



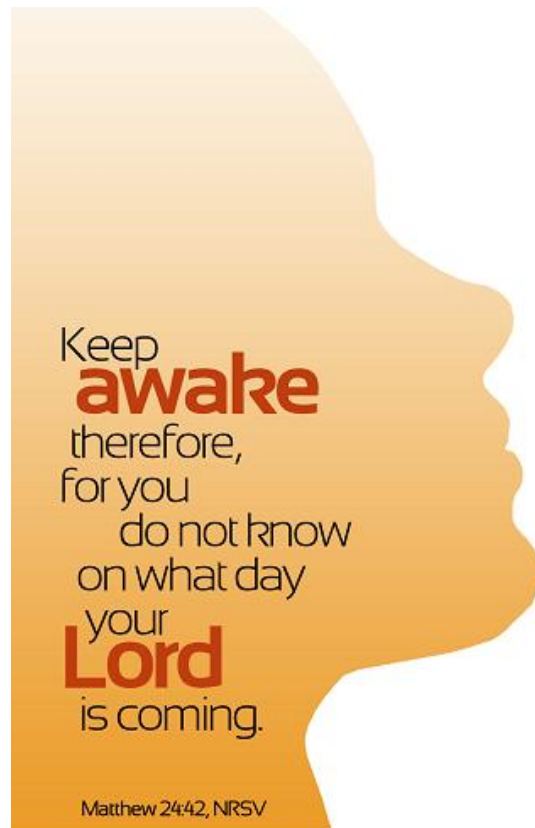
Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*1st Sunday in
Advent*

*November 27,
2022
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
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www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/salembridgeport) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

WELCOME TO WORSHIP at 3160 Park Avenue! If you have concerns about being indoors, please note that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. 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.

Happy New Year! No, we have not lost our minds. We know it's November 27th and not January 1st. But today is the first Sunday of Advent, which means that it's the start of a brand new church year! In our 3-year lectionary (cycle of Bible readings), this is year A, the year that we focus on the gospel of Matthew.

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. These passages are of what Lutherans are fond of calling the "already/not yet" variety. On one level, these passages refer to a time in the future when Christ returns, evil is defeated, and the world as we know it comes to its end. But on a much more practical level, these passages refer to the power of God to break into the here and now. God is actively working ALL the time through every person and every circumstance in our lives, but it's only when the Spirit has nudged us awake that we can see and hear and feel and experience God's power and love. So...wake up! God is getting ready to do some amazing, new thing, and you won't want to miss it!

"Why gather for pray? Why go to Bible Study?" If you ask Pastor Marjo, she'll tell you that's it's because amazing things happen when you gather to listen to God. Sometimes someone will get an answer to prayer that is so far beyond their expectations that we are left speechless. Sometimes through Bible study God is able to lead you to a whole new understanding of where God is leading the Church. Through our study of Acts, we've come to look at our congregations in a very different way, & begun to see what it takes for the Church to spread and grow. **You're invited to gather for prayer on zoom Wednesday at 12:00** here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09>

& for Bible Study 6:30-7:25 as we pick up in our study of Acts with chapter 22-23 at this link:

<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 for anyone not able to join us on Sundays, Holy Communion will be offered at 7:25.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) series invites your participation in White Ally Coaching, featuring Kirk and Erika Wesley, Co-Founders of BLaC Strategies, Inc. In these free zoom trainings those of us who are White will learn practical information and tangible skills for using our Whiteness to effectively support members of the BIPOC community in both personal and professional spaces. 7:30-9:00 pm, Thursday December 1. Register at ccgb.org/rtb.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

We Have Come into This House

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
This Far by Faith # 136)*

- 1 We have come into this house and gathered in his name to worship him.
We have come into this house and gathered in his name to worship him.
We have come into this house and gathered in his name to worship Christ, the Lord;
worship him, Christ the Lord.
- 2 So forget about yourself and concentrate on him and worship him.
So forget about yourself and concentrate on him and worship him.
So forget about yourself and concentrate on him and worship Christ, the Lord;
worship him, Christ the Lord.
- 3 Let us lift up holy hands and magnify his name and worship him.
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify his name and worship him.
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify his name and worship Christ, the Lord;
worship him, Christ the Lord.

*Text: based on Isaiah 2:3a, Psalm 100:4, Micah 4:2,
by Bruce Ballinger, b. 1945; Meter 6 10 6 10 6 12 6*

Music: WORSHIP HIM, by Bruce Ballinger, b. 1945

*Text and music © 1976 Sound III, Inc. admin. MCA Music Publishing
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Performance #1 by Squirrel 24, 09/23/20

Background: Hawaii

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwN6DRIAwbG> [2:51]

Performance #2 by Harding University Concert Choir, 07/24/16

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEBmKvLDsWg> [1:15]

Performance #3 by Divine Hymns, 02/16/17

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiJ0AdA05Ow> [2:47]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God who calls us out of darkness into light,
in the name of Jesus the light of the world,
and in the name of the Spirit who shines in our hearts!

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'm 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.

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

This week the Bible study continues with Acts, chapter 22-23.

On Thursday you are invited to the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's

Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) White Ally Coaching, 7:30-9:00 pm on zoom.

To register go to ccgb.org/rtb.

On Saturday December 10th, you are invited for breakfast

and a "Packing Party" for the Seafarers from 9:00-11:00 at Grace Church in Stratford.

And if you'd like to go to the New Paradigm Theatre company's Holiday Show

on Saturday December 10th at 8:00 pm or Sunday December 11th at 3 pm

at the Fairfield Theatre Company's Stage One,

please speak with me as soon as possible so we can get a group discount.

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

please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer:

God, we come to praise you and give you thanks!

At the beginning of all things, you spoke light into darkness and spoke creation into being!

You sent Jesus to be the Light of the world!

You sent your Spirit to enlighten our minds, to kindle our hearts, and to blaze in our spirits.

Open us this very day to the cleansing fire of your love,

that we might leave here this day,

energized to witness to your power and mobilized to show forth your love in service.

We pray all this in the Name of Jesus and by the Power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying Hymn

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 436)*

You may stand if you desire.

- 1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.**
- 2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
and follow to the banquet hall.**
- 3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thund'ring might of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.**

*Text: based on Isaiah 52:1-8, 64:6, Matthew 25:1-13, 1 Corinthians 2:9, Revelation 19:6-9, 21:21-23
by Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite; Meter P M*

Music: WACHET AUF by Philipp Nicolai

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Translation © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

*Performed by Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church Choir, Barbara Bulger Verdile, Director,
11/08/20*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAli8MWInXA> [4:58]

THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING – 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

The wreath is of course a circle - reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God.

Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches.

The evergreen, like the circle, is a symbol of eternity - but also of life.

Holly is sometimes used instead of - or with - the evergreen.

The sharp points of the leaves of the Holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns.

The red berries remind us of his blood.

*There is a story that holly berries were white until Christ's blood fell on them –
causing them to be red ever since.*

Christ is, of course, the light of the world – hence the candles.

(Our candle lighting ceremony today copyright is by the Rev. Richard J. Fairchild 2003)

ADVENT READING

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope.

Our hope is in God, and in God's son, Jesus Christ.

He is the one appointed by God to be judge of all things.

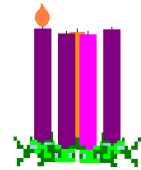
He is the one through whom God has promised to save and redeem God's people.

We light this candle today to remind us

that God is our hope and the hope of the world.

We thank God for the promises God has made to us

and for the light God has brought into the world.



ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God of Hope, Emmanuel, God-with-us,

we pray you to send your light into our hearts at this time.

Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's final appearing.

Live in us and help us to live in you.

so that our worship, our celebration, our time of preparation,

may be pleasing to you, both now and forevermore. **Amen**

(Light the 1st candle.)

ADVENT SONG

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW # 240, vs. 1



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of God's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of YHWH, to the house of the God of Jacob;
that we may be taught God's ways and walk in God's paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of God from Jerusalem.

God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of God!

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of God.”

Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city

that is at unity with itself;

to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

For there are the thrones of judgment,

the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls

and quietness within your towers.

For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good.”

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 13:11-14

The Apostle Paul writes: Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 24:36-44

You may stand if you so desire.

Jesus said to the disciples, “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT

(based on John 1 and John 14:19-26)

Let us affirm our faith together.

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing was created.
The life that was in him became light for all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**To all who receive him, who believe in him,
is given the power to become children of God.**

**The Word became flesh, a man named Jesus.
He lived among us, full of grace and truth.
From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.**

**In the name of Jesus, God has sent the Holy Spirit to teach us
and to remind us of all that he said and did.
We believe that because he lives, we shall live also,
to the glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen**

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 we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence,
let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

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

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy.
Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time.
Break down barriers of culture and custom
and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for
the Council of Churches' Interfaith Coalition, and its delegates.
We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Justin Claus and Bruce Tomasko.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift.
Teach us to share resources and care for life,
and to guard fragile habitats, preserve wild places, and protect endangered plants & animals.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations.
Move us to prioritize our resources
to provide tools for serving our neighbors over weapons for killing them.
Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war.
We pray for equity and justice between Israelis and Palestinians,
and for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger.
Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death.
Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care, especially Barry, Cliff, Cliffy, Dave,
Dave, Dennis, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Grace, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Joey, Linda, Liz,
Katherine, Marija, Natalie, Pastor Ruth, Sara Jean, Steve, VL, and all we name in our hearts.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present everywhere all the time.
When two or three or more of us gather in your name, make us aware of your presence.
Open the hearts and minds of congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders
to discern your will.
Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest
in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs.
By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children.
In Jesus' name we pray. **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 Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 242)*

You may stand if you desire.

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

**In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

*Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950;
Text and music © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.,
7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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*Performance posted by jclarke527, 12/17/09
as found at this link:*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op9Yyh_M4dk&t=29s&ab_channel=jclarke527 [2:37]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

On Wednesday we invite you to join us on zoom for prayer at noon & Bible Study at 6:30.
This week the Bible study continues with Acts, chapter 22-23.

**On Thursday you are invited to the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's
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on Saturday December 10th at 8:00 pm or Sunday December 11th at 3 pm
at the Fairfield Theatre Company's Stage One,
please speak with me as soon as possible so we can get a group discount.**

**For more details on these announcements or to hear about other upcoming events
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 her 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 Paul's letter to the Romans:

Wake up!

It's time to lay aside the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light,
to put on Christ Jesus,
for the kingdom of God is at hand! 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 Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever! Amen!

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on **+** Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord!

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

This Little Light of Mine

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
This Far by Faith # 65 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 677)*

You may stand if you desire.

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywher_e I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Matthew 5:14-16

Text: based on Matthew 5:14-16, African American spiritual; Meter Irregular

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935

Text and Tune are in the Public Domain

Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Performance by Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church

Voice: Anna Morris, Piano: Carol Churchill

Other Instruments'(Jazz Organ, Bass, Drums) Tracks Created by: Sung Lee

Coordinating, Film Editing, Audio Mixing and Mastering: Sung Lee

Produced by Samm Hills Worship (Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church)

as found at this link; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUZ804_v4fY [1:49]

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

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

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

You can reach us at sammamishhillslutheranchurch@gmail.com

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

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Walk in the light of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 244)*

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the thorn of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

*Text: based on Isaiah 40:3-5, Matthew 25:1-13, Revelation 4:9-10, 21:23-24
by Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.
Meter 7 6 7 6 D*

Tune: Swedish folk tune HAF TRONES LAMPA FARDIG)

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

*Performance by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Worcester, MA, 11/28/10
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAFg-4M47eQ> [2:16]*

Announcements

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.

You are invited to join a “Packing Party” for the Seafarers on Saturday, December 10th, at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford. Rich Lansing and Bruce Tomasko will cook and serve breakfast at 9:00 (come at 8:00 if you can help!), and Carol Lansing will supervise the packing of the donated items beginning at 10:00. We hope you will join us for a time of fun, food, and fellowship as we seek to serve seafarers!

Holiday Show Time! If you enjoyed attending the Little Mermaid last summer, you’ll definitely want to join New Paradigm Theatre Company (NPT) and usher in the holiday season at the Fairfield Theatre Company’s StageOne with spectacular performances! NPT’s annual holiday extravaganza on **Saturday December 10th at 8:00pm and Sunday December 11th at 3pm.** The holiday show is jam-packed with Broadway dancers, singers, instrumentalists, and “Ms Clauz with a Z”© and her elves. Music Directed by Chris Coogan. NPT also continues to think outside the holiday box and will showcase its theatre arts education mentoring by featuring our NPT youth alongside Broadway, Film and TV professionals. **For tickets go to <https://nptheatre.org/holiday-show-2022/> or speak with Pastor Marjo if you’d like to go as a group on Sunday.**

On Saturday December 17th, please join Jeanette Harris & Genesis Gospel Cafe for their Inner-View Chat’n’Chew 11:00 -12:00 on zoom. The link’s on the calendar on our website.

MITTEN TREE. While we will not have an actual mitten tree this year, we will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves as usual. There will be a box in the narthex on Sunday mornings for contributions. Items can also be dropped off at the office on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If the door is locked please call the Church number from your cell phone and Karl will let you in.

Save the Date! January 15 at 2:00pm, for the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport’s inaugural Hymn Festival. It will be a time of worship and celebration, and it also incidentally would have been the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There will be 4 choirs participating, based on a balance of worship style as well as racial, geographic, and theological demographics. In other words, this will not be a Baptist Hymn Festival or an Episcopal Hymn Festival but rather will be a blend of who CCGB has been since 1945: “The Council shall do jointly what no single communion, congregation, or denomination can do alone; namely, to express through fellowship, cooperation, and service the essential unity of the Christian Church.” Venue to be announced.

You may have money waiting for you at <https://ctbiglist.com/> . Just put in your name, city and zip and then press search. If you want to verify that this is legit, just go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/OTT/Unclaimed-Property/Overview> . If you end up with some unexpected cash, you might want to think about giving a tithe on it to Salem! 😊

You can help feed the hungry! While we may not have our own food pantry anymore, some of our members and others are still in need of food and Pastor Marjo distributes \$25 stop and shop cards as needed, requested and as available. 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 Marjo. 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!**

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Andrew, Apostle

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus,

Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter.

The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus,

and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Saturday, December 3, 2022

A native of the Basque region of Spain,

Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines.

He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

CREDITS

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ELCA Land Acknowledgement

On Indigenous Peoples' Day this year, the ELCA published "A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People," in which the church confesses its sins toward Indigenous peoples and lists the commitments it will begin working toward as it responds to its original "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery" from 2016.

One commitment found in each document is to formally acknowledge the original inhabitants of North America. The declaration states, "We commit to begin the practice of land acknowledgments at all expressions of the church."

Vance Blackfox, Director for Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations with the ELCA, has prepared a guide for those who wish to begin a journey toward truth and healing by practicing land acknowledgments. It includes examples of statements that you can speak at the beginning of every worship service, print at the top of worship bulletins, use to create outdoor signage and more. For more information, click [here](#).

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



Our denomination's work on Climate Care – Acting upon a request from several sources, in November 2021, the ELCA Church Council authorized the development of an ELCA social message on climate care. Social messages are ELCA teaching documents that address a focused social topic. Drawing from existing social teaching, they provide theological rationale and social analysis to foster discernment and engagement on a relatively narrow social issue. This project was authorized in light of the grim contemporary situation affecting our global home and the need for fresh action on the part of this church. It draws its framing themes from several social statements, particularly *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*
<https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Caring-for-Creation> In line with standard ELCA

protocol https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Policies_and_Procedures.pdf, the project is being shepherded by the ELCA Director for Theological Ethics, working with a lead writer in collaboration with a group of reviewers. **The draft social message is now available for public feedback! Read the social message draft here**

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/DRAFT-Social_Message_on_Climate_Care.pdf and then use this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R8R98QX>

to share your input by Friday, December 2, 2022. The draft will be edited, guided by the feedback, and presented to the ELCA Church Council to be voted on this coming spring



New CCGB President and CEO

The Rev. Curtis Farr, board chair of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (CCGB), announced that the Rev. Shivonne Annan has accepted the position of president and CEO of the CCGB.

"The Rev. Annan brings valuable experience in leading and working with non-profit groups serving urban communities. We are excited to have her join us in directing the critical services that the Council of Churches provides to so many individuals, families, & communities of Greater Bridgeport."

The Rev. Shivonne Annan holds a Bachelor of Arts from Pennsylvania State University, a Master of Business Administration from American Intercontinental University, a Master of Education from Adelphi University, and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Shivonne Annan has prior experience as the executive director of Community Help in Park Slope, Inc. (CHiPS) in Brooklyn, which serves as many as 175 meals daily through their soup kitchen and food pantry. Earlier she served as the executive director of Jeremiah Program's community in the Brownsville neighborhood in Brooklyn, overseeing their efforts to provide support for mothers and children. Annan also served as a pastor in a congregation in New Jersey and as the assistant director of St. John Residence and School for Boys in Rockaway Park, N.Y.

The Rev. Shivonne Annan will assume her duties with the Council of Churches early 2023, replacing Tom Larson, who currently serves as interim president and CEO.