



Salem Lutheran Church

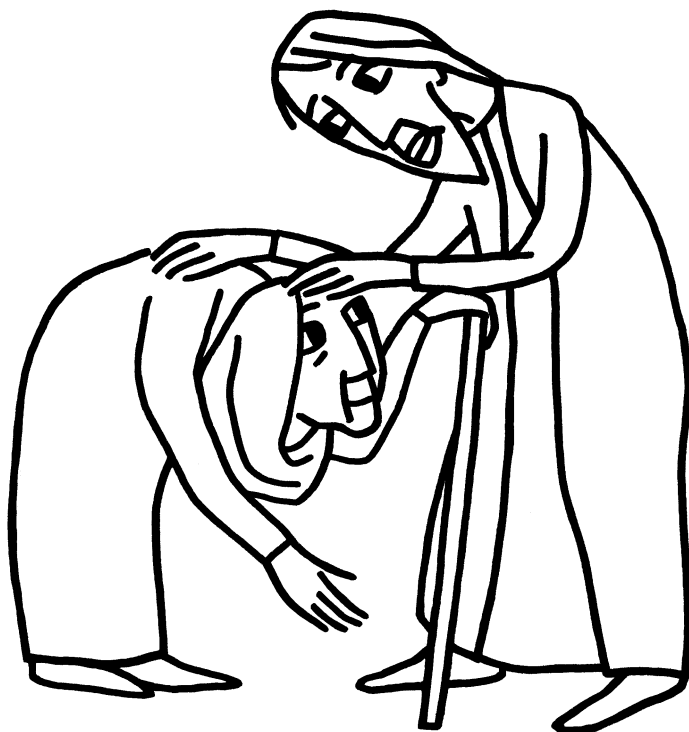
shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*11th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*August 21,
2022
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
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www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

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.

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!**

Gathering

GATHERING SONG 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book, All Creation Sings # 1097)

Chorus Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before O my soul I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1 The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
 It's time to sing Your song again
 Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
 Let me be singing when the evening comes

Verse 2 You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
 Your name is great and Your heart is kind
 For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
 Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Verse 3 And on that day when my strength is failing
 The end draws near and my time has come
 Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
 Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Tag Worship Your holy name Lord I'll worship Your holy name

Ending Sing like never before O my soul I'll worship Your holy name
 Worship Your holy name Worship Your holy name

CCLI Song # 6016351

Text: based on Psalm 103 by Jonas Myri, b. 1974 | Matt Redman b, 1982; Meter Irregular

Music: TEN THOUSAND REASONS by Jonas Myri, b. 1974 | Matt Redman b, 1982

Text and Music © 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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Performance # 1 by Steve Kuczo, 09/13/20 [4:09]

Performance # 2 by Central Church of God, Charlotte, NC, 10/14/12

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLXmaqkm0z8> [7:58]

Performance # 3 by the First Baptist Dallas Choir & Orchestra, 05/29/16

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Z8Dh8tJ0p4> [4:51]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 858)

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.**
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

*Text: based on Psalm 91:4, 103:1-11, 150:6, Isaiah 40:21, 28, 31
by Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.;
Meter 14 14 4 7 8*

*Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665
Text and Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Halifax Lutheran Church, 08/02/22
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDsEpgHdINs> [2:49]*

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 103:1-8

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;
who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death”. Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear”.) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven”. This phrase, “Yet once more”, indicates the removal of what is shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 13:10-17 *You may stand if you so desire.*

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment”. When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day”. But Yahweh answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Do you not on the Sabbath untie your ox or your donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

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.

You crown your church with steadfast love and mercy.

Guide us continually in our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Use our diverse gifts in service to the whole people of God.

We pray for our mission partners, especially for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

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

David Schulz, Jean Larson, and Frank Dukenski.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You satisfy the needs of all creatures.

Protect the habitats of fish and birds.

Repair ecosystems damaged by misuse, neglect, or natural disaster,
that all creation may thrive.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make your ways known to all people.

Inspire the rulers and leaders of nations with your compassion and mercy.

Raise up in our city and state activists and community organizers
to restore places affected by violence, poverty, and inequality.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You provide justice for all who are oppressed and relief to all who are afflicted.

Heal those who are bent over by addiction, depression, and anxiety.

Set free all who cry out under the weight of mental, emotional, or physical distress, especially
Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Cliffy, Dolores, Ed, Frank, Grace, Iris, Janice, Jocelyn, Joe, Joey,
Jonathan, Linda, Maria, Marija, Natalie, Ruth, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You call us to delight in the Sabbath.

Renew our bodies, minds, hearts, and spirits in this worshiping assembly.

Give rest to all who lead our congregation in worship, prayer, Bible study, witness, and service.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Generations bless your holy name.

We give you thanks for the communion of saints
who have gathered in prayer and praise in this place.

Support us in your love until we rest forever 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 SONG We Come to You for Healing, Lord

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 617)

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit's touch we may again be whole.**
- 2 As once you walked through ancient streets and reached toward those in pain,
come, risen Christ, among us still with pow'r to heal again.**
- 3 You touch us through physicians' skills, through nurses' gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends who lift our lives in prayer.**
- 4 When nights are long with wakefulness, through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord, your calming peace to know.**
- 5 We come to you, O loving Lord, in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days your grace will heal, sustain.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923; Meter C M

Music: MARTYRDOM by Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

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Performance by Resurrection Lutheran Church's Interim Music Director,

Barbara Bulger Verdile, 06/27/21

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Bpa94edrjY> [2:58]

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

You Are Mine

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship #581 and Worship & Praise # 158)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1. "I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.**
- 2. I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.**

***Refrain: Do not be afraid; I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me; I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine.***

- 3. I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.**

***Refrain: Do not be afraid; I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me; I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine.***

- 4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom; I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live!**

***Refrain: Do not be afraid; I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me; I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine.***

*Text: David Haas, b. 1957; Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Hass,
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7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.)
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*Performance by Good Shepherd Lancaster, 03/20/20
as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_E22lkgfyk [2:48]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that no matter what challenges you face
and no matter how long you have faced them, God is able to do absolutely anything.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE SONG **The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 531)*

You may stand if you so desire.

**The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.**

**Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin. The feast is ready to begin.**

**Tables are laden with good things;
oh, taste the peace and joy he brings.
He'll fill you up with love divine;
he'll turn your water into wine.**

**Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin. The feast is ready to begin.**

**The hungry heart he satisfies,
offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord.**

**Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin. The feast is ready to begin.**

*Text: Psalm 34:8, Isaiah 25:6-10, John 2:1-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17,
by Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; Meter L M and refrain*

Music: THE FEAST IS READY , by Graham Kendrick

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*Performance by the Praise Band of Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA,
<http://www.genevapres.org>, Charlotte Hsieh, organ, Eileen O'Hern, director, 06/09/19
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-I-BqZoGfs> [2:06]*

Announcements

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!



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Bartholomew, Apostle

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke,

Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael,

leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person.

Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

CREDITS

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

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.

CITYFEST

ANDREW PALAU

CITYSERVE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT

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

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

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

FOOD INSECURITY



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

EDUCATION



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

ADOPTION + FOSTER CARE



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

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

When Pastor Gabrielle Beam learned that prisons are built based on the reading scores of third graders and that 76% of third graders in Bridgeport did not pass their third grade literacy test she was moved 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. Much work remains to be done as 71% of elementary students in Bridgeport are still testing below grade level in reading and 83% below grade level in math. To volunteer or to donate, go to www.risetoread.net.

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!

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

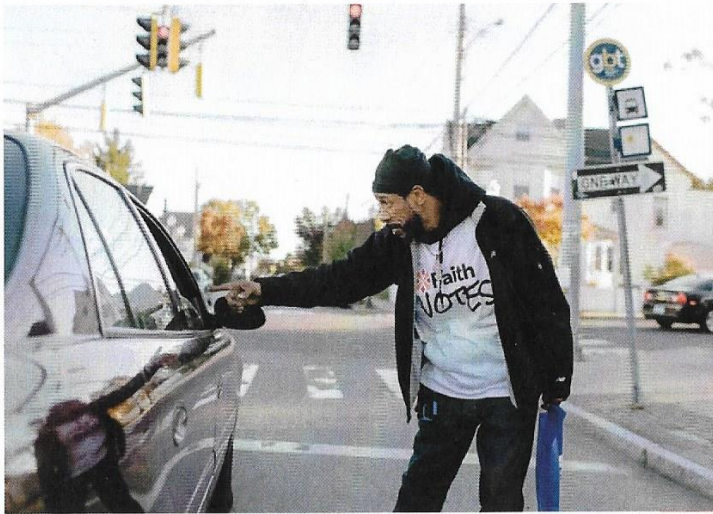
CONTINUE

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!





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