



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

***10th Sunday
After
Pentecost***

***August 14,
2022
9:30 AM***



*I came to bring
fire to the earth...*

LUKE 12:49, NRSV

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Welcome

Welcome, members of Grace, Our Saviour's, Salem, and everyone else! We had such a good time worshipping and fellowshiping at Grace and Our Saviour's that we decided to return the invitation and bring together all 3 of our Lutheran congregations in the greater Bridgeport area of our Southern Connecticut conference. Our day began with setting up and cooking at 7:30 and breakfast at 8:30, and continues now with worship at 9:30. Following worship we hope everyone will stay so that we can have some fun as we get to know each other a bit better. Following some games and sharing we will have lunch at noon.

This booklet includes our order for worship today plus announcements about Salem sponsored events, as well as activities in the wider Church, including those sponsored by the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, and the big CityFest and CityServe events this summer and beyond. Please know that we look forward to seeing YOU at any or all of these events!

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.

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.

On Wednesdays we live into our Mission of Encountering God, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives with 2 zoom gatherings. 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 SONG

Refiner's Fire

Verse 1 Purify my heart, make me as gold or precious silver,
purify my heart, make me as gold, pure gold.

Chorus Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire is to be holy, set apart for you, my Master,
ready to do your will.

Verse 2 Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

CCLI Song # 426298 by Brian Doerksen

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Vineyard Songs Canada (Admin. by Integrity Music)

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Performance # 1 by Jeremy and Katie Riddle at Dwelling Place Anaheim, 04/21/20

Philippians 3:7-8. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

*What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.*

I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayH5iV5zmrI> [7:17]

Performance #2 by Jeremy Passion & The Katinas, 03/19/12

*Check out our 2nd collaboration right here: "One More Time / Thank You" by The Katinas
(feat. Jeremy Passion) <http://youtu.be/iTMerbByiyE>*

*Hi Everyone, I had the privilege and blessing of traveling to Nashville, TN
to work with a group of guys that I grew up listening to.*

Upon meeting them, I noticed something very special about them; their hearts.

*Aside from our common love for music and singing, we shared the same heart for people,
for our families, and most importantly, for our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.*

This is a song by Brian Doerksen that inspires me and something I hope will inspire and bless you, too.

Blessings & don't forget to subscribe to my channel as well as The Katinas! Love, Jeremy Passion

Twitter: @jeremypassion ; FB: <http://www.facebook.com/JeremyPassion...>

Tumblr: <http://www.jeremypassion.tumblr.com> ; Official Website: <http://www.jeremypassion.com>

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KATINA'S MUSIC HERE: Official Website: <http://www.thekatinas.com>

Let them know what you think and share the message! Blessings!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTMerbByiyE> [5:40]

Performance # 3 by The Worship Project, FT BRIAN DOERKSEN & TWP BAND, 10/26/18

Everything about this video is so special to us! The song, the venue, the people...

*30 of us worship leaders from all over the GTA together for a weekend retreat
to grow and learn from legendary worship leader/songwriter Brian Doerksen.*

*What a privilege it was to work on this one-take collaboration of "Refiner's Fire",
one of our favorites written by Brian and to have him be a part of the project.*

We hope that you would be blessed by this special release

and that you would help us SHARE this around as well! Check out the Worship Project on Facebook.

Like the Page and stay updated with latest worship videos story videos, and live sessions!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLyQAx8DpBI> [4:53]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Gather Us In

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 532)

You may stand if you so desire.

**Here in this place new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in – the lost & forsaken. Gather us in – the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty. Gather us in – the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water. Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion. Give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining: now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever. Gather us in and make us your own.
Gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Meter 10 9 10 10 D

Music: GATHER US IN; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

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Performance by The Heralds Choir of St Mary's Music Ministries

of the Church of St Mary of the Angels, 07/18/21, featuring choristers and musicians:

*Shun, Nina, Jeja, Annie, Mavic, Sarah, Steph, Jason, Mark, LJ, Calvin, Estee, Jhona, Mulya, Pat,
Zac (piano), Randy (guitar), Joycelyn (flute 1), Leng (flute 2), Zachary Sebastian Wong (editing)*

as found at this link:

*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y94LRdZzRnc&ab_channel=VirtualChoirSMOTA
[2:32]*

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Am I a God nearby, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed!” How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back — those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 82

God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

“How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?

Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;
rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.

They do not know,
neither do they understand;
they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;
nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’ ”

Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 11:29--12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 12:49-56 *You may stand if you so desire.*

[Jesus said:] “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son, and son against father, mother against daughter, and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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.

Arise, O God, and sustain your church.

We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people.

Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe,

and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners,

especially for the Ephraim French 7th Day Adventist Church, Christ Presbyterian Church,

and Christ's House of Unity, Restoration, Charity and Hope, Grace, and Our Saviour's.

We pray for Salem members & their families,

especially those celebrating birthdays last week and this week:

Bryan DeWalt, Morgan Danowski, Cindy Roberts, Diane Tomasko, Richard Lansing,

Mary Anne Caragol, and Evan Lansing.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters.

Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth.

Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials.

Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice.

Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable

and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed.

We pray for people discriminated against because of their race, culture, class, language,

gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability.

Empower us to replace systems that degrade human beings with systems that assure justice.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly.

We pray for Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Cliffy, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Iris, Janice, Jocelyn, Jonathan, Linda, Maria, Marija, Ruth, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

We give thanks for the healing you have provided Moses.

We pray that we may celebrate with those who rejoice & mourn with those who weep.

In our joy and in our tears, be near us.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints who have gone before us.

May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **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

Beauty for Brokenness

(as found in the ELCA worship book Worship & Praise # 17)

You may stand if you so desire.

1. **Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair: Lord, in the suffering this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace; sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.**

Refrain:

**God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion, we pray;
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.**

2. **Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak. (Refrain)**
3. **Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share;
peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain. (Refrain)**
4. **Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need. (Refrain)**
5. **Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,
until your justice burns brightly again,
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation, and bring you their praise. (Refrain)**

CCLI Song # 1236690

Text: based on Isaiah 28, Psalm 34, Psalm 50:1-6, Psalm 147:1-6 by Graham Kendrick;

Meter irregular

Music: GOD OF THE POOR by Graham Kendrick

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Performance by Forest Grove United Church, 06/24/22

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02YV1pLi5Y0> [5:21]

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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

*(as found in the ELCA worship books, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 671,
This Far by Faith # 64, and Worship & Praise # 123)*

You may stand if you so desire.

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us
shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence
from the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness!
Shine on me! Shine on me!**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story
shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

*Text: based on Isaiah 60:1-11, Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36, 2 Corinthians 3:12-18,
by Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; Meter 9 9 10 10 3 3 and refrain*

Music: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE, by Graham Kendrick, b. 1950;

*Text & Music © 1987 Make Way Music, administered Music Services in the Western Hemisphere
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*Performance by Kirchenband, St. Josef, Oldenburg (Oldb).09/21/16,
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkxoTmKpDcU> [4:37]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, and may the fire of the Spirit set your hearts ablaze
with an all-consuming desire to share the good news of Jesus!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE SONG

Send Down the Fire

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Renewing Worship # R153)*

Refrain: Send down the fire of your justice; send down the rains of your love.
Come, send down the Spirit, breathe life in your people,
and we shall be people of God.

Verse 1 Call us to be your compassion; teach us the song of your love.
Give us hearts that sing; give us deeds that ring.
Make us ring with the song of your love. *(Refrain)*

Verse 2 Call us to learn of your mercy; teach us the way of your peace.
Give us hearts that feel; give us hands that heal.
Make us walk in the way of your peace. *(Refrain)*

Verse 3 Call us to answer oppression; teach us the fire of your truth.
Give us righteous souls; till your justice rolls.
Make us burn with the fire of your truth. *(Refrain)*

Verse 4 Call us to witness your kingdom; give us the presence of Christ.
May your holy light keep us shining bright,
ever shine with the presence of Christ. *(Refrain)*

*Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: SEND DOWN THE FIRE, Marty Haugen;
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*Performed by Diocese of St. Benedict Old Catholic Missionaries;
www.oldcatholic.us - We exist to serve the poor.*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWVq7Y22ti8> [3:18]

Announcements

The New Paradigm Theatre Company invites you to its upcoming presentation of “**The Little Mermaid**”, produced in partnership with **The Maritime Aquarium** with its theme of “**Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse**”. The dates are 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 (many donated by Salem!) and cost \$50.00. For tickets go to NPT’s website: <https://nptheatre.org/thelittlemermaid/> If you’d like to go as a group, Pastor Marjo and some others are going to the Friday night performance. The founder and Director of NPT is Kristin Huffman, the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, who sees her work in the theatre as ministry as NPT seeks to support other non-profit agencies (such as the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport), serve the community, and develop the gifts and leadership skills of young people through the arts.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport is looking for students for its next **CREATE Kitchen class** beginning August 23rd, 2022. CREATE is an intensive program that will train you in all aspects of food industry employment and food business development, from culinary skills, to how to interview and write a resume, to business plan development. Classes are intended for under-and unemployed area residents looking to start their own businesses or explore a new career in the food industry. The class begins on August 23, 2022 and meets Tuesdays - Fridays, 10am - 2pm at 800 Union Avenue, Bridgeport. For more information visit <https://feedbpt.org/create>.

It’s not too late to join the illustrious Salem Bridgeport Team for Calumet’s Walk the Walk 2022 which continues thru 8/31.

So far our team consists of Captain Pastor Marjo, Cindy Roberts, Dave & Judith Albers, Eileen & Ray Anderson, Jean & Tom Larson, Susan, Wes, Fritz & Gustav Murphy, and Astrid & Buttons Colello, and for July we walked a total of ... (drumroll)... 1, 429 miles! If more folks join us, we COULD walk a total of 3,500, or 1% of Calumet’s goal of 350,000 miles by August 31st!

To join us, all you have to do is go to this link to register:

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

& join the Congregation Team “Salem Bridgeport”. The registration fee is a \$25 gift to Calumet.

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

Calumet will share the growing mileage total all summer long.

Calumet has a special Walk the Walk FB 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. They 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!



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.

Make sure you get your FREE tickets (starting next Sunday at Salem) for CityFest, the Family Fun Day at Seaside Park, Bridgeport, to be held August 27-28! CityFest is an outdoor, family festival to celebrate and share the Gospel with thousands through the ministry of local churches brought together by the Luis Palau Association. While many of us take our relationship with God for granted, others are in desperate need of discovering how much God loves them. For a video of one such story, click this link: <https://vimeo.com/268083559?login=true>. For more info, go to <https://www.cityfest.org/whatiscityfest>, or speak with Pastor Marjo.

CityFest is looking for more volunteers.

Among the main areas of need are Parking, Setup and Tear down, Safety Team, and Clean Up, as well as participation in the following:

August 11: Region-Wide Prayer Gathering | 6 pm at Seaside Park Bandshell

August 13: Hollow Street Clean Up | 9 am at Nanny Goat Park

August 25: Region-Wide Prayer Gathering | 6 pm at Seaside Park Bandshell

August 27 - 28: CT CityFest | 4 pm each day at Seaside Park



To volunteer, scan the QR code above, go to www.cityfest.org/volunteer, or contact Braden Flick, the CityFest volunteer coordinator at 203-874-0020 or via email at braden.flick@palau.org.

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. CityFest is grateful to their corporate sponsors including Valley Container, Splash Car Wash, Buttafuoco, K-Love, Eingedi Spring, Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast, RD Scinto, Rep the Gospel, and 96.7 Air1 Worship Now.

Praise God for the Park City SummerFest Vacation Bible Camp, “Power Up”, held just a few weeks ago, was a resounding success! Thanks to the connections made through CityServe, four faith based educational groups – FaithActs, Elevate, Faith & Education Coalition, and Rise to Read – came together with local congregations to bring not only the gospel, but bilingual educational opportunities free to over 100 children in Bridgeport, age 4 & up. Of these 100 children, half had no church affiliation, and so taking the camp to the public square had a far greater impact than a congregation hosting its own camp within its walls. Please offer your personal thanks to Pastor Marjo for her involvement in CityFest & CityServe, and to Jean Larson and all of the Salem volunteers she recruited, including Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, and Bruce & Diane Tomasko!

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**, or go to our website, SalemBridgeport.org, click on Donate, and then fill in your amount under “Food Pantry Donation”.

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 or send an email to SalemSec123@sbcglobal.net. **Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 or email her at marjoanderson@aol.com. She would be MORE THAN HAPPY to hear from you!**

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 203-751-7256 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

Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs
Sunday, August 14, 2022

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord
Monday, August 15, 2022

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153
Saturday, August 20, 2022

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

CREDITS

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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.



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.

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



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.



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

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

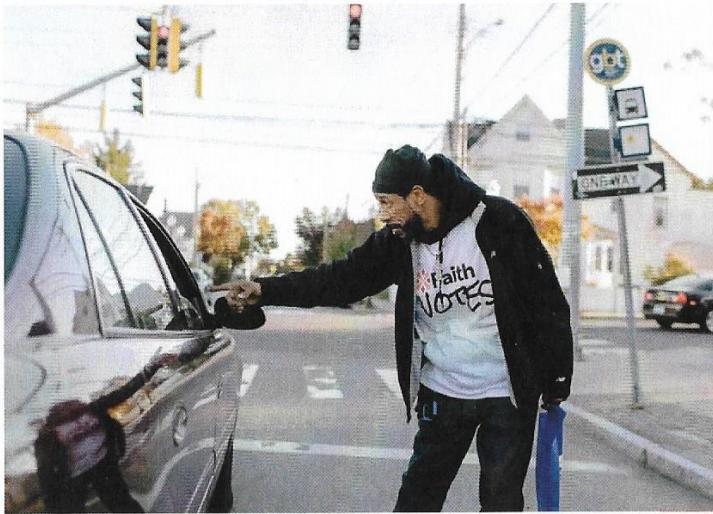
CITYFEST is coming in September of 2022!

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.



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