



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*large print – full text
for those with hearing
or seeing challenges*

The Parable of the Persistent Widow



**19th Sunday After
Pentecost**

**October 16, 2022
9:30 AM**

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

Welcome

WELCOME BACK TO INDOOR WORSHIP at 3160 Park Avenue! We know that worshipping outdoors did not work for everyone, so we hope to see everyone at worship now that we are back inside. For those of you who have concerns about being indoors, please note that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary, and that Bill Winter has just replaced the filters so that they are operating at peak efficiency. If you have any doubts, just speak with Pastor Marjo who happened to stop by the sanctuary last Saturday evening to find that the Seventh Day Adventists were running the machines after their worship so that the room smelled as fresh and new as the earth after a summer rain shower. Also please know that you are more than welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like. We want everyone to feel as safe as possible.

Choir rehearsals will resume after worship TODAY and continue 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.

There will be a community forum concerning the search for a new police chief for Bridgeport this Tuesday, 10/18, at 6:00 pm at Warren Harding High School, 379 Bond Street. If you are concerned about the safety of our city and its citizens and about justice in city government, we encourage you to attend.

You are invited to gather for prayer on zoom Wednesdays at 12:00 noon at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09> **and for Bible Study 6:30-7:25** as we pick up in our study of Acts with 18 at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119212353?pwd=WFdhU3ZaL1BUb2syZmdzREdTVpsdz09> If you cannot access zoom just let us know and you can join one of us via speakerphone. And for anyone not able to join us on Sundays, Holy Communion will be offered at 7:25.

Please give God praise and thanks for St. Vincent's Parish Nurse Program which will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this Wednesday! We are grateful for all the help Salem has received from St. V's over the years, and especially for the wise counsel they gave us during the pandemic. And while you are thanking God for that program, please also thank God for Carol Lansing, our Parish Nurse, and for all our members who have and/or continue to serve God through their healing ministries.

Please keep Christiane Wolfe and her family in your prayers as they celebrate the life of her brother Johann Dietrich Meszkat and lay him to rest in Greenwich this Friday.

The Children's Business Fair is back in Stratford! Come out and support these magnificent Childpreneurs as they learn the value of owning their own business. Saturday, October 22, 2022, o Stratford's Paradis Green, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Gathering

GATHERING SONG It's Me, O Lord / Standing in the Need of Prayer

(as found in the ELCA worship book This Far by Faith # 240)

Refrain: **It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

- 1. Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.
(Refrain)**
- 2. Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.
(Refrain)**
- 3. Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.
(Refrain)**
- 4. Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.
(Refrain)**

Text: African American spiritual;

Music: STANDING IN THE NEED, African American spiritual

*Performance #1 by Charles (Chuck/Chaz) Szabo, an American singer songwriter and educator
from Ohio, who covers old public domain songs to give them new life
and who also performs his originals.*

He specializes in lyric videos with words for people to sing along with.

His recordings are mostly simple, straightforward vocal & piano or guitar arrangements.

Szabo's original songs range from love songs to songs for celebrating each holiday.

His music is available on YouTube at the Charles Szabo or Szabo Music channels.

On Spotify and all other streaming services (Apple, iTunes, Amazon, Deezer, etc.)

he can be searched and found as Charles Szabo Music.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kyd1M3U5VsQ> [2:13]

Performance #2 by Anointed Saints,

Kwabena Sarpong , Malcom Acheampong, Kwame Sarpong, & Andrew Dwomoh

Original Arrangement: Spiritual Roots Quartet; Additional Arrangement: Kwame Sarpong

Mixed/Mastered: JAYKEBEATZ; Video Editing: PJ Production

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7hI2PuVt5I> [2:49]

Performance # 3 by The Beyond the Walls Choir, 10/02/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zNmNECn5mU> [2:36]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who persistently pursues us,
offering the grace of our Lord Jesus,
and the power of the Holy Spirit! 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.

Choir rehearsals will resume after worship TODAY

in preparation for our singing on Reformation and All Saints Sundays.

On Tuesday at 6 pm there will be a community forum at Harding High School concerning the search for a new police chief for Bridgeport.

If you are concerned about the safety of our city and its citizens
and about justice in city government, we encourage you to attend.

On Wednesday we invite you to join us on zoom for prayer at noon & Bible Study at 6:30.

If there is anyone at Bible Study who has not received Communion on Sunday,
we are happy to offer it at the close of Bible Study.

On Saturday we invite you to support local young entrepreneurs

at The Children's Business Fair in Stratford, 10-1 on Stratford's Paradis Green.

And next Sunday at noon there will be a Human Trafficking Awareness Walk

at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fairfield.

For more details on these announcements or to hear about upcoming events such as

The New England Women of the ELCA' Biennial Convention and Gathering,
a screening of the documentary Defining US,
FaithActs for Education's pre-election work,
and a Christmas collection for Seafarers,
please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

Any other announcements?

Then let's begin our worship with a prayer based on the song "Goodness of God"
by Fielding, Johnson, Cash, Ingram, and Johnson.

I love You Lord, for your mercy never fails me.
All my days I've been held in your hands.
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head,
I will sing of your goodness, O God.

I love your voice, for you've led me through the fire.
In the darkest night you are close like no other.
I've known you as a father; I've known you as a friend.
I have lived in your goodness, O God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me!
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me!
With my life laid down. I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me!

All my life You have been faithful!
All my life You have been so so good!
With every breath that I am able I will sing of your goodness, O God!
Amen

CCLI Song # 7117726

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OPENING SONG What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 742)*

You may stand if you so desire.

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

*Text: based on Psalm 41:9, Matthew 11:28-30, 21:22,
Mark 11:24, Luke 7:34, John 15:13-15,
by Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886, Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

*Music: CONVERSE, ERIE, Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918
This hymn is in the Public Domain.*

*Performance by the Reverend Marjo Anderson,
Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT, 02/27/21*

Word

Please be seated.

Introduction

*This is God's encouragement in the Word today: Do not lose heart.
Pray persistently and wrestle with the Word, both as individuals and as a congregation.
Know that God is present in every moment of our lives – even when we are not aware.*

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Genesis 32:22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking". But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me". So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob". Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed". Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name". But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved". The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;

the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 18:1-8

You may stand if you so desire.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent’. For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming’.” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Promised One comes, will faith be found anywhere on earth?”

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.*

*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

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

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

For all the baptized, that we be moved by the Spirit to share the good news of Jesus with all. Draw us all into deeper relationship with you by urging us to pray more by ourselves, with our families and friends, with our congregation, and with others.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Council of Churches' Hunger Outreach Network, for food pantries like those at PT Barnum and Kingdom Builders Impact Ministries, for community suppers like those at Golden Hill United Methodist church, and for community gardens like the one here at 3160 Park Avenue.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Phil Raschke, Joel Hintz, Leah Hintz, John Wilkins, Wes Murphy, Mary Ann Kenyon, Edith Larson, Merlee Lange, and Scott DeWalt.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For air & sky, clouds & sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew & restore our polluted air, land & water, & move us to be worthy stewards of creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for St. Vincent's Parish Nurse Program celebrating its 30th anniversary and for all who serve you through their healing ministries.

For all who are lonely, especially political prisoners without recourse to justice, those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken,

especially Barbara, Barry, Bernedette, Bill, Pastor Bill, Cliffy, Dave, Dave, Dennis, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Ed, Frank, Grace, Iris, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Joey, Jonathan, Linda, Marija, Melvyn, Natalie, Ruth, Sara Jean, Steve, VL and all we name in our hearts.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, have the courage to do what is right, and work to eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system;

and for those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work, that with the persistence of the widow, we lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those we mourn, especially Johann Dietrich Meszkat, and for all who shared your gospel through word and deed and brought us to faith and who now rest in your heavenly peace, we give you thanks and praise.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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

Now Faith

(as sung at Camp Calumet Lutheran)

Refrain: **Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
and faith is being sure and certain of what we cannot see.**

- 1. Faith can be a difficult race from the start,
but hang on, believe, and don't lose heart
for my God is here with me, my God is here with me.**

Refrain: **Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
and faith is being sure and certain of what we cannot see.**

- 2. Lift up your tired hands because of the cross,
this battle will be won, our faith cannot be lost
for my God is here with me, my God is here with me.**

Refrain: **Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
and faith is being sure and certain of what we cannot see.**

*Text: based on: Hebrews 11.1, 12.12-13, Philippians 3.12-14, 1 Corinthians 9.24-27,
Mark 4.37-41, Matthew 8.23-27, Luke 8.22-25, Romans 8.18-24*

Words and Music by David Piper

Reprinted / Streamed with permission from David Piper

Performance by A Bunch of Guys on the CD "Take a Breath", 2003

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Choir rehearsals will resume after worship TODAY

On Tuesday at 6 pm there will be a community forum at Harding High School concerning the search for a new police chief for Bridgeport.

On Wednesday we invite you to join us on zoom for prayer at noon & Bible Study at 6:30.

On Saturday we invite you to support local young entrepreneurs at The Children's Business Fair from 10-1 on Stratford's Paradis Green.

And next Sunday at noon there will be a Human Trafficking Awareness Walk at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fairfield.

For more details on these announcements or to hear about upcoming events such as The New England Women of the ELCA' Biennial Convention and Gathering, a screening of the documentary Defining US, FaithActs for Education's pre-election work, and a Christmas collection for Seafarers, please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

THANK YOU

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 with me, you can reach me through Salem's website or Facebook page.

BLESSING

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 Psalm 121:

Know that the LORD watches over you.

The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

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 power is boundless and whose love is endless. **Amen**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love as Jesus loves.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

We have harmed your good creation.

We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

Turn us in a new direction.

Show us the path that leads to life.

Be our strength for the journey.

We pray through Jesus Christ, our redeemer & friend. Amen

Beloved of God:

As you willingly turn from your old ways and follow Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life,
your sins are forgiven ✚ and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Oh, Give Thanks unto the Lord

You may stand if you so desire. And clap! And dance even!

Oh give thanks unto the Lord For He is good, yes He is good

Oh give thanks unto the Lord For He is good, yes He is good *(Repeat as desired)*

For He is worthy, worthy, For He is, yes He is good *(Repeat as desired)*

*Text: Judith C. McAllister. Tune: Judith C. McAllister;
arr. by Brandon Waddles. © 2002, Judah Music Publishing.*

Performed by Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 06/23/30

Recorded with permission at Worship Symposium 2019 at Calvin University.

worship.calvin.edu

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Om89IRxJPpg> [3:36]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise God for the answers to prayers that are even now on their way!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Now Thank We All Our God

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 840)*

- 1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.**
- 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

*Text: based on 2 Timothy 1:5,
by Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878;
Meter 6 7 6 7 6 6 6*

*Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT (isometric) by Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
Text and Tune are in the Public Domain.*

Performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska, 09/23/18

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmJtef10DWw> [3:32]

Announcements

Be the Ripple of Awareness and come join the 40.3 Human Trafficking Awareness Walk next Sunday October 23rd at noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Road, Fairfield on for a 40.3 minute walk to create awareness of the estimated 40.3 million people enslaved globally today. Knowledge is power and awareness is key! Together, by spreading awareness about this crisis, we can Create a Tidal Wave and Save Lives!

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Fall Event will be at the Sacred Heart University Discovery Science Center and Planetarium on **November 17th** from 6-8pm. Come meet the staff, learn about the Council's programs, and take a tour of the newly remodeled Discovery Science Center. We look forward for you to join us for this wonderful event. More information will be posted in the Council's upcoming newsletters and mailings.

Thanks to everyone who helped support Grace Lutheran Church's fair last Saturday. Special thanks to Rich Lansing and Bruce Tomasko for providing the breakfast!

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!**

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.

DEFINING US – Children at the Crossroads of Change – Friday, November 4th at 6 pm (doors open at 5) at Sacred Heart University Community Theatre, 1420 Post Road, Fairfield, CT 06825. Join Connect with Kids (CWK) Network and the community of Fairfield for a special film screening and panel discussion featuring Stacey DeWitt (Defining US Director), Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz (cast member and Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University) and friends. Students and teachers inside the nation’s largest school systems share the untold story of why we need to acknowledge, discuss, and validate concerns about race and other vital issues that define our humanity. Click here to register (free):
<https://shucommunitytheatre.showare.com/default.asp?searchdate=11/4/2022>

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

Please place items in the marked box in the narthex.
If questions, contact Carol Lansing at 203-520-3752.

The Council of Churches’ advocacy has translated into a huge win! We at CCGB joined a letter signed by over 100 other organizations calling for USDA to set aside a portion of relief funding for one-to-one business technical assistance. We are thrilled to report that our voices have been heard. **Last week, USDA announced \$400 million in funding to support the creation of at least six Regional Food Business Centers** through USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service. The purpose of the Centers is to provide technical assistance, coordination, and capacity-building to small and mid-sized farm and food businesses in order to increase the resilience of local and regional food systems.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport is pleased to announce that Noelia Ramos has joined the council as **a new case manager for the Project New Life (PNV)**. Noelia is currently in school for her bachelor's degree in Human Service at the University of Bridgeport. Her goal is to be in the helping field helping those in need. She says “growing up in Bridgeport I didn’t have the best resources so being able to give back and help those have been very rewarding to me.” PNV serves over 260 returning citizens each year, providing birth certificate research and picture IDs, clothing, bus passes, toiletries and assistance finding housing and job placement. Clients are given gift cards to help purchase necessities such as clothing, socks, shoes & toiletries. They’re so thankful for the help we are able to give them. For more info, please contact Rosa Rosa rosarosa@ccgb.org and/or Noelia Ramos noeliaramos@ccgb.org.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport extends a HUGE THANK YOU to Simon Herrera, Vice President, Cristian Castro, and Steven Wright of Enterprise-Rent-A- Car for their donation of 50 prefilled **backpacks** with school supplies. Our Janus Center's Director, Carla Wright and Case Managers Fara Phetis and Corey Saulsbury continue to hand out these backpacks to those students who are in need of supplies.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115

Monday, October 17, 2022

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated.

Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in faith.

Luke, Evangelist

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts,

Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts.

His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.

CREDITS

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Young Entrepreneurs Showcase Their Business Ventures

Sponsored Vendor: KM Glass



Photo by Roger Sells Photography

Featured Vendor: Luciana's Drawings & Paintings



Photo by Roger Sells Photography

Stratford's 2nd Annual Children's Business Fair

Experiences young entrepreneurs marketing & selling their products while having a wonderful time.

Stratford's Paradise Green
121 Huntington Road
Stratford, CT
Sat. Oct. 22, 2022
10:00am-1:00pm
Rain date 10/23



Special Guest: Up & Coming Designer
King Plant



Photo by Roger Sells Photography

SPONSORED BY
Genesis Gospel Café
Blue Sky Diner
273 Ferry Blvd

Acton



For more info:

CTKIDSBIZ.COM

FB: @StratfordsChildrensBusinessFair

No admission fee



SCAN ME

Hosted by: Charlie of
Charlie & Mommy's Candles
& Lemonade

PARTNERED WITH

Sterling House

COMMUNITY CENTER

There will also be crafts, games,
& free gifts for kids.

Break time & music performed
by starvelles Gina Simpson

40.3

Human Trafficking Awareness Walk



Be the Ripple of Awareness!

Come join us on October 23rd at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fairfield at 12:00 pm for a 40.3 minute walk to create awareness of the estimated 40.3 million people enslaved globally today.

Knowledge is power and awareness is key!

Together, by spreading awareness about this crisis, we can

CREATE a TIDAL WAVE

and

SAVE LIVES!

160 Hill Farm Road, Fairfield, CT 203.255.0545