



# *Salem Lutheran Church*

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*Full Text – Large Print*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*March 19, 2023*

*9:30 AM*



**The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor**  
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[www.salembridgeport.org](http://www.salembridgeport.org)  
[www.facebook.com/salembridgeport](https://www.facebook.com/salembridgeport)  
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/salembridgeport) – 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 the rest of March.** Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

**During Lent Christians are invited to journey to a place outside this earthly realm.** In today's gospel Jesus sees a man born blind and heals him so that the man can see Jesus for who he really is, while his family and his neighbors and the religious authorities who have witnessed this miracle cannot see. They see only what they have always seen, and are unwilling to open their eyes to see the abundant life Jesus offers. This raises the question for us: do we see what we've always seen – lack, impossibility, decline, and death? or do we see abundance, miracles, growth and life? Gracious God, open our eyes to see the amazing miracles that you are working right here and right now!

**On Wednesdays in Lent we invite you to get to know our amazing God better!**

**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>

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

**7:30 – Lenten Bible Study with Our Savior's at this link:**

## **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](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net).

**2. Again, every Monday thru Friday through Maundy Thursday 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. 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.

## **Upcoming Lenten Services Include:**

**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

# Gathering

## GATHERING SONG

## Here I Am To Worship

*Verse 1* Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made  
This heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

*Chorus* So here I am to worship  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

*Verse 2* King of all days  
Oh so highly exalted  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor

*Bridge* And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

*CCLI Song # 3266032*

*Tim Hughes*

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*Performance # 1 by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Choir, Penticton, BC, 05/30/16  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PrZK4VaYs0> [3:58]*

*Performance # 2 by Russian Youth Choir, Slavic Christian Center, Tacoma, 07/03/10  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARPuKVSeqR0> [4:40]*

*Performance # 3 by Church of Christ 24, 08/02/11*

*Artist: Watershed Worship; Album: I Know You Love Me*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBmi171Vuz4> [3:50]*

***Please note that here we go live on Facebook.***

## **WELCOME**

Welcome in the name of God who calls us on a journey,  
in the name of Jesus who offers to walk with us,  
and in the name of the Spirit who promises to provide all we need along the way!

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.

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**Also, remember these other 3 Lenten opportunities:**

- 1. Sign up for your annual “spiritual” with your pastor –**
- 2. Use this time of Lent to fast or establish a new healthier habit.**
- 3. Commit yourself to some new work of charity and one new work of justice.**

**Links to all of our online events can be found on our calendar at SalemBridgeport.org**

**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 because you spoke light and everything else into being!

Jesus, we praise you because you are the Light of the World!

Spirit, we praise you because when we invite you into our lives, your light shines through us!

God of healing, God of help, God of hope,

open our eyes that we may see you more clearly,

open our hearts that we may love you more dearly,

and open our spirits that we might follow you more nearly day by day.

This morning, may our worship be filled with praise,

our words be filled with love,

our songs be filled with joy.

And may we leave this place excited to tell the world how great you are!

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

**OPENING HYMN**

**Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

*(as found in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, # 843)*

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**
  
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
  
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.**

*Text: Psalm 146:8, Isaiah 35:5, 61:1, Matthew 8:26, 15:30-38, Mark 4:9, Luke 4:18-19,  
John 4:13-14, Revelation 7:16-17 by Rusty Edwards, b. 1955; Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

*Music: NETTLETON by J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part III, 1813*

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*Performance by the Rev. Marjo Anderson, 05/10/20*

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD’. Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice”. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD”. But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart”. Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one”. Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one”. Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these”. Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep”. And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here”. He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one”. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 23** *We will read this in unison.*

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

**You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.**

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

**you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

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

## A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!”

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

## A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 9:1-41

**PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.**

*Narrator:* As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

*Disciple:* Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

*Narrator:* Jesus answered,

*Jesus:* Neither this man nor his parents sinned;  
he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day;  
night is coming when no one can work.

As long as I am in the world, I AM the light of the world.

*Narrator:* When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him,

*Jesus:* Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.

*Narrator:* (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

*Neighbor 1:* Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?

*Neighbor 2:* It is he.

*Neighbor 3:* No, but it is someone like him.

*Narrator:* The man who had been healed kept saying,

*Man:* I am the man.

*Narrator:* But they kept asking him,

*Neighbor 1:* Then how were your eyes opened?

*Man:* The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me,  
‘Go to Siloam and wash’. Then I went and washed and received my sight.

*Narrator:* They said to him,

*Neighbor 2:* Where is he?

*Man:* I do not know.

*Narrator:* They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight.

*Man:* He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.

*Narrator:* Some of the Pharisees said,

*Pharisee 1:* This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.

*Narrator:* But others said,

*Pharisee 2:* How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?

*Narrator:* And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

*Pharisee 1:* What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.

*Man:* He is a prophet.

*Narrator:* The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight & asked them,

*Pharisee 2:* Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

*Narrator:* His parents answered,

*Parent:* We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.

*Narrator:* His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said,

*Parent:* He is of age; ask him.

*Narrator:* So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, & said to him,

*Pharisee 1:* Give glory to God! We know that this man you claimed healed you is a sinner.

*Man:* I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

*Pharisee 2:* What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?

*Man:* I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

*Narrator:* Then they reviled him, saying,

*Pharisee 1:* You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

*Man:* Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

*Pharisee 2:* You were born entirely in sin, and are you trying to teach us?"

*Narrator:* And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

*Jesus:* Do you believe in the Son of Man?

*Man:* And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.

*Jesus:* You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

*Man:* Lord, I believe.

*Narrator:* And he worshiped him. Jesus said,

*Jesus:* I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.

*Narrator:* Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him,

*Pharisee 1:* Surely we are not blind, are we?

*Jesus:* If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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



*You may either stand or remain seated as you prefer.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT**

*(from The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa and from Indonesia)*

As people of the household of God, in faith, and love, and with goodwill to all,  
let us in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ  
give ourselves afresh to him and to one another in joyous covenant,  
promising to walk together with God and one another.

**We believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression.**

**We believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.**

**We believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.**

**We do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor in the power of oppression.**

**We believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people.**

**We denounce, stand, and work against racism,**

**in the power that comes from wealth and privilege, or in any established order that enslaves.**

**We believe that all people are equally human,**

**that order based on violence and injustice is not order.**

**We do not believe that hunger and poverty are inevitable and peace unattainable.**

**We dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform,**

**fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish.**

## **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

*Please be seated.*

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit & mark us with the cross of Christ in baptism.

Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Project Learn, Project Nueva Vida, and its Bridge Building programs.

We pray for protected, safe and nurturing educational environments which promote flourishing, growth, wellbeing, health, and creativity for all students, teachers, paraeducators, administrators and staff, especially those at Fairchild Wheeler High School.

We pray for Salem members & their families.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made.

Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings & establish rulers; guide the work of heads of elected officials.

Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls.

Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve, especially Ann, Anne, Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Diane, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, Frank, Gigi, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Jocelyn, Joe, Joey, John, Linda, Liz, Katherine, Pastor Kari, 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.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask.

Feed us with hunger for justice.

Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community.

Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people, especially Joseph, Guardian of Jesus.

We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

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

We lift our prayers to you, O God,

trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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 SONG

## Lord, My Strength

*(as found in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Worship & Praise # 93)*

**Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock,  
lead me through the dark;  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock,  
heal this wand'ring heart.  
Be my eyes, be my ears,  
be the only voice I hear;  
guide my soul, give me sight,  
help me walk within your light.**

**Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock,  
you and you alone;  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock,  
lead me safely home.  
Ev'ry step that I make,  
be the road I will take;  
be the thoughts that I keep  
and in ev'ry word I speak.**

**Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock,  
lead me through the dark;  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock,  
heal this wand'ring heart.  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock,  
you and you alone:  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock,  
lead me safely home.**

*Text: based on Exodus 15:2, Psalm 28:7, Isaiah 12:2 by Dean Krippaehne; Meter Irregular*

*Music: LORD, MY STRENGTH by Dean Krippaehne*

*Text and music 1999 Augsburg Fortress*

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*Performance by NewSong Worship Team, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC*

*04/08/20*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OK3a7aBbLEc> [3:19]*

# Sending

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Links to all of our online events can be found on our calendar a SalemBridgeport.org**

**For more details on these announcements or to hear about other upcoming events please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.**

## THANK YOU

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,

I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us. I hope you will join us again.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray with me, you can reach her through Salem's website or Facebook page.

## BLESSING

As we say good-bye to our online worshippers,

I'd like to offer to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and in cyberspace, this blessing based on today's reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 5:

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.

Live as children of light that the fruit your life might be good and right and true.

In the name of the Trinity ✚ of Light! 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 journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen**

God's love is infinite and unconditional.

As individuals we have only to accept it and live in its light.

The moment we confess, we are forgiven.

As together we gather for worship, so together we confess our sins as our community,  
and together we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, we confess:

**that too often we focus on the things we lack,**

**that too often we are attached to our own personal agendas,**

**that too often we insist on doing things our own way,**

**that too often we are oblivious to the needs for justice around us.**

God who has heard our confession both forgives and forgets every failing. **Amen!**

Loving God, teach us:

**to see your amazing abundance rather than any lack,**

**to listen more - to you and to each other - and to talk less,**

**to trust in your power and not our own,**

**to build relationships with those who are not like us.**

God who has given us the will to do these things ✝

graciously gives us the power to perform them. **Amen!**

## COMMUNION

*Please be seated.*

God be with you!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

**And also with you!**

**We open them to God and one another!**

**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**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 815)*

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God gave the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path and show me the way to the Father.**

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.**

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*Text: based on John 12.46, Ephesians 5.8-14, 1 John 1, 5, Revelation 21.23;  
by Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Meter 10 7 10 8 and refrain*

*Tune: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934;*

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*Performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska on 08/19/18,*

*sung by the congregation and men of the Plymouth Choir,*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZ78sCBWIrQ> [4:33]*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in the light of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE HYMN

### Awake, O Sleeper

*(from the Hymnal Supplement 1991 # 813)*

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Once you were darkness, once you were lost in the shadows.  
Once you were darkness, now you are children of light.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Live as God's people, live as God's justice and mercy,  
filled with compassion, filled with the power of love.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Shine out with the splendor of love, shine with justice and righteousness.  
Sing the music your spirit has heard, the songs of glory and light.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

*OneLicense Song # #03165*

*Text: based on Ephesians 5 by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;*

*Music: AWAKE, O SLEEPER by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;*

*Text and Music: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.)*

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*Performance by Marty Haugen on Meditation Music's YouTube Channel, 06/05/19*

*from his album: Anthology II: 1985-1989 – The Best of Marty Haugen*

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*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X-ApQ289Fc> [3:30]*

## CREDITS

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## Announcements

# Diapers and Wipes Drive



With the help of one Salem's parishioners, we can get diapers and wipes at a significant discount and tax-free.

So far, we have delivered packages of diapers in Sizes 3 to 7 and packages of wipes to Nourish Bridgeport.

You can help by making a check donation which will be used to buy diapers and wipes at discount. Please make the check out to **Salem Lutheran Church** and put **"Diapers and Wipes"** on the Memo line.

Or you can help by bringing your donations of diapers and wipes to the church. They will be delivered at the end of March to Nourish Bridgeport.



**Salem is sponsoring monthly Food Collections** at the following times & places:

**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!

**If you'd like to do more than feed people**, you can also contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is used to help members who have other financial needs.

**The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport announces its annual "Spring Fling" fundraiser!** The event will feature the highly acclaimed and well-loved musical, "cabaret", and will be held at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre. The Council has literally "bought out the house" for **Thursday evening, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, so mark your calendars NOW!

**Grace Lutheran invites you to their annual Easter Bunny Breakfast, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 9-11**, at 150 Chapel St, Stratford. There will be a pancake breakfast along with an egg hunt. The Egg hunt is free for a child with the purchase of an adult "all you can eat" breakfast. Bring your own basket! Adults – \$8; Children 4 to 12 – \$5; Children 3 & under – free. Easter Bunny visits throughout the morning: ages 3 & under–9:30; ages 4-5–10:00; ages 6-8–10:30; ages 9-12–11:00. Please contact Peggy at 203-373-3151 to reserve a slot. Walk-ins are accepted but wait-time may be longer.

**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](http://habitatcfc.org/gala).

**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.

## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

### **Joseph, Guardian of Jesus Sunday, March 19, 2023**

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade.

He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus.

It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

### **Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556 Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer,

which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion.

He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

### **Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758 Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher.

Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell,

he was more concerned with God's love.

He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

### **Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 Friday, March 24, 2023**

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression.

He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

### **Annunciation of Our Lord Saturday, March 25, 2023**

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation,

in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God.

The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

**You are invited to support the Greater Bridgeport Area's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual CROP Walk on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>** (rain or shine) beginning 1:30 pm at United Congregational Church, 2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport. You can certainly walk to support this effort (there is a 2.2 mile walk as well as a 1 mile walk), but there are other ways to be involved also. You can invite family and friends to walk. You can donate money to people walking from Salem. Or you can donate non-perishable food that will go to nOURish BRIDGEPORT's food pantry at the UCC. Or you can volunteer to help at the walk. This year 25% of the proceeds will benefit these local organizations: Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Daughters of Charity Rescue Mission, King's Pantry, Operation Hope, Thomas Merton Center, Stratford Baptist Church Food Pantry, Trumbull Social Services, the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, and Spooner House. The remainder supports the work of Church World Service around the world, in places like the Ukraine. For more info, visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023> or speak with ... or Pastor Marjo.

**The FEED Center's culinary careers training program, CREATE**, is a 10-week course, offered four days per week for four hours per day. Students learn a wide range of culinary techniques including knife skills, baking, front of house management, back of house management, and food safety. Students also have the opportunity to receive a ServSafe Food Manager or Handler certification which an industry standard. CREATE is run out of our commercial kitchen located in Bridgeport's East End. Our new facility allowed us to expand our CREATE program to offer paid opportunities for graduates in our production kitchen. For more information contact Rison Mackey, Culinary Instructor [risonmackey@ccgb.org](mailto:risonmackey@ccgb.org) or (203) 331-6292

**Gather, Play, Wonder, Grow, and Explore at Camp Calumet Lutheran All Year Long!** Whether you're taking time for quiet, self-care or enjoying retreat time with others, Calumet is ready to serve you with superb hospitality and great home-hooking, in the Conference Center rooms & Village Cabins, Lakeside Bunk Cabins (heated or unheated), or in the Retreat Lodge & Staff House on the Lake.

The 65-site Family Campground is open May-October, and adults and families who visit here, enjoy laughter, conversation, connections, and learning in the outdoors while getting to know their campsite neighbors, through walks, campfires, lake-plunging, and beach time. RVs, Pop-ups, Tent-camping, and Platform rentals available.

Calumet's iconic Resident Camp for Kids has been impacting lives of campers and staff for over 80 years. From the very beginning, way back in 1960, Calumet has been able to point to the life-long relationships and authentic connections made here as evidence that Calumet and the Calumet Spirit is simply unique.

**Thank you for your contributions to Salem's Food Assistance Fund!** 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](http://SalemBridgeport.org), click on Donate, and then fill in your amount under "Food Pantry Donation".

# Easter Bunny Breakfast

APRIL 1st 9:00 - 11:00AM

Grace Lutheran Church  
150 Chapel Street  
Stratford, CT



Egg Hunt is FREE for a child  
WITH an adult breakfast  
purchase

Bring your own Basket!

Adult Breakfast: all you can eat -\$8

Child breakfast: all you can eat -\$5

3 and under are FREE

Ages 3 and under: 9:30AM

4-6 years: 10:00 AM

6-8 years: 10:30 AM

9-12 years: 11:00 AM

Easter Bunny

Visits throughout

the morning

Please contact Peggy at the front office to reserve a slot  
(Walk-ins are accepted but waits may be longer)

203-375-3151

Raffle Baskets and chocolate pops for purchase  
Proceeds going to the Turkey earthquake relief