



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

*February 19, 2023
9:30 AM*



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www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) – 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.

Happy Transfiguration Day! Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins this week on Ash Wednesday. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This mountaintop experience recalls the story of Moses meeting God on Mount Sinai, and how the experience caused his face to shine. These visions of glory sustain us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. This week we begin our yearly baptismal journey through Lent to Easter.

A zoom meeting for all Salem members and members of other Lutheran congregations in Greater Bridgeport and beyond will be hosted by our synod TODAY 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. **We hope every single one of Salem's members will be online for this important informational meeting at this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87939221483?pwd=WHJ0dSs3bHBZQTNYZU14dVc3SGswUT09>

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday so our Wednesday schedule will look a bit different.

12:00 noon Weekday Lenten Prayer Line via phone – you can call in to our prayer line at: 681-999-0232, using access code 673980#. **OR**

12:00 noon Weekly Prayer Gathering via zoom – you can zoom in to our prayer gathering at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09>

6:00 – Ash Wednesday Worship @ Grace Lutheran, 150 Chapel St, Stratford

6:30 – NO Weekly 6:30 Bible Study on zoom this week.

8:30 – Week 4 of 4 – ELCA's Talks at the Desk – 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 8:30 Eastern time. You can catch 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>. (Watching this can be your "act of justice" this Lent!)

Please remember to purchase your ticket to the ecumenical scholarship prayer breakfast this Saturday 2/25 at 9:00! Pastor Marjo has a few at cost, or you can order them online through Eventbrite for an additional \$4 fee. See details at the back of this bulletin.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Beautiful Savior

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 838)*

- 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

*Text: based on Psalm 45:2, Ephesians 1:3-10, Hebrews 1:3-4,
from Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904; Meter 5 5 7 5 5 8
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.
Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

*Performance # 1 by the Virtual Choir & Orchestra of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
directed, mixed & produced by David E. Chávez, Music & Worship Minister
with background video clips courtesy StoryBlocks.com
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoMSAHocTlc> [4:00]*

*Performance # 2 is a 1941 recording of F. Melius Christiansen conducting the St. Olaf Choir
in his own arrangement of "Beautiful Savior"
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xxNW67UReQ> [4:03]*

*Performance # 3 by St. Olaf Choir (Virtual), 05/29/20
Please enjoy this virtual performance, featuring members of the 2019-2020 choir.
© 2020 St. Olaf College. All Rights Reserved. ©MorningStar Music Publishers
Website: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/choir/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stolafchoir/> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stolafmusic/>
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndUv80ALGps> [3:25]*

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.

Today at 3:00 please join us for a zoom meeting hosted by our synod

for the purpose of hearing from pastors and lay people

who have made different decisions regarding their congregation's future –

f/ 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.

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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, we praise you for the light that you spoke into being that allowed all of creation to unfold!

We praise you for calling the seemingly small & inconsequential people of Israel
to be a Light to the Nations!

We praise you for sending your beloved Child, Jesus, to be the Light of the World!

We praise you for sending the Spirit to enlighten our minds and empower our spirits!

Shine your light on each and every person gathered here

that we may leave this day with healed and hopeful hearts,
trusting in your boundless power and your endless love.

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

OPENING SONG

Shine, Jesus, Shine

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 651, This Far by Faith # 64, Worship & Praise # 123,
and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 671)*

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us
shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story
shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

*Text: based on Isaiah 60:1-11, Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36,
2 Corinthians 3:12-18, by Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; Meter 9 9 10 10 3 3 and refrain*

Music: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE by Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music

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*Performance by musicians of Tabor Lutheran Church, Branford, CT:
Charles Stack, keyboard; Kiersten Bjork, alto; Lane Shoemaker, soprano*

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Exodus 24:12-18

YHWH said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction”. So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them”.

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of YHWH settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day YHWH called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of YHWH was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: (alternate): Psalm 99

The LORD is king; let the people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake....

Let them confess God’s name, which is great and awesome;

God is the Holy One.

O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down before God’s footstool;

God is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among your priests,

and Samuel among those who call upon your name,

O LORD, they called upon you,

and you answered them,

you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;

they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God’s holy hill;

for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased”. We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 17:1-9 *You may stand if you so desire.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”. While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid”. And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus only.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead”.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

You may either stand or remain seated as you prefer.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY*

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

**We believe in God whose grandeur and glory are beyond our knowing:
the creator of all life's richness, abundance, and variety,
We believe in a God who is never confined to our imagining,
is never in bondage to our beliefs,
and never held fast in our dwelling places.**

**We believe in Jesus, the infinite God in finite human form,
in whom we glimpse the mystery of the unity of divinity and humanity,
of truth and mercy,
of freedom and responsibility,
of power and vulnerability,
of crucifixion and resurrection,
exploding in love to shine in the darkness and be light for the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the spark of energy, the breath of life,
that enables our bodies, enlightens our minds, enlivens our hearts, & empowers our spirits
to transform us so that we may transform the world.**

**We celebrate this God in whose light we find
healing for the past, help for the present, and hope for the future. Amen**

PURPOSE STATEMENT *(updated by Council in June of 2019)*

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.

Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son.

Equip not only pastors, deacons, and lay ministers, but each and every one of us.

Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness;

may our lives proclaim your greatness.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgport's FEED Center and its Janus Center for Youth in Crisis.

We pray for Salem members & their families.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley.

Bless the work of conservation organizations and inspire us all to protect vital habitats.

Help us to support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world,

especially Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide and give wisdom to all in authority, including mayors, especially Mayor Ganim;

local, state, & national legislators, especially State Representative Vahev, State Senator Moore,

US Representative Himes, and US Senators Blumenthal and Murphy; Governor Malloy;

and President Biden.

Bring freedom and justice to all nations.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all.

Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat.

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....

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture.

Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors;

help us to love and trust you enough to follow the way of the cross.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our thanksgiving for those on whose shoulders we stand,

especially those who have nurtured us in faith.

Give us courage to trust in your timing as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled.

Gracious 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.

OFFERTORYSONG

Come to the Mountain

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Worship & Praise # 32)*

**Jesus took Peter, James, and John
up to the mountain to be alone.
While they were watching Jesus was changed;
and they saw Moses face to face.**

**Come to the mountain to see the light.
Come to the mountain to hear God's word.
Go to the valley, it is your home.
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.**

**"This is my Son!" said a voice from the cloud.
"Listen to him...and do what he says!"
Soon as it came...that vision was gone,
and they saw Jesus standing alone.**

**Come to the mountain to see the light.
Come to the mountain to hear God's word.
Go to the valley, it is your home.
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.**

**We will be changed like Jesus our Lord,
and live with him...in heaven above.
But while we live on this earthly home,
our work as servants never is done.**

**Come to the mountain to see the light.
Come to the mountain to hear God's word.
Go to the valley, it is your home.
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.**

*Text: based on Matthew 17.1-8, Mark 9.2-8, Luke 9.28-36, 1 Corinthians 15.51-52,
by Scott Tunseth, Meter Irregular*

Music: MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY, by Kathy Donlan Tunseth

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Performance by Andy Vaaler, Wendy, and Chad, St. John's Music, Minneapolis, 02/14/21

Music Image: <https://stjohns-mpls.org/wp-content/u...>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlv7wt3Gi5I> [2:38]

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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for the purpose of hearing from pastors and lay people who have made different decisions regarding their congregation's future – f/ 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.

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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 the Second Letter of Peter, Chapter 1:

Be attentive to Jesus, as to a lamp shining in a dark place,

for the day will dawn and the morning star will rise in 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 SONG We Are Marching in the Light / Siyahamba

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 650, This Far by Faith # 63
Worship & Praise # 148, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 866)*

SOUTH AFRICAN

**Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamba (hamba, siyahamba, hamba). Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamba (hamba, siyahamba, hamba). Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.**

ENGLISH

**We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching (marching, we are marching, marching).
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching (marching, we are marching, marching).
We are marching in the light of God.**

Additional stanzas ad lib:

**We are dancing . . .
We are praying . . .
We are singing . . .**

*Text: based on Isaiah 49:1-6, 60:1-11, Revelation 21:22-26 South African traditional;
Meter Irregular*

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Arrangement: Freedom Is Coming

Text & Tune are in the Public Domain.

Translation © 1984 "Freedom Is Coming", Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp;

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Performance by the Tapiola Children's Choir

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bw5Cw_ZnOJw

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and let the light of God shine on you, in you, and through you!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

The Anthem

Verse

By His stripes we are healed
By His nail pierced hands we're free
By His blood we're washed clean
Now we have the victory

Pre-Chorus

The pow'r of sin is broken
Jesus overcame it all
He has won our freedom
Jesus has won it all

Chorus

Hallelujah! You have won the victory!
Hallelujah! You have won it all for me!
'Cause death could not hold You down – You are the risen King!
Seated in majesty, You are the risen King!

Bridge

Our God is risen! He is alive!
He won the victory! He reigns on high! (*repeat Bridge*)

CCLI Song # 5066041

Henry Seeley | Joth Hunt | Liz Webber

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CCLI License # 11092038

Performance by nikkytlyricsworship,

Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International Ministry of Worship –

Lyrics from their 2013 album - One Sound, 10/18/13

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x6PEmTNCw8&t=6s> [8:30?]

Announcements

Upcoming Lenten Services Include:

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

Palm Sunday – 9:30 am Sunday April 2 RIGHT HERE AT SALEM

Maundy Thursday – 6:00 pm Thursday April 6 @ Grace Lutheran, 150 Chapel St, Stratford

Good Friday – 7:30 pm Friday April 7 @ Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield

Easter – 9:30 am Sunday April 9 RIGHT HERE AT SALEM

Other Lenten Opportunities Include:

1. Get your annual "spiritual" – just the way you get your annual physical.

Call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 to arrange a time to discuss how you are, and let her know how she can pray for you.

Or if you prefer to use email to set something up, send your email to

salemsec123@sbcglobal.net.

2. Every Monday thru Friday, from Ash Wed 2/22 thru Maundy Thu 4/6,

call in to our prayer line at 681-999-0232, using access code 673980#,

for a brief time of prayer. You can remain silent and anonymous, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers.

3. Use Ash Wednesday as your day to begin a Lenten fast or establish a new healthier habit.

4. Commit yourself to some new work of charity and one new work of justice.

If you're not sure what to do, Pastor Marjo can offer suggestions.

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 .

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.

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

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

CREDITS

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Affirmation for Transfiguration Sunday borrows from both

Dorothy McRae-McMahon – <https://loddon-malleuca.blogspot.com/2014/02/affirmation-of-faith-for-transfiguration.html>; and

Anne Morris – <https://revannemorris.co.uk/index.php/2022/02/23/an-affirmation-of-faith-based-on-the-transfiguration/>

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and Vicinity Presents:



Black History Month

Scholarship Prayer Breakfast

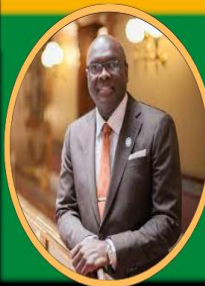
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023
9:00AM

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