



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*12th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*August 28,
2022
9:30 AM*



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Welcome

From now through the end of September, 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.

It's time for CityFest!!!

Yesterday was the first day of the 2-day event and it was amazing!

Today the excitement continues at Seaside Park (1 Barnum Dyke) in Bridgeport!

4:00 | Festival opens!

4:30 | Family Fun Zone Stage Program (main stage)

5:00 | Action Sports Demo

6:00 | Main Stage Program with musical artists,

Kergyma Community Choir, Megan Duke, We are Messengers, and Toby Mac
and speaker/preacher/evangelist, Andrew Palau

So, bring your lawn chair, please come and bring your family and friends!

For more information – like about free (and paid) parking and shuttles –
just go to cityfest.org and click on “Festival Information”

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 & 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 150 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.

CityServe began with CityFest with the launch of, 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 includes 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.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Holy Ground

(as found in the ELCA worship book Worship & Praise # 59)

Verse 1

As I walked through the door I sensed His presence
And I knew this was the place Where love abounds
For this is a temple Jehovah God abides here
We are standing in His presence On holy ground

Chorus 1

We are standing on holy ground And I know that there Are angels all around
Let us praise Jesus now We are standing in His presence (On holy ground)

Verse 2

In His presence There is joy beyond measure
And at His feet Peace of mind can still be found
If you have a need I know He has the answer
Reach out and claim it child You're standing on holy ground

Chorus 2

We are standing in His presence (2X) On holy ground

CCLI Song # 21198

Text: based on Exodus 3.5 by Geron Davis; Meter 8 1- 6 12

Music; HOLY GROUND by Geron Davis

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*Performance # 1 by Let's Just Praise Jesus Now—Team 1 at Old Time Anointed Gospel Music,
08/06/14*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3wCAUskom8> [4:39]

Performance # 2 at Pastors' Conference 2006, by First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAbvVzpLGMk> [4:25]

Performance # 3 by Malcolm Cartwright, 07/17/17

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdminhRbHvE> [2:36]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG God, We Gather as Your Children / For All the Children

(as found in the ELCA worship book All Creation Sings # 1038)

You may stand if you so desire.

1. **God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,
and we dare to claim the promise of Your love,
though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be,
when your children will be free.**

Refrain:

**O, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside.
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.**

2. **Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free;
and we sing for generations yet to be,
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest,
May they, in Your love, find rest. *Refrain***
3. **Oh we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear & shame
so afraid of who they are & whom they love.
May the message now be banished that Your love is for the few;
may their faith in You renew. *Refrain***
4. **God, we're working for the future when children far and wide
can live their lives with dignity and pride.
As they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand,
as against all hate we stand. *Refrain***

*Text: based on Matthew 18:5, Mark 9:37, Luke 9:48, Romans 15:7, Galatians 3:27-29
by David Lohman, b. 1961; Meter 14 11 14 7 and refrain*

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG by David Lohman

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Performance by Lay Catholic Christians and friends who stood up and sang out to spread the good news of Christ's love, gathering to encourage voters to vote for LGBTQ rights as they sang their hearts out in support of LGBTQ young people.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wLQ63LMC-A> [6:25]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Proverbs 25:6-7

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great;
for it is better to be told, "Come up here", than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 112

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you". So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 14:1, 7-14 *You may stand if you so desire.*

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place', and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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.

For the church and its leaders, we pray.

Uphold all deacons, pastors, and bishops who serve and teach your people.

Awaken in your church a spirit of invitation that reaches ever outward.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for the Council of Churches' Janus Center for Youth in Crisis,
and its ecumenical and interfaith Bridge Building program.

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

Hazel Pasqua, Joan Crossman, and Dennis Norberg.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world,

for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and peoples of the world, we pray.

Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice and equity for all.

Defend and accompany all immigrants and refugees

and all who are persecuted for their ethnic origin or religious beliefs.

Forgive us for our unwillingness to engage with Christians and others
who believe differently from us.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray.

Be present with those who live in isolation or fear,

especially those who are incarcerated or detained.

Comfort all who are sick or grieving, especially Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Cliffy, Dave,
Dolores, Ed, Frank, Grace, Iris, Janice, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Pastor Joe, Joey, Jonathan, Linda,
Maria, Marija, Natalie, Ruth, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and all of our many and varied partners, we pray.

May our differences enlarge our understanding of who you are and who you call us to be.

Embolden our witness as well as our service.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all the saints who confessed God's name, we give thanks.

May we cling to the promise of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ,
the same yesterday, today, and forever.

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

All Are Welcome

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 641)

You may stand if you so desire.

Verse 1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place.

Verse 2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*

Verse 3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

Verse 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*

Verse 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen;

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Performance by Plymouth Church DSM, 09/08/19

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhvnbhPvbsA> [5:24]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Today the excitement continues at Seaside Park (1 Barnum Dyke) in Bridgeport!

4:00 | Festival opens!

4:30 | Family Fun Zone Stage Program (main stage)

5:00 | Action Sports Demo

6:00 | Main Stage Program with musical artists,

Kergyma Community Choir, Megan Duke, We are Messengers, and Toby Mac
and speaker/preacher/evangelist, Andrew Palau

So, bring your lawn chair, please come and bring your family and friends!

For more information – like about free (and paid) parking and shuttles –
just go to cityfest.org and click on “Festival Information”

On Wednesdays we invite you to zoom events:

our noon Prayer Gathering, and our 6:30 Bible Study on Acts, chapter 14,
followed by a brief service of Holy Communion at 7:25.

The links to all our zoom events are on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar

So far our SalemBridgeport team, composed of 11 humans and 3 dogs,

has walked 2,1022 miles for Camp Calumet’s Walk the Walk Fundraising Effort.

It’s not too late for YOU to join! You still have 3 more days!

Just go to calumet.org/walkthewalk2022 to pay the \$25 registration fee,
and let me know how many miles you’ve walked during July and August.

THANK YOU AND BLESSING

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,

I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us.
I hope you will join us again.

If you’d like to know more, or if you’d like to talk or pray together,
you can reach me through our website or Facebook.

As we say good-bye to our online worshippers,

I’d like to offer this blessing based on our reading today from Psalm 112
to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and in cyberspace:

Be in awe of God’s power and rejoice in God’s love
and light will shine in your darkness.

You will never be shaken and you will be in God’s thoughts forever. Amen

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

Baptized and Set Free

*(as found in the ELCA worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 453 and Worship & Praise # 14)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a Fountain bringing healing and wholeness and more.**
- 2 We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless Ocean, always deeper than all of our need.**
- 3 We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious River, ever-flowing, now carry us home.**
- 4 Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!**

*Text & Music: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, © 1999 Augsburg Fortress
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Performance by Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church music, 01/09/22

Carol Churchill (Piano) & Anna Morris (Voice)

Sung Lee (Coordinating, Film Editing/Audio Engineering, Mixing & Mastering),

We pray that the worship and music materials from Samm Hills music is a blessing to you.

If you would like to use it in your setting (worship, class, etc), please do so.

*If you do, please let us know so we can better understand the depth & breadth of God's reach
through our ministry.*

You can reach us at sammamishhillslutheranchurch@gmail.com

If you would like to help us to continue to produce these kinds of materials,

you are invited to make a donation at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YK2T/home>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDrEGjHOMlw> [2:33]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, remembering that if you're looking for Jesus, he's sitting at the foot of the table.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE SONG

In Christ Called to Baptize

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 575)

- 1 In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace
and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.
- 2 In Christ called to banquet, one table we share,
a haven of welcome, a circle of care.
Although we are many, we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our head.
- 3 In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise
in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.
- 4 Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love,
for you are within us, around us, above.
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.

Text: based on Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

by Ruth Duck, b. 1947; Meter 11 11 11 11

Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876, alt.

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Performance by Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA, <http://www.genevapres.org>

Eileen O'Hern, Director, 01/13/19

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op4Hao--kl4> [2:12]

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 31, 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 from July 1 – August 15 we walked a total of ... (drumroll)... 2,122 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!

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 w 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".

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!

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

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430 Sunday, August 28, 2022

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400 Sunday, August 28, 2022

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872 Friday, September 2, 2022

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

CREDITS

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CITYFEST

ANDREW PALAU

CITYSERVE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT

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

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

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

FOOD INSECURITY



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

EDUCATION



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

ADOPTION + FOSTER CARE



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

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

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

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.