



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*For those
with sight & hearing
challenges*

*14th Sunday After
Pentecost*

*September 11,
2022
9:30 AM*



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

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.

How do we as a congregation discern God's will for us? Worshipping together is important, but it's not enough. As God's people we are also called to study God's Word together and to pray together. And so we invite you – yes, YOU! – to gather on zoom on Wednesdays for prayer at noon and Bible study at 6:30. The more time we spend in worship, in Bible study, and in prayer, the deeper we will be drawn into relationship with God. And the deeper our relationship with God, the more impactful we will be in our three-fold mission of Encountering God, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives. The link to prayer is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3ell2ZmtiZEpadz09> & the link to Bible Study is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119212353?pwd=WFdhU3ZaL1BUb2syZmdzREdTZVpsdz09> If you cannot access zoom just let us know and you can join one of us via speakerphone. And no worries about joining us mid-way in Acts (we're on chapter 15), you are more than welcome to join us ANYTIME! And if anyone would like Holy Communion we offer that at the close of Bible Study each week.

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 Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me; God's Word my hope secures.
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
but God, you called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.
You are forever mine. We are forever thine.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.
unending love, amazing grace, , unending love, amazing grace.

CCLI Song # 4768151 – Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

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Performance # 1 by the Virtual Choir of Mount Carmel Christian Church, 06/25/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IjWPJlj4dU> [4:40]

Performance # 2 by Brigham Young University's BYU Noteworthy, director Keith McKay Evans

if you enjoyed this, please purchase BYU Noteworthy recordings!

2015-16 members: Allyssa Jex Blake, Sarah Cunha, Alyssa Flake, Alyssa Aramaki Hazen, Rachael Holt,

Jessica McKay Johnson, Janae Klumpp, Tressa Roberts, Taylor Whitlock Smith

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6Mtpk4jeVA> [4:30]

Performance # 3 by Pentatonix – if you enjoyed this, please purchase Pentatonix recordings!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obp-9BEZe1c> [4:40]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God who is faithful in the face of our unfaithfulness,
in the name of Jesus who gave his life to save us from death,
and in the name of the Spirit who desires that we experience this amazing grace in our lives.

It is so good to be here!

Thank you for joining us today! Thank you, those of you who are here in person with us!
And thank you, those of you out there in cyber space, wherever – and whenever! – you are!

For those of you who don't know me,

I am Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the US.

To find out more about our ministry or to contact us,

you can go to our website SalemBridgeport.org, to our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,
and to our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin –

which has both the order of worship and announcements – as well as other resources
are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

The Spirit has definitely been on the move in Bridgeport this summer,

through the Prayer Walk, Prayer Gathering, Vacation Bible Camp, and CityFest,
and has continued through the mayor's invitation to pastors to listen last Wednesday
to the State of the City and to reflect on how we might best pray and work together
for peace, justice, and abundant life for all in our city.

I'd ask you to please pray for God's blessing on the mayor's Prayer Breakfast tomorrow,
that we may give thanks for what God has done and is doing in our city
and that we may discern how God is calling us to work together as we move forward.

On Wednesdays we invite you to zoom events:

our noon Prayer Gathering, and our 6:30 Bible Study on Acts, chapter 15,
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

Any other announcements?

Then, I invite you to pray with me as we begin our worship.

God, we praise you for who you are and we thank you for all that you do!

Everything we are and everything we have comes from you, without our even asking!

And yet despite your faithfulness, our faith is too often in our own wisdom, rather than in you.

Thank you for continuing to love us no matter how many times we fail to love you.

Thank you for continuing to seek us when we have gone astray.

And thank you for continuing to rejoice whenever we return to you.

Wherever we are this day, dear God, find us, lift us, and carry us home in your loving arms.

We pray this in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. Amen!

OPENING SONG

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*(as found in the ELCA worship books
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 807 and This Far by Faith # 108)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills
my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

*Text: based on 1 Samuel 7:12, Psalm 36:8-9, Luke 15:1-7, Romans 8:12-14, Revelation 21:6
by Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.; Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

Music: NETTLETON by J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by organist Tom Trenney & the choir & congregation of First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln
Nebraska, 09/17/19*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2hlayBuC0k> [2:41]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Exodus 32:7-14

Yahweh said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” Yahweh said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored Yahweh his God, and said, “Yahweh, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And Yahweh changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 51:1-10

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;

so you are justified when you speak
and right in your judgment.

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 15:1-10 *You may stand if you so desire.*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost’. Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost’. Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread,
so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

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

Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives.
Fill your church with faith and love, and help us to be bridges of understanding
that we and all congregations might live into Jesus' prayer that we might all be one.
We pray for our mission partners, especially for CROP and World Vision and Scout troops.
We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Eileen Anderson, Al DeWalt, and Tom Larson.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution
and our failure to address climate change.
As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats.
Bless us with bountiful harvests that all may share.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we remember the tragedy of 9/11, God,
we confess the inequities in our systems that cause others to react with hate.
Teach us that when we give up our power and submit to your power,
that we will find the way to peace and justice and to love and life – for all of your children.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread.
Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, struggling with addiction, or ill.
Provide for those in any need, especially Barbara, Barry, Bernedette, Bill, Cliffy, Dave,
Dolores, Ed, Frank, Grace, Georgina, Iris, Janice, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Joey, Jonathan, Linda, Luc,
Maria, Marija, Natalie, Ruth, Steve, VL, the family and friends of Pastor Joe Bourret,
and all we name in our hearts.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts.
Open our minds, hearts, and spirits to all who seek to partner with us for the sake of the gospel.
Help us to welcome those who differ from us and to discern how and where you call us to serve.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence.
Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives,
and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God,
we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(as found in the ELCA worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 502)

You may stand if you so desire.

**The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever. Amen**

*Text: based on Psalm 23, Jeremiah 23:1-6, John 10:1-28 by Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
Meter 8 7 8 7*

*Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune
Text and Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by St. John's Priest, Detroit, 04/15/18
as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy6QCCQ_w5GQ [5:02]*

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

We invite each and every one of you to into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ not only through Sunday worship but through weekly prayer and Bible Study.

On Wednesdays we invite you to join us on zoom

for our noon Prayer Gathering, and our 6:30 Bible Study on Acts, chapter 15, 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

I'd ask all members and friends of Salem to join me in giving thanks to God for all of the ways God is answering our prayers for our city of Bridgeport, and specifically that you would pray God's blessings on the mayor's Prayer Breakfast tomorrow morning that all of the economic development would be built upon a strong spiritual foundation.

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 Luke, chapter 15 to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and in cyberspace:

We try to convince ourselves that we are righteous, and yet all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

But whenever we confess our sin and repent,

know that there is joy – not only in heaven, but in God's heart, and in our own!

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

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
This Far by Faith # 155 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 608)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

Refrain

**"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

- 2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?**

Refrain

**"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

- 3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.**

Refrain

**"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

*Text: based on Luke 15:11-32 & John 10:3-4 by Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
Meter 11 7 11 7 & refrain*

Music: THOMPSON by Will L. Thompson

Text & Music are in the Public Domain

Performance by College Street Congregational Church

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGqEaSS7FPQ> [3:05]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
knowing that no matter where you may stray, God is always looking to bring you home.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE SONG Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

(as found in the ELCA worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 834)

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**
- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

*Text: based on Psalm 27:1, Isaiah 57:15, Daniel 7:3, Romans 11:33-36, I Timothy 1:17,
Revelation 21:23, by Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.; Meter 11 11 11 11*

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

*Performance by the Plymouth Choir & Congregation of First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln NE
07/17/22*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRcMPNsXf8g> [2:25]

Announcements

Tentative plans are for choir rehearsals to resume after worship on Sunday October 9th as we prepare to sing on Reformation Sunday, October 30th and All Saints Sunday, November 6th.

The Spirit was on the Move at CityFest! Jesus prayed that his disciples would be one, and last Saturday and Sunday at Seaside Park in Bridgeport over 175 congregations lived into Jesus' heartfelt prayer. St. Paul wrote that when we are truly in Christ there can be no dividing lines – between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female – and at CityFest we were most certainly in Christ for there were no divisions between Black and White, English speakers and Spanish speakers, or Evangelicals and Mainline Protestants. All were there to give glory to God, to learn how to be truer disciples, to witness to what God has done in our lives, to enjoy fellowship among ourselves and the wider community, and to commit ourselves to working together to serve our neighbors in need.

It wasn't only the church who showed up at CityFest. CT Governor Ned Lamont, US Senator Richard Blumenthal, Mayor Joe Ganim, and other government leaders were there, excited about all that can happen when as individual congregations and denominations we lay aside our differences in order to work together to bring light and life to our community.

The business community was also there and included Coca-Cola, Buttafuccho, Splash Car Wash, Beverages Northeast, Valley Container, Eingedi Spring, K-Love, RD Scinto, 96.7 Air1 Worship Now, and Rep the Gospel, a clothing company founded by Pastor Dexter Upshaw of New Vision International Ministries.

As amazing as it was, CityFest was not the ultimate event, but rather the “launch party” for 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 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. For more information on upcoming events and other ways to address the 3 areas of need mentioned above, and to find out how you/we can volunteer, go to <https://www.ctcityserve.org/>.

Following CityFest, Pastor Marjo was one of 6 pastors invited to attend the Mayor's State of the City Address which was held on Wednesday. After hearing about all the amazing economic developments taking place in Bridgeport, Pastor Marjo told the mayor he needs someone to do a better job of spreading the good news! It seems that, thanks to the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheatre, Bridgeport is well on its way to becoming the Entertainment Capitol of Connecticut – in a much healthier way than a casino would have ever provided. And among the dozens of other initiatives cited were Bridgeport Landing Development, Honey Locust Square, Northsails, Congress Plaza, Windward Commons, Wakeman Boys and Girls Club, the redevelopment of the old coal plant, and the purchase of the Sikorsky airport and its promised expansion by the state. *But what was really exciting was to hear some of the pastors share afterwards about the prayer gathering that took place 6 years ago on the very site on which we were standing, the prayers that were offered up for Bridgeport, and the answers to those prayers that we are now seeing. Thanks be to God!*

Please pray for the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast being held tomorrow morning, that the Spirit of the Living God continue to work through the partnering of faith communities, social service agencies, the business community and city government to bring peace, justice, and abundant life for all in our city.

Please congratulate and give thanks to all the members of our Salem Bridgeport team who joined me for Camp Calumet Lutheran's annual Walk the Walk fundraiser: Dave & Judy Albers and Cindy Roberts, Eileen & Ray Anderson, Jean & Tom Larson, Susan Murphy, Wes Murphy, Astrid Colello, and canines Fritz, Gustav, and Buttons. Together we 11 humans and 3 dogs walked a total of 2,974 during July and August! That's 4 more participants and 700 more miles than last year! Stay tuned to hear the number of dollars raised.



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407 **Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Holy Cross Day **Wednesday, September 14, 2022**

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258 **Friday, September 16, 2022**

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179 **Saturday, September 17, 2022**

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproofed kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

CREDITS

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Save the Date

October 27 – 29, 2022

New England

Women^{of the} **ELCA** 

Biennial Convention and Gathering

Camp Calumet, Freedom, NH

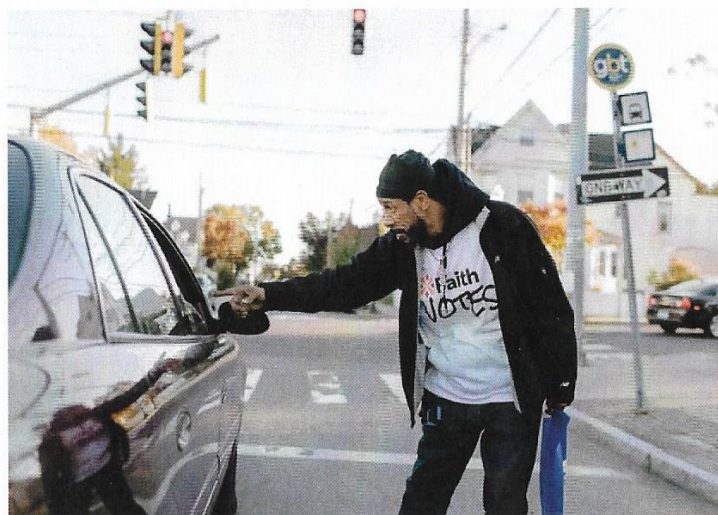


*Come with your stories and/or come to listen to other's stories.
Come and share the Love and/or come to be loved, give love or
Just Love.*

... 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



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.

Christmas at Sea

Collection dates:

September 11 – December 4

Gift Suggestions:

- Woolen caps
- Sweatshirts (L-XL)
- Thermal or White Socks
- Colored T-Shirts (L)
- Chocolates
- Canned Nuts
- Hard Candy
- Christmas Cards
- Money



If questions, contact Carol Lansing (203) 520-3752

Please place items in the marked box in the Narthex