



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*for those with
hearing and/or seeing
challenges*

*15th Sunday After
Pentecost*

*September 18,
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=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eIl2ZmtiZEpadz09> & the link to Bible Study is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119212353?pwd=WFdhU3ZaL1BUb2syZmdzREdTZVpzdz09> 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.

Choir rehearsals will resume after worship on Sunday October 9th and continue on 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30. as we prepare to sing on Reformation Sunday, October 30th and All Saints Sunday, November 6th. After a break on November 6th and 13th, they will resume on 11/ 20 as we prepare for Christmas Eve.

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".

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Be Thou My Vision

(as found in the ELCA worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 793)

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Text: Irish, 8th century, based on Psalm 61:1-4, Matthew 6:19-21, John 9
vss by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931;
Meter 10 10 10 10*

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

*Performance # 1 by the Choir and Congregation of First-Plymouth Church Lincoln, NE
firstplymouth.org, 11/10/13*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMXAp6LpP-8> [3:29]

Performance # 2 by Shenandoah Christian Music Camp, 11/04/19

*Sung at the 14th Annual Choral Festival 2019 of Shenandoah Christian Music Camp (VA).
Conducted by Lloyd Kauffman*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UVwEnShpYA> [4:26]

Performance # 3 by First Baptist Dallas Choir and Orchestra, 03/12/17

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OUqRUAbI4w> [4:50]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God who desires EVERYONE to be saved,
in the name of Jesus who gave himself as a ransom for ALL,
& in the name of the Spirit who leads us to the EXPERIENTIAL knowledge of this truth. Amen

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 city-wide Prayer Walk, Prayer Gathering, Vacation Bible Camp, CityFest,
the mayor's invitation to pastors to the State of the City address and luncheon,
and this past week to the mayor's Power of Prayer breakfast
at which I, along with about 60 other pastors from the city of Bridgeport,
were invited to the mayor's office
where we were introduced to his staff members (3 of whom are pastors!),
heard their prayer requests,
and then had the joy and privilege of joining hands and hearts
as we prayed for them and for our city.

Thank you to all who have been praying over these events!

On Wednesdays we invite you to zoom events:

our noon Prayer Gathering, and our 6:30 Bible Study on Acts, chapter 16,
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.

Almighty and Most-Merciful God, all power is yours – and you can do anything you desire.

You have given us all the resources we need to supply every person on this earth with all they need

– with food, medical care, housing, clothing, and education,
and yet we allow your gifts to be distributed unfairly.

For that we deserve your punishment, and so we come to you today to beg your forgiveness.

Take our minds, inform them; take our hearts, transform them; take our wills, conform them
to yours, O Lord.

Move us to repentance that we may cause heaven to rejoice.

Let us leave here today, changed by the boundless power of your endless love.

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

(as found in the ELCA worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 710)

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.**

- 2 For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.**

- 3 Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language; we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified.**

Text: based on Isaiah 61:1, Amos 5:24, Luke 4:18-19 by William Whitla, b. 1934;

Meter 13 13 13 13 13 13

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

Music is in the Public Domain

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Performance by Heather Jordan of St. George & St. Michael, 09/05/21

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioCT3EvNeWY> [2:52]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 113

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.
From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations;
God’s glory above the heavens.

Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all — this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 16:1-13

You may stand if you so desire.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil’. He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty’. Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat’. He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty’. And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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.

God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth.

Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism.

Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all of us
who share your good news with the world in word and deed.

We pray for our mission partners,
especially for Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response
and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's World Hunger Appeal.

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

Kyle DeWalt

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation.

Guide those who work to develop sustainable practices
and show all of us how we can better care for the earth and its resources,

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority.

Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace.

Inspire public servants to follow safeguard the dignity of each person and to work for justice.

Free us from our bondage to political party ideologies
so that we may work together, not for our own benefit, but for the common good.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed.

Provide for those in any need, especially Barbara, Barry, Bernedette, Beverly, Bill, Cliffy,
Dave, Dolores, Ed, Frank, Grace, Georgina, Iris, Janice, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Joey, Jonathan,
Linda, Maria, Marija, Natalie, Ruth, Steve, VL, and all we name in our hearts.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance.

Help us to discern your will
as we seek to be good stewards of all the resources with which you bless us.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne.

Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us
and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end.

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

Beauty for Brokenness

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

You may stand if you so desire.

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

Refrain:

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

2. **Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak. (Refrain)**

3. **Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share;
peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain. (Refrain)**

4. **Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need. (Refrain)**

5. **Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,
until your justice burns brightly again,
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation, and bring you their praise. (Refrain)**

CCLI Song # 1236690

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

Music: GOD OF THE POOR by Graham Kendrick

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

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

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 for all that has happened this summer with our city-wide Prayer Walk, Prayer Gathering, Vacation Bible Camps, CityFest, and with the Power of Prayer breakfast.

As our scripture readings made clear today,

God is on the side of the poor and needy, the oppressed and marginalized, and God calls on each and everyone of us to work for justice.

Please continue to pray that all of us in the faith communities in this city will be drawn together as we pray for peace and work for justice here and in all the world.

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 to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and in cyberspace this blessing based on our reading today from Luke, chapter 16

You, dear child, have been called to a great task – to strive for peace and justice in all the world. As you confront the systems of injustice, be committed, be creative, and be courageous, Be faithful in little, and God will entrust you with much.

Thanks be to God! 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 HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 678)*

*(sung to the tune "**BEACH SPRING**" Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 445, 712, 777)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**
- 2 Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**
- 3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.**

*Text: based on Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27,
2 Corinthians 8:8-14, Ephesians 4:11-13
by Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006; Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

*Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society,
admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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SUNG TO Tune: BEACH SPRING,

The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985

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Performance by First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE, 05/14/17

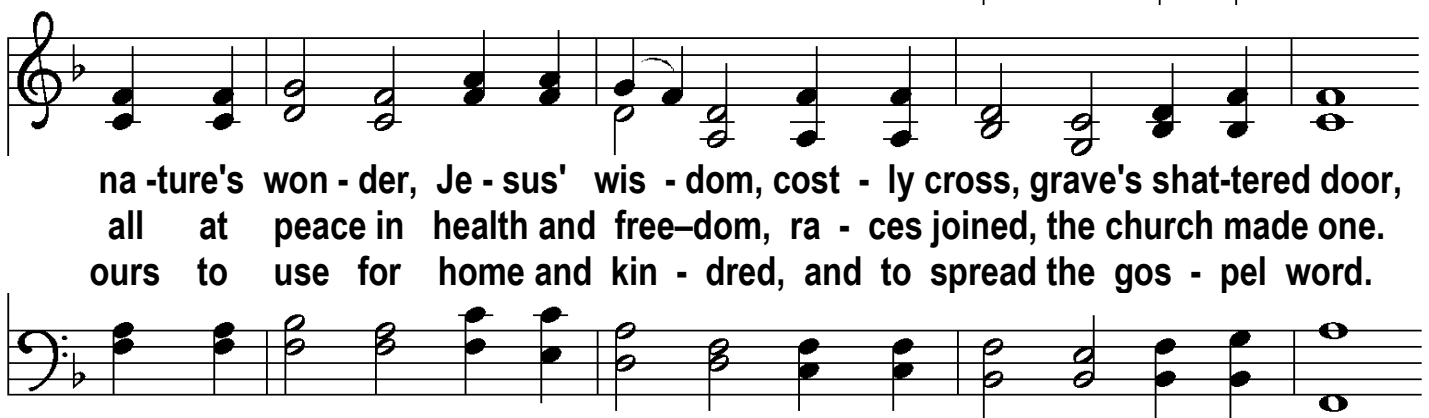
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om3IU7Z02gk> [2:40]

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

(sung to the tune "BEACH SPRING" *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 445, 712, 777)

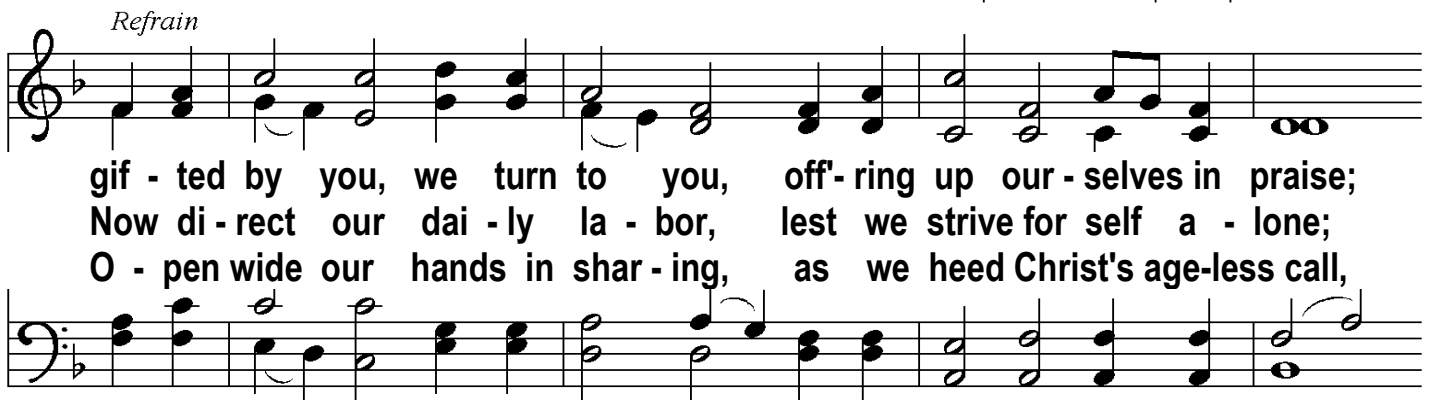


1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing from your rich and end-less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for pres - sing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trus - ted, gain thru pow'rs your grace con-ferred;

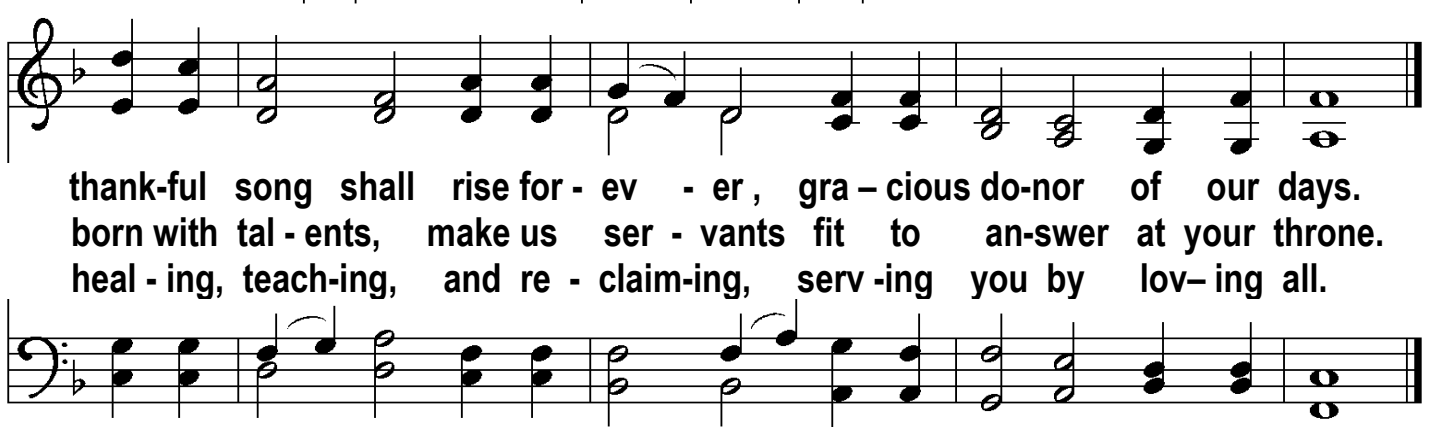


na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, ra - ces joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.

Refrain



gif - ted by you, we turn to you, off - ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
trusting that the closer you follow God's leading,
the more impact you will have on the world, and the more joy you will know.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE SONG

Guide My Feet

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
This Far by Faith # 153)*

- 1 Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**
- 2 Hold my hand while I run this race. Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**
- 3 Stand by me while I run this race. Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**
- 4 I'm your child while I run this race. I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**
- 5 Search my heart while I run this race. Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

*Text: based on Psalm 139.22-24, Isaiah 40.28-31, 1 Corinthians 9.24-27, Philippians 3. 12-15,
2 Timothy 4. 6-8, African American spiritual; Meter 8 8 8 10*

Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual; arr. This Far by Faith

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*Performance by First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn Choir at NYU, 03/08/09
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-WVIppNBls> [3:11]*

Announcements

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!*

Thank you to all who prayed for the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast last Monday! Pastor Marjo was one of over 60 pastors in Bridgeport who gathered in the mayor's office to meet the mayor's staff (3 of whom are pastors!), hear their prayer requests, and then join hands and hearts as we lifted our voices in prayer and praise for all that God has done, is doing and will do here in Bridgeport.

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.



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!**

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

Sunday, September 18, 2022

A Swedish diplomat,

Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

CREDITS

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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 .

FaithActs for Education is a campaign to get the faith community in Bridgeport involved in voter education and voter turnout in order get all children the education they deserve. Believing that every child deserves the opportunity to graduate from college, take care of their family, and fulfill their God-given potential, FaithActs builds relationships, builds leaders, and builds power through community organizing and civic engagement across Connecticut. In 2019 Bridgeport Public Schools met FaithActs’ demand to publish how much it spends per child, per school – information that has never been made public before. Last year, in the middle of a pandemic, FaithActs secured an additional \$160 million in education for Black, Brown, and low income students of all races, and activated over 5,000 voters across the state. Guided by faith, FaithActs continues to Serve the Children, Build Bridges, Take Ownership, and Drive toward Impact. If you want to change the life of a child, become a part of FaithActs by going to www.faithacts.org , emailing hello@faithacts.org, or calling 203–868–0443. If you have questions about voting, contact Civic Engagement Manager, Toni, at 203–7 51–7256 or Toni@Faithacts.org

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

The Country Store



Fair and Tag Sale

Saturday, October 15, 2022
9am to 3pm

Featuring: Huge Tag Sale, Book Nook,
Bake Shop with homemade goodies,
Gift Basket Raffle, Crafts & Country Café
serving a delicious menu.

Grace Lutheran Church 150 Chapel Street Stratford

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE RAIN OR SHINE EVERYONE WELCOME

gracelutheranstratford.org