



December 2022

the  
SPIRIT

# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

*A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation*

## Candles for Christ

Dear Salem family,

One of the things I look forward to each year is the first Sunday of Advent when I get to turn on the candles in all the windows of our house. They fill our home with a soft light that makes me feel safe and warm. But what with one thing and another, I have been so busy that I completely forgot to turn them on this year! So as soon as I'm finished writing this article, that's what I'm going to do: light the candles!

Last Sunday at worship after the lighting of the first candle on our Advent wreath, I asked that we think of ourselves as candles, and commissioned us all to be candles of hope for the week. Starting this coming Sunday, we'll be candles of peace, the next week candles of joy, and then candles of love. (See pages 3-6)

As candles, we don't light ourselves, of course. It is Jesus, our Light in the Darkness, who lights up our lives, sets our hearts on fire, and sets our spirits ablaze. There is a song I love that talks about Jesus being "...light in the darkness..." Those words repeat over and over, and are joined with others, as in a dance, "*Way Maker! Miracle Worker! Promise Keeper! Light in the Darkness! My God, that is who You are!*"

Isn't that what we all long for? Someone to make a Way where we can't see anyway forward.... Someone to work miracles in our lives when we've tried everything and nothing seems to work.... Someone we can trust to keep their promise to love us with a love that will never ever fail....

And of course, we already have all of those things. Sometimes we just need to be reminded of that fact. We already know the Way. That Way is Jesus. And we – WE! – are People of the Way! We don't have to wait for a way to be made, because Jesus makes a way for us each moment of our lives. We don't have to wait for a miracle, because miracles are happening all around us all the time. We don't

have to wait for God to keep God's promise, because those promises are fulfilled each and every time we choose faith over fear. And we don't have to wait for light to see – all we need to do is to open our eyes!

The verses to Way Maker remind us of the overarching Truth of our lives – that God is *HERE moving in our midst, working in whatever place* we find ourselves, *touching, healing, and mending every heart, and turning our lives around.*

And our response to that God moving in our midst? It can only be, "*I worship you! I worship you!*"

Sure, there are too many times when we may not see God working, we may not feel God working, but even when we can't see it or feel it, the truth is that God never, ever, ever stops working.

If you don't know this song, you can find it right here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJCV\\_2H9xD0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJCV_2H9xD0) I encourage you, not just to listen to it, but to pray it. Pray it and let it seep deep into your soul. Pray it until you believe it, not just with your head but with your heart.

In the midst of whatever you are going through, God is right there with you, moving and working in your life, touching, healing, and mending every hurt, your Way Maker, your Miracle Worker, your Promise Keeper, and your Light in the Darkness.

And for that I give God thanks and praise!

*Pastor Marjo*

Pastor Marjo Anderson

CCLI Song # 7115744

Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

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## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3160 Park Avenue  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604  
Phone (203) 336-3300 ▪ Fax (203) 336-8813

Website - [www.salembridgeport.org](http://www.salembridgeport.org)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport/](http://www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport/)

### Church Office Hours

Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### Worship Services

Sunday 9:30am In Person Worship

### Salem's Staff

The Rev. Marjo Anderson, Pastor  
Cell Phone (203) 982-3441  
[marjoanderson@aol.com](mailto:marjoanderson@aol.com)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager  
Office Phone (203) 336-3300

## LEADERSHIP AT SALEM

### COUNCIL

Marjo Anderson, Pastor  
Rich Lansing, President  
John Bryk, Vice-President  
Nancy Headford, Secretary  
Rich Kenyon, Treasurer  
Sandra Brown  
Frank Dukenski  
Steve Kuczo  
Carol Lansing  
Tom Larson  
Cindy Roberts  
Bill Winter

## 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.

The following people have asked for  
healing, help, guidance or comfort.

Barbara  
Bernedette  
Dolores  
Frank  
Grace  
Jonathan  
Linda  
Steve  
and all we name in our hearts.



Newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month unless otherwise noted in the monthly calendar.

Next deadline date is **December 15th** for the January issue!

Email submissions to  
[salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net)

## THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING

*(Candle lighting liturgy copyright by the Rev. Richard J. Fairchild 2003)*

*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.*

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

#### 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 to 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.



#### SCRIPTURES ON HOPE

"...those who hope in God will not be disappointed." [Isaiah 49.23b]

"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." [Jeremiah 29.11]

"...glory even in your suffering because...suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, character produces hope, and hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." [Romans 5:3b-5]

*(Light the 1st candle.)*

#### 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**



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - PEACE



### ADVENT READING

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace.  
Our peace is found in God and in God's son, Jesus Christ.  
John the Baptist and all the prophets remind us,  
that to receive peace we must be prepared for it.  
We light this candle today to remind us  
that Christ is the Prince of Peace,  
the one promised from the beginning of the world.  
We thank God for the hope God gives us  
and for the peace God bestows.

### SCRIPTURES ON PEACE

"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed,  
yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken  
nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD,  
who has compassion on you. *[Isaiah 54:10]*

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." *[John 14:27]*

"Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts & minds in Christ Jesus." *[Philippians 4:6-7]*

*(Light the 1st & 2nd candles.)*

### ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God of Peace, 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 appearing.

Work in our hearts at this time and help us prepare ourselves for the peace that Christ brings,  
the inner peace that tells us that we are united with you

and the outer peace which will come when Christ returns to judge the world. **Amen**

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY



#### ADVENT READING

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy.  
Our joy is in God and in God's son, Jesus Christ.  
Like peace, joy is a gift from God.  
It overtakes us and fills us  
when we remember what God has done and what God has promised to do.  
We light this candle to remind us that Christ came, and is coming,  
so that all people might have a rich and abundant life.  
We thank God for the hope God gives us,  
for the peace God bestows,  
and for the joy God pours into our hearts.

#### SCRIPTURES ON JOY

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." [Psalm 16:11]  
"For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning." [Psalm 30:5]  
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,  
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." [Romans 15:13]

*(Light the 1st, 2nd & 3rd candles.)*

#### ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray.  
O God of Joy, Emmanuel, God-with-us, send your light into our hearts at this time.  
Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing.  
Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done  
and those you have promised to do  
that we may have the joy you have promised.  
Strengthen us so that we may always do your will  
and so bless you and the world you have made. **Amen**

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE



### ADVENT READING

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Love.  
Jesus shows us God's perfect love.  
He is God's perfect love in human form.  
Those who believe in him and live in him, live in love.  
Love transforms and perfects all things; it never ends.  
We light this candle today to remind us that God is love.  
We thank God for hope God gives us, for the peace God bestows,  
for the joy God pours into our hearts,  
and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

### SCRIPTURES ON LOVE

"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God,  
keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations  
of those who love God and keep God's commandments." [Deuteronomy 7:9]

"Give thanks to the God of heaven, whose love endures forever." [Psalm 136:26]

"...neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,  
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,  
neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
[Romans 8:37-39]

*(Light the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th candles.)*

### ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God of Love, Emmanuel, God-with-us, send your light into our hearts at this time.  
Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing.  
Grant that we may so dwell in Christ that his perfect love fills our entire being.  
Make our worship a time in which we celebrate your love and are made ready  
to show that love to the whole world, both today and forevermore. **Amen**



**Christmas Eve, Salem is not having worship services.  
Below is a list of other services in the area you can attend.**

**Grace Lutheran, 150 Chapel St , Stratford - 3:00pm**

**Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield - 5:00pm (Christmas pageant)  
and 8:00pm**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran, 466 Elm Street, Monroe - 5:30pm**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran, 406 White Plains Rd, Trumbull - 5:00pm**

**Holy Cross LCMS, 5995 Main St, Trumbull - 5:00pm and 8:00pm**

**Christ Presbyterian - 5:00pm at Park City Music Hall, 2926 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport**

**Salem will have a Christmas Day service on Sunday Dec 25  
at our normal time of 9:30.**

**Sunday Jan 1 we will have a New Years Day service  
at our normal time of 9:30**

**BOTH CHRISTMAS and NEW YEARS DAY SERVICES ABOVE WILL FEATURE  
AN ABUNDANCE OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

Upcoming services at our regular time include:

Sunday Jan 8 - Epiphany Sunday service

Sunday Jan 15 - Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Sundays Jan 22, Jan 29, Feb 5, Feb 12, and Feb 19 - Sundays after Epiphany


Wednesday Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday



# December 2022

## Salem Lutheran Church



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU Dec 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Rostered Leaders - God at the Center</li> </ul>	
4 <b>Advent 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am In Person Worship</li> <li>10:30am Forward on the FIRST</li> </ul>	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm S CT Rostered Ldrs Mtg on Anti-Racism</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Rostered Leaders' Tuesday Talk and</li> <li>12pm Book Club</li> </ul>	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Lord, Teach Us to Pray</li> <li>6:30pm Bible Study on ACTS</li> </ul>	8	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Rostered Leaders - God at the Center</li> </ul>	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8am The BREAKFAST Gathering!</li> </ul>
11 <b>Advent 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am In Person Worship</li> <li>4pm Southern CT Conference COLLABORATI</li> </ul>	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm S CT Rostered Ldrs Mtg on Anti-Racism</li> <li>6:30pm Social Ministry Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Rostered Leaders' Tuesday Talk and</li> <li>6pm Stewardship Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Lord, Teach Us to Pray</li> <li>6:30pm Bible Study on ACTS</li> </ul>	15	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Rostered Leaders - God at the Center</li> </ul>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11am Inner-View Chat n Chew</li> </ul>
18 <b>Advent 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am In Person Worship</li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm S CT Rostered Ldrs Mtg on Anti-Racism</li> <li>6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting</li> <li>7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Rostered Leaders' Tuesday Talk and</li> </ul>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Lord, Teach Us to Pray</li> <li>6:30pm Bible Study on ACTS</li> </ul>	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Rostered Leaders - God at the Center</li> </ul>	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am In Person Worship</li> </ul>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm S CT Rostered Ldrs Mtg on Anti-Racism</li> <li>7pm Council Meeting</li> </ul>	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Rostered Leaders' Tuesday Talk and</li> </ul>	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Lord, Teach Us to Pray</li> <li>6:30pm Bible Study on ACTS</li> </ul>	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Rostered Leaders - God at the Center</li> </ul>	31



Bruce Tomasko.....	1
Ella Kenyon .....	2
Elijah Caragol .....	4
Barbara Howard.....	7
Ashley Baronavski .....	8
Dale Danowski.....	8
Landon Jawarski.....	13
Susan Murphy.....	15
Natalie Kenyon .....	16
Nancy Headford.....	19
Joseph Roberts.....	21
Katherine Pytleski .....	22
James McWain .....	23
Priscilla Schulz.....	29
Raymond Anderson .....	31



## Birthdays

Mark your calendar and join us on Dec 10 for breakfast and Seafarer's Gift Bag Packing Party. We will gather at Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday, Dec 10, at 9:00 for breakfast and 10:00 for gift bag packing. This will be a great opportunity to meet members from Our Saviours, Grace, and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches as we combine our efforts to make this year's collection better than ever.

## 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

# Do I have a Cold, Sinusitis, or an Allergy?

We all want to stay healthy for the holidays. Did you know that Christmas trees and decorations can cause an allergic reaction? The culprits are mold and dust. So, do I have a cold, sinusitis or an allergy?

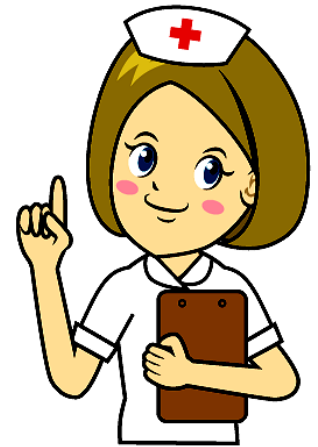
Colds, sinusitis and allergies may start with similar symptoms. Colds and sinusitis are infections caused from a virus or bacteria. Cold symptoms go away quicker even without treatment. Without treatment, sinusitis and allergies will continue to bother you.

A cold is caused by any one of the many viruses. Cold symptoms can be nasal stuffiness, sneezing, runny nose, and sore throat. Usually only infants and toddlers have an elevated temperature with a cold. Other symptoms such as headache, cough, post-nasal drip, burning eyes, muscle aches, or a decreased appetite may accompany a cold. If your symptoms last longer than 7 – 10 days, you may have a sinus infection or allergies.

Acute sinusitis occurs when bacteria infect the sinus cavities. Pollutants, allergies, or a cold cause the sinuses to become inflamed and unable to drain. This can lead to congestion and infection. Chronic sinusitis is when you have frequent sinusitis or when the infection lasts three months or more. If you suspect you have sinusitis, you need to see a doctor for you may need an antibiotic.

Allergies are caused from your body overreacting to common substances such as pollens, food, mold, Christmas trees, decorations, dust, feathers, animal dander, and chemicals. Allergy symptoms can be itchy, watery eyes, nasal and sinus congestion, headaches, sneezing, scratchy throat, hives, or shortness of breath. Try to avoid your allergy triggers and avoid smoking.

Symptoms of a cold or an allergy may be relieved by over-the-counter and prescription medications. Your doctor may recommend antihistamines, decongestants, pain relievers or nasal sprays and to drink plenty of water.



## Handling Your Food Allergies During the Holidays

Christmas and New Years are all about yummy foods. Unfortunately, some delicious treats can make you loved one or you sick. The most common foods that cause allergies are: eggs, cow's milk, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, wheat, fish, and shellfish. See an allergist if any foods cause you to have hives, intestinal problems, itchy, stuffy, runny nose, sneezing, swelling of the tongue, lips, or throat, asthma, or anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction).

If a family member or you have been diagnosed with a food allergy, you must use caution when eating. Always have your EpiPen with you. You must avoid the foods that you are allergic to. Carefully check ingredient labels on food products (especially candy wrappers). When eating out, ask the kitchen staff, not just the waiter, what the ingredients are in the prepared meals. You can call ahead to restaurants to find safe foods on their menu. If you go to a party at school or at a friend's house, bring a safe treat or dish with you. Make sure the teachers or hosts know your food allergies. If you accidentally ingest a food that you are allergic to and have an untoward reaction, administer your EpiPen (epinephrine shot) and call 9-1-1. The hospital emergency room will treat your immediate problem and any delayed reaction. Have yummy and safe holidays.

# Healthy Living Tips

The article, "Best Advice from Top Docs", suggests everyday life style adjustments that are most important for greater health.

- Exercise regularly like taking a daily 30-minute walk.
- Get 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night.
- Be more social and happier by spending time each day with a friend or loved one and by reducing stress.
- Reduce consumption of junk food such as cookies, cakes, chips, soda, and fast foods.
- Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products.
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Quit smoking and excessive drinking and taking too many pain killers.
- Do not ignore health problems or symptoms.
- Make a point to read food labels. Low sodium is defined as 140 mg of sodium per serving.
- Cut back on the cholesterol and total fat that you eat. Avoid anything on a food label with "partially hydrogenated" fats or oils in them.
- Keep your blood pressure within acceptable ranges.



# WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

**Welcome to WONDROUS WEDNESDAYS!** On Wednesday we have 2 wonderful opportunities to live into our mission of Encountering God, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives. The links are all on the calendar on our website at [SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org) under the Resources Tab.

**\* Every Wednesday at 12:00 noon we meet on zoom for prayer.** You can pray out loud if you want, or you can simply ask others to pray for you or for the concerns on your mind or heart. The more we talk with God and the more we listen to God, the more God is able to work through us. And the more we pray TOGETHER the more the power of prayer is multiplied.

**\* And finally, every Wednesday at 6:30 pm we conclude with an Evening Bible Study 6:30-7:30 on zoom, led by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris.** Join this diverse and interesting group of people for a study that is not simply informational but transformational. We continue our study of the book of Acts, concluding at 7:15 with a brief service of Holy Communion.

**The next breakfast and faith discussion will be held on December 10th at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford, at 8:00 (7:00 to help cook).**

**Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, Saturday December 17th at 11:00 am.** Details forthcoming.

**There are many ways to find the zoom link for worship and all other Salem events.** The most reliable way is to go to our website - [www.salembridgeport.org](http://www.salembridgeport.org), choose the Resource tab, and click on Calendar. Then on the calendar, go to the day, the event, and when you click on it, it will open up the zoom invitation. You can click on the link, or copy and paste it into your browser. **To see how to do this, [click here](#):**

We also include the zoom links in our weekly email blasts, and in this announcement section of our Sunday bulletin. You can find links to Sunday worship materials like the bulletin, sermon, and donate page at [www.salembridgeport.org/live](http://www.salembridgeport.org/live). **Or to see how to get there, [click here](#):**





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION**

## On holy harvests and chopsticks

By Tim Brown

One of my favorite Thanksgiving memories happened in holy surprise. I had been called to my first parish in Chicago, and traveling to see family wouldn't be convenient.

My wife and I decided to have a small, intimate Thanksgiving meal at our new apartment and, following Jesus' invitation to be hospitable to our neighbors, we invited two of her co-workers, both from China. It would be their first Thanksgiving in the States and we didn't want them to spend it alone.

The thought of hosting guests new to our traditions and customs enlivened me. Despite our limited resources, we prepared a small turkey (and I spent hours watching YouTube videos on trussing it!), with stuffing, potatoes, green beans and some traditional side dishes. We turned on the parade, made plans to watch football and got out our fanciest dinnerware.

When our guests arrived, they came bearing dishes of their own, wanting to add to the feast. To our very American offerings we added short ribs, dumplings and a wonderful dessert roll that toed the line between savory and sweet.

As we sat down to dinner, after a very thankful grace, one of our guests picked up the fork and puzzled at it. "Would you like chopsticks?" I asked. "Do you have any?" she said with excitement.

Away went our fancy flatware, and out came our ceramic chopsticks.

That Thanksgiving we ate turkey and potatoes, ribs and dumplings with our chopsticks, laughing and giving thanks for the unique moment. It remains one of my favorite memories and one of my most honest teaching moments in life.

When someone wants to add to your family's feast, let them. When someone invites your family into a new way of hospitality, accept.

That feast was, I think, as close to a eucharist outside a congregation as I've ever had. It was certainly sacred, if not sacramental.

### Practices

Look up traditionally festive foods from other cultures or from your family's heritage. Include a dish or two at your Thanksgiving meal from those cultures and discuss with your family the importance of learning about all God's people around the world.

Ask everyone to give thanks for something different on their plate for the feast prayer. Honor those who grew the food, picked it and got it to the table. God's creative sustenance deserves an individual acknowledgment at least once a year.

Talk with your family about how the Bible often uses agrarian images to show God's abundance. Discuss the idea that the miracle of seeds becoming food is a resurrection moment: the shoots burst from the ground to become a new creation, which we take in to become renewed ourselves.

Tim Brown is a pastor, writer, and ELCA director for congregational stewardship.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

## ELCA WORLD HUNGER

### Lutheran Development Services, Zimbabwe

Through its network, educational resources and grants for ministry, ELCA World Hunger accompanies people in understanding and addressing the challenges that contribute to hunger and poverty. In the second half of 2021, ELCA World Hunger continued its accompaniment of partners in 60 countries and took exciting steps toward expanding accessibility of virtual and print resources. ELCA World Hunger is building the capacity of leaders to address the link between climate justice and hunger, partnering with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in the launch of its Center for Climate Justice and Faith, and creating effective spaces for Lutherans from the United States and around the world to learn from one another and advocate together for justice and economic sustainability for our most vulnerable neighbors. In 2022, ELCA World Hunger looks forward to gathering with network leaders, expanding engagement and leadership opportunities for young people and people with lived experience of hunger or poverty, and focusing efforts on the intersection of hunger and housing.

With a vision of transformed, robust and resilient communities, Lutheran Development Services in Zimbabwe promotes peace, justice and sustainable livelihoods through activities such as improved agricultural production, climate-smart agricultural practices and microenterprise development. The Chikombedzi Learning and Demonstration Centre (CLDC) has implemented training in conservation farming, which has produced a drastic increase in yields. Conservation farming is based on environmentally friendly techniques and practices that help farmers increase crop yields and improve soil condition over the long term, which reduces the need to regularly clear new fields.



Alice Mapikure practices conservation farming with a sorghum seed variety she received after attending lessons at the CLDC.

*"Pfumvudza [conservation farming] is new to me," recalls Emma Mangwede, one of the CLDC's 64 members. "I had never heard about it. I joined this group because I was keen to learn how to survive as an old lady looking after seven grandchildren. I practiced this new farming method in my field where I produced sorghum, and the yield is impressive."*

Alice Mapikure, a widow with eight children, also practices conservation farming with the "Marcia" variety of sorghum seed that she received after attending lessons at the CLDC. "I collected nine scotch-cart loads of sorghum heads from the same plot where I had only one load in the previous season," she says. "I will be able to feed my children and sell some of the produce to raise income for school fees and other daily needs."