



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*6th Sunday
after the
Epiphany
of
Our Lord*

*February 12, 2023
9:30 AM*



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www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

We want you to feel safe so please know that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. **And we also have one running here in the lounge where we are worshipping today and next Sunday.** Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

How is your life different from your non-Christian friend's? For those who love God with all their heart, who listen intently each and every day to what God is saying, and who obey God even when it seems crazy or risky or even scary to do so, there is a huge difference. Today's first reading from Deuteronomy calls us to choose the way of life – not simply for ourselves, but for the world. Paradoxically, to choose this kind of life may lead through the cross and death before we are raised to new life. In our second lesson Paul reminds us that leaders in the church are not the ones who should be in control of the ministry and future of the church, but rather are called to submit to God's will and authority, and to do whatever it is that God asks, no matter how foolish or counterintuitive it may seem. In our gospel Jesus reminds us how much God loves us and therefore how much we can trust God, even when everything around us tells us to trust in ourselves.

A zoom meeting for all Salem members and members of other Lutheran congregations in Greater Bridgeport and beyond will be hosted by our synod on Sunday February 19th at 3:00 for the purpose of hearing from pastors and lay people who have made different decisions regarding their congregation's future – from continuing as they are, to having 2 congregations die to be raised as a new congregation, to having a smaller congregation absorbed into a larger one, to simply closing. After the 30-40 minutes presentation there will be time for questions.

n person today following worship and a brief coffee hour. We hope every single one of Salem's members will be online for this important informational meeting.

God wants to spend time with us. God has some things to say to us. And God wants to hear from us. One of the primary ways God listens to Salem is through our praying together. And one of the primary ways God speaks to us is through Bible Study. If we expect to know God's will for us, we must come together to listen to what God has to say. So, please! Join us for Prayer this week and also for Bible Study, as we watch and reflect on the third & final part of a modern day story of Acts, "The Insanity of God".

To join us for prayer on zoom Wednesday at 12:00 click here:

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

And to join us for Bible Study 6:30-7:25, click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119212353?pwd=WFdhU3ZaL1BUb2syZmdzREdTZVpsdz09>

If you cannot access zoom just let Pastor Marjo know and you can join via speakerphone. And for anyone not able to join us on Sundays, Holy Communion will be offered at 7:25.

Also on Wednesday, at 8:30 pm, African Descent Ministries of the ELCA invites you to celebrate Black History month with the ELCA's Talks at the Desk Season 2, a 4-part video series that will explore diverse expressions of the church. A new video will premiere each Wednesday in February at 7:30 Central/8:30 Eastern time. Watch them live on Facebook, stream them on YouTube, or download them at <https://ELCA.org/ADM> . For more info, go to: <https://ELCA.org/TalksAtTheDesk>.

On Saturday at 11:00 please join Jeanette Harris & Genesis Gospel Cafe at the Roma Club, 100 Front St, Bridgeport, for "African American History Makers Among Us"!

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Jesus At The Center

Verse 1

Jesus at the center of it all Jesus at the center of it all
From beginning to the end It will always be it's always been You Jesus Jesus

Chorus

And nothing else matters Nothing in this world will do
Jesus You're the center Ev'rything revolves around You Jesus You

Verse 2

Jesus be the center of my life Jesus be the center of my life
From beginning to the end It will always be it's always been You Jesus Jesus

Bridge

From my heart to the heavens Jesus be the center It's all about You yes it's all about You
From my heart to the heavens Jesus be the center It's all about You yes it's all about You (Jesus)
(REPEAT)

Verse 3

Jesus be the center of Your church Jesus be the center of Your church
And ev'ry knee will bow And ev'ry tongue shall confess You

Interlude

Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus

CCLI Song # 6115180

Adam Ranney | Israel Houghton | Micah Massey

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Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Sound Of The New Breed (Admin. by Integrity Music)

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Performance # 1 by Summit RDU, #theworldupsidedown, Summit Worship, 04/20/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb7JJQ3vnXs> [5:22]

Performance # 2 by Church of the City New York, 12/02/21

Our vision and our desire is to see “the fame & deeds of God renewed & known in our time” (Hab. 3:2).

To that end, we live as those who pursue God’s presence in our midst,

and practice the Way of Jesus in our time and place,

to bring spiritual, social, and cultural renewal to the city.

We gather at 9am, 11am (with live broadcast), 4pm and 6pm every Sunday.

To find out more about Church of the City New York, visit <https://church.nyc>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFWt3ahRpn4> [5:17]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who spoke Light into the darkness,
in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World,
and in the name of the Spirit who desires to shine in our hearts that all the world may see!

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.

Having finished our study of the book of Acts, we're spending last week and this

watching the documentary "The Insanity of God", a modern story of Acts.

And after that, we'll see where the Spirit directs our study.

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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 will you pray with me?

God who made us, God who loves us, from the beginning you have desired only the best for us –
that we live in the light of your presence, in the joy of your love,
knowing that we are your creatures and you are our Creator.

Every moment we can choose to love you or to love ourselves,

we can choose faith or fear, we can choose unhappiness or joy.

And so we come today, inviting you to come into our hearts and minds,

to light up our lives and drive out the darkness,

to fill us with such hope and peace and love and joy

that there's no room left for despair or conflict or apathy or sorrow.

May our worship be more than rote words; may it be the expression of the greatest love we know.

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

OPENING HYMN Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 404)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Come, gracious Spirit, heav'nly dove,
with light and comfort from above.
Come, be our guardian and our guide;
o'er ev'ry thought and step preside.**

- 2 The light of truth to us display
and make us know and choose your way;
plant holy fear in ev'ry heart,
that we from God may ne'er depart.**

- 3 Lead us to Christ, the living way,
nor let us from his pastures stray.
Lead us in holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with God.**

- 4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share
fullness of joy forever there;
lead us to our eternal rest,
to be with God forever blest.**

*Text: based on John 14:17, 16:13-15, Hebrews 4:9-10, 12:14
by Simon Browne, 1680–1732, alt; Meter L M*

Music: HERR JESU CHRIST, MEINS, German folk tune, 15th cent.

Text & Music are in the Public Domain

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Halifax Lutheran Church, 02/25/21*

Hymn 404 - Evangelical Lutheran Worship, #490/655 in our hymn series.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8zCjIUIvF4> [2:18]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of YHWH your God that I am commanding you today, by loving YHWH your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and YHWH your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving YHWH your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that YHWH swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham & Sarah, to Isaac & Rebecca, and to Jacob, Leah & Rachel.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, YHWH, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness", and again, "God knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile".

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 6:24-34 *You may stand if you so desire.*

"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

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

You may either stand or remain seated as you prefer.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Let us affirm our beliefs together as the community of Christ:

We believe in God,

**Creator of the good earth, where the trees form a corridor of praise
and the birds form a choir to welcome each dawn;**

**Creator of the holy earth, where flowers spin in delight
and the ocean washes pain from the shore;**

**Creator of the precious earth, where air, water, fire and living creatures tumble together,
sometimes in joyous accord, but often in hurtful disarray.**

**We believe in Jesus, the restorer of the good path,
who leads us into the depths of prayer and the heights of praise,
who guides us through valleys of despair
and along mountain paths of risk,
who beckons us to renew relationships and restore unity.**

**We believe in the Spirit, who stirred the church into being
and continually prompts us to be a river of hope, a stream of care,
a fountain of joy and an ocean of love.**

We believe in an amazing God, a risen Christ, and a life-giving 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,
that we may encounter God, build relationships, and change lives.**

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

You may stand, sit, or kneel for the prayers.

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world.

From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for Camp Calumet Lutheran, and United Lutheran Seminary.

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

Bill Winter, Ann Martin, and Carol Lansing.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water.

Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change.

Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life.

In places where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit.

Where death holds sway through violence, disease & hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nurture all in need, especially Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, Dave, Dennis, Diane, Diane, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Gigi, Grace, Jacob, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Joey, John, Linda, Liz, Katherine, Marija, Natalie, Paula, Pastor Ruth, Sara, Sara Jean, Steve, VL, and all those we name in our hearts and on our lips.

Bring healing to all who experience trauma

caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships.

Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation.

Open our eyes and ears and hearts and minds to discern your will,

call us to your purpose, and keep us from quarrelling.

Help us to trust not in our own wisdom but to rely on you to make a way where there is no way, to bring life out of death, and to make all things new.

Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God,

trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **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 it 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 HYMN **If You But Trust in God to Guide You**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 769)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gentle hand through all your ways,
you'll find that God is there beside you when crosses come, in trying days.
Trust then in God's unchanging love; build on the rock that will not move.**
- 2 What gain is there in anxious weeping, in helpless anger and distress?
If you are in your Savior's keeping, in sorrow will he love you less?
For Christ who took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev'ry loss.**
- 3 The Lord our restless hearts is holding, in peace and quietness content.
We rest in God's good will unfolding, what wisdom from on high has sent.
God, who has chosen us by grace, knows very well the fears we face.**
- 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving, offer your service faithfully.
Trust heaven's word; though undeserving, you'll find this promise true to be.
This is our confidence indeed: God never fails in time of need.**

*Text: based on Psalm 55:18, 22, Lamentations 3:22-24, Hebrews 13:5
 by Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite; Meter 9 8 9 8 9 8*

Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT by Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite

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*Performance by Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Columbia SC, 1-/04/20
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y9p6Cvb9lM> [2:43]*

If You But Trust in God to Guide You



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed; God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
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Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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 today's reading from Deuteronomy 30:

Love, obey, and hold fast to God

that you may live into the promises of God,

where God will delight in giving you the desires of your heart.

Amen

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may stand if you so desire and make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new,
transforming our hearts and minds, our witness and our service. **Amen**

Trusting in God's boundless power and endless love, let us confess our sin.

**Holy One, source of our renewal,
we confess that too often we have chosen the path to death, instead of life.
We have tried to solve our own problems instead of relying on you.
We have not understood how much you love us; we have not learned to rest in your grace.
When we play the prodigal child, remind us that you are running to meet us,
ready to wrap us in your arms.
Remind us that you've promised to prepare a table for us in the presence of our enemies,
a table of your body and blood that you've shed for us.
Remind us that you've overcome and we can lift our song of praise for what you've done.
Amen**

Thus says our God:

“Welcome home! You are my child and I forgive you! Welcome home!”

Know that you are forgiven and then live – really LIVE – in the wondrous gift of that grace!
Take the gift, and open it, and you will know life abundant and joy without measure! **Amen**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!

And also with you!

Open your hearts!

We open them to God and one another!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

It is right to give God thanks & praise!

In the night in which he was betrayed....

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen

The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you.

*During communion, you may take your communion elements during worship
or hold on to your kit until you get home.*

*If you take the elements inside the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet.
After the service, please dispose of your own kit either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.*

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen!**

SENDING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
This Far by Faith # 283 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 733)*

You may stand if you so desire.

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

*Text: based on Lamentations 3:22-23 by Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960
Meter 11 10 11 10 and refrain*

Music: FAITHFULNESS by William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

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Performance by St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Lexington, SC, 06/18/20

*As we spend more time away from our beautiful sanctuary here at St. Stephen's,
one of the many things we have begun to really miss is hearing our organ,
played by Assistant Music Director and Organist Matthew Ganong,
and singing hymns as a congregation.*

*We decided to record a hymn to be posted every day or so
to virtually bring you back into the sanctuary.*

You are invited to listen, share, and sing along with these hymns,

led by Associate Pastor Jason Antley and Music Director Bailey Slice Parker.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGY3rA62soE> [3:25]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, without worry or fear, for God knows and will supply your every need.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE SONG

Goodness Of God

Verse 1

I love You Lord Oh 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 the goodness of God

Chorus

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 the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice You have led me through the fire
In 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 the goodness of God

Bridge

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

CCLI Song # 7117726

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Performance by Westmore Church of God, 06/09/19

with soloist, Alicia Wheeler and the Westmore Sanctuary Choir.

For more information about Westmore, visit westmorechurch.com.

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqRME_Ho6rI [9:31]

Announcements

PLEASE JOIN THE SALEM'S WATER BOTTLE CHALLENGE to benefit the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Janus Center's school closet program! School children in Bridgeport public schools are in dire need of drinking water as drinking fountains have been dismantled due to Covid and also because of lead in the pipes. Our own Cindy Roberts has found a most cost-effective way to supply water – by the pallet! A pallet holds 84 cases, each holding 24 bottles for a total of 2,016 bottles. Cindy has negotiated the price down to \$6.12 (including the \$.10 deposit) = \$514.08/pallet. Salem delegates to the CCGB would like to challenge our congregation to raise enough funds to cover 1 pallet and then challenge other congregations to do the same. Please make checks payable to Salem and in the memo list “water bottles”. You can also contribute cash by placing it in an envelope, marked “from <YOUR NAME> for water bottles”, and place it in the offering box or give it to Pastor Marjo. If you have any questions please see Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Tom Larson, Cindy Roberts, Bill Winter or Pastor Marjo.

Upcoming services at our regular time include:

The Transfiguration of Our Lord - 9:30 am Sunday Feb 19 @ Salem

Ash Wednesday - 6:00 pm Wednesday Feb 22 @ **Grace Lutheran, 150 Chapel St, Stratford**

Midweek Lenten services – 7:30 pm Wednesdays in March on zoom with Our Saviour's

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County invites your support as a guest, sponsor, or in-kind donor, at their 2023 Annual Gala April Fools Masquerade Ball Saturday April 1, 2023, 6:30-11:00 PM, Woodway Country Club, 540 Hoyt Street, Darien, CT. For more information, please visit habitatcfc.org/gala.

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. 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 a check to the 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”.

You can also feed the hungry by helping to collect food at the following times & places:

March 18 for Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry at Stop & Shop on Main in Bridgeport

April 15 for Trumbull Food Pantry at Stop & Shop on Quality St in Trumbull

May 20 for Sterling House Food Pantry at Stop & Shop on East Main St in Stratford

June 17 for Operation Hope at Stop & Shop on Kings Hwy Cutoff in Fairfield

The Monday morning team that helps at Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry will help deliver the collections on the following Mondays. See Richard Lansing to sign up!

The Connecticut Hospice, Inc. is accepting applications for new volunteers! Our patients and families are in need of your care and support. If you have an interest in companionship, light housekeeping or making meals, please contact Joan Cullen, Director of Volunteers at 203-315-7510.

Please support the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's ministries with your donations of time and money.

- Their FEED Center is improving the nutritional value of the food served and distributed through their network of food pantries and soup kitchens and is also providing free culinary classes and entrepreneurial opportunities to help lift people out of poverty. Their Mobile Market truck delivers fresh fruits and vegetables to the communities who have a hard time getting to the stores.
- PROJECT LEARN is the after-school program for elementary students which is run by the Summerfield United Methodist Church.
- Their JANUS Center supports 90 young people each year, offering a 24-hour hot line, respite care services, mentoring, and interventions, helping to keep them in school and out of the juvenile justice system – leveraging hope and changing lives. Parenting Journey workshops help parents learn skills to help their families. The Outreach program works with homeless youth.
- PROYECTO NUEVA VITA (PNW) helps formerly incarcerated citizens upon their release with a set of clothes, needed documents, bus passes and group meetings to help get their lives back together.

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

**Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs
Tuesday, February 14, 2023**

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546
Saturday, February 18, 2023**

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and Vicinity Presents:



Black History Month

Scholarship Prayer Breakfast

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023
9:00AM

CREATIVE VENUE AND RENTALS
40 LOGAN ST.
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06607

TICKETS: \$35



Scan QR Code For Tickets



Guest Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Charlie Stallworth
East End Baptist Tabernacle Church



\$IMABPT21

Rev. William D. McCullough-President
Rev. Brenda J. Barnes-Vice President