreach through gatherings for women, for business and civic leaders, and for those in prison. The week will culminate with a 2-day event in the heart of the city with worship that includes top-notch Christian musical groups and evangelist Andrew Palau preaching. And in addition to worship, there will be fellowship opportunities including Action Sports and a Family Fun Zone! Through our participation in this event God gives us 2 exciting opportunities – to build bridges which strengthen the work of all of our congregations in the Grater Bridgeport area and to invite family and friends to join us in a worship event unlike any we have seen in the area for years.

While serving people – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, welcoming the stranger, etc. – is a vital part of our Christian faith, it is only half of our call. You don't have to be a Christian to help those in need. And if all we Christians do is serve in silence, then those we serve will never hear about the amazing God we know and love.

That's why the Luis Palau Association brings congregations to do both – to serve God through both Word and Deed. While bringing friends to CityFest could change their lives, such an experience is often just the first step in the journey. Following up to help people grow in their discipleship is the crucial next step. And of course the work of CityServe will continue for weeks, months, and years after CityFest. We invite you to start praying now that God would help all of the congregations in our city and its surrounding towns to realize that we are all part of the ONE holy Christian and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ.

GOOD NEWS IN YOUR CITY

LUIS PALAU ASSOCIATION

STEPS OF INVOLVEMENT

PRAYER

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

SERVE

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

EQUIP

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

PROMOTE

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

GIVE

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

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

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

FOLLOWING UP

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

CONTINUE

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

www.palaufestivals.org/greater-bridgeport

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



GOOD NEWS IN YOUR CITY

LUIS PALAU ASSOCIATION

TIMELINE 2021-2022

2021 CURRENT - NOVEMBER: INVITATION PHASE

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

2021/2022 DECEMBER 2021 - MARCH 2022: FOUNDATION PHASE

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

2022 MARCH-AUGUST: MOBILIZATION PHASE

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

2022 SEPTEMBER: PROCLAMATION PHASE

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

2022 SEPTEMBER + BEYOND: CONTINUATION PHASE

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

CITYFEST is coming in September of 2022!

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

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

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

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

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.