



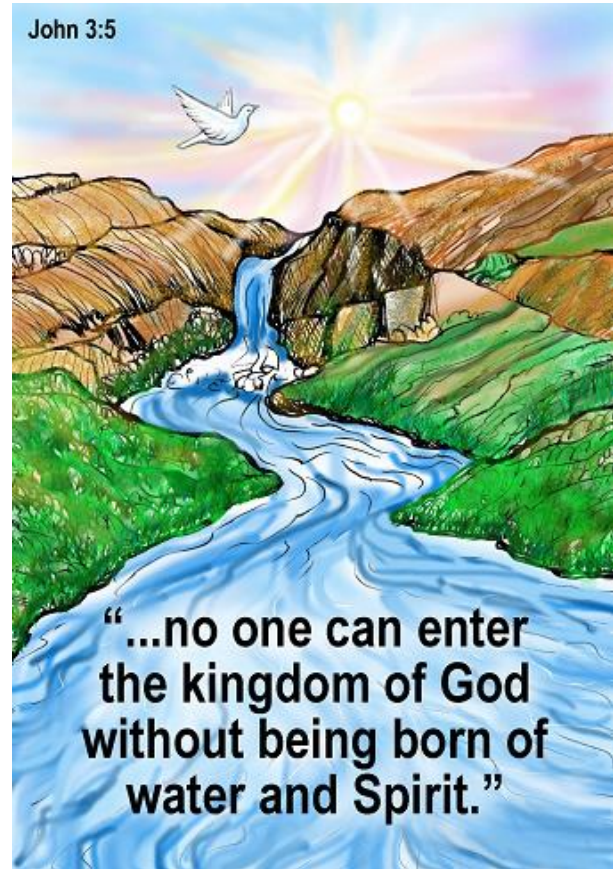
Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

2nd Sunday in Lent

*March 5, 2023
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
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203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
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3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
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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 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 tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. Now Nicodemus was not only a devout person but a religious leader, and yet he was living his life totally in the physical material realm! Even if we've been baptized as infants and have spent our entire lives in the church, that's the temptation we all face, too – to live our lives like everyone else. But Jesus says there is more – so much MORE to life – when we live in the spiritual realm to which Jesus calls us. So how do we find the way to that other place, that spiritual realm, that “kingdom of God”? As Abraham discovered, it's by faith, that absolute trust not in ourselves, but in God and God alone.

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.

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

No Longer Slaves

Verse 1

You unravel me with a melody You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies Till all my fears are gone

Chorus

I'm no longer a slave to fear I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear I am a child of God

Verse 2

From my Mother's womb You have chosen me
Love has called my name I've been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins

Bridge

You split the sea so I could walk right through it My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me so I could stand and sing I am a child of God

CCLI Song # 7030123

Brian Johnson | Joel Case | Jonathan David Helser

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CCLI License # 11092038

Performance #1 by Brian Johnson, Joel Case, Jonathan David Helser,

St Matthew's Church, High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, United Kingdom, 02/26/23

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPvibfi8Wh4> [4:22]

Performance #2 by Jonathan Hinkle, Church on the Move, 07/03/15

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01KbmiBMzaI> [6:42]

Performance #3 by First Baptist Dallas, 06/06/21

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u5SAY681HM> [4:07]

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.**

On Saturday at 9:00 you are invited to the Lutherans & Friends Breakfast

at Grace Church in Stratford.

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.**

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then will you pray with me?

God, thank you!

Thank you for calling us to set out on a journey to a promised land.

Thank you for teaching us to walk by faith and not by sight.

Thank you for providing signposts along the way & for giving everything we need for the journey.

Thank you for your promise to get us to where you've promised –

in your own way & in your own time.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. Amen!

OPENING HYMN

Faith of Our Fathers

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, # 813)*

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real.
Faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

- 3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright.
Faith for today, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

- 4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, st. 1, alt.; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2-4

Text sts. 2-4 © Joseph R. Alfred, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Meter 8 8 8 8 8

*Music: ST. CATHERINE by Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; James G. Walton, 1821-1905, refrain
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*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax,
07/28/22, Accompaniment Style: Gospel Sisters; with lyrics*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJJgMcrI1KA> [3:30]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Genesis 12:1-4a

YHWH said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as YHWH had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;

God watches over you;
God is your shade at your right hand;

the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

God will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
**God will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness”. Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 3:1-17

You may stand if you so desire.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God”. Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above”. Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above’. The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

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

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.

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people.

Bless lay theologians, seminary & college professors, & all called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for Kids Empowered with Your Support, and the New Paradigm Theatre.

We pray for Fairchild Wheeler High School and other schools,

that there be timely exposure and effective intervention of any violent act being planned before it can be carried out.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Jeanette Harris and Tracy Hintz.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home.

Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and inspire each one of us to care for the natural world.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression.

Help us build relationships with organizations that promote peace and harmony.

Move each of us to find ways to help alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery.

Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress, especially Anne, Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, David, Dennis, 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.**

O God, you so love your children.

Bless the young in our lives, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity.

Make passing on the good news of Jesus to the next generation a priority for each one of us.

Gracious God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us to be a blessing to those who come after 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 HYMN

We Walk by Faith

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 635)*

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight
No gracious words we hear
From Him who as none e'er spoke
But we believe Him near**

- 2 We may not touch His hands and side
Nor follow where He trod
But in His promise we rejoice
And cry "My Lord and God"**

- 3 Help then, oh Lord, our unbelief
And may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near
And seek where you are found**

- 4 That when our life of faith is done
In realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are
With full and endless sight**

- 5 We walk by faith and not by sight
No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke
But we believe Him near**

*Text: based on 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, John 20:19-31 by Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt;
Meter C M*

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950;

*Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 South Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638
www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358*

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Performance by Ryan Chimzar, 11/02/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjXyyufeXcI> [2:00]

Sending

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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at Grace Church in Stratford.

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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 Psalm 121:

Know that God watches over you.

The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

God will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

God will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore. 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

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 698 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 451)*

**We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death;
that as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his,
we will all be reunited, for he lives.**

**In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,
in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.**

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;
as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again in a song that has no ending. Amen**

Text: based on Romans 6:1-11 by John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 11

Music: OUIMETTE by John C. Ylvisaker

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Performance by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 12/22/20

*Ben Swart, vocals | Chris Kremer and Eric Gonzalez, guitars | Steve Fahnestock, bass | Mike Dubbert,
drums | Ken Holdt, piano | Jake Jervis, director of photography*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W6BvttXGgQ> [2:00]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and live your life in a better place, the where God rules and reigns!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE SONG

He Watching Over Israel

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee.

by Felix Mendelssohn, #24 Chorus from "Elijah" Op.70

Performance by St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Mamaroneck, NY, 06/08/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qi6d04dJNGA> [3:07]

CREDITS

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Announcements

March Diaper and Wipe Drive. Diaper need is real, and in the Bridgeport area, nearly 1 in 3 families struggle to afford diapers and wipes to keep their babies clean, dry, and healthy. Diapers can cost \$100 to \$150 per month. A lack of diapers can impede a child or family's education and ability to work. Most daycares and early education programs require a full day's worth of disposable diapers. Together we can help families get their needed diapers and wipes. The items will be collected during March and given to Nourish Bridgeport for distribution to needy families in our area. Nourish Bridgeport has a particular need for diapers in sizes 3-7. You can place your diaper and wipe donation in the box in the narthex on Sundays in March. Salem Lutheran Church is able to get a pallet of diapers and a pallet of wipes at cost. You can also help with a monetary contribution by giving Carol Lansing a check made out to Salem Lutheran Church and writing 'Diapers and Wipes Drive' on the memo line. You and your church will receive credit for your monetary donation.

Salem is sponsoring monthly Food Collections 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!

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.

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.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SALEM'S WATER BOTTLE CHALLENGE! Together we raised \$710, enough to purchase not just one, but TWO pallets of water bottles, each pallet holding 84 cases, and each case holding 24 bottles for a total of 2,016 bottles! That's AWESOME, TEAM SALEM! The water went to the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Janus Center's school closet program because 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. We owe our own Cindy Roberts a huge debt of gratitude for putting together this challenge. We actually raised a bit more than the money needed for the water bottles and this will be put towards providing snacks for students who don't have enough food at home to meet their needs. Now that Salem has completed its water bottle challenge, we hope to inspire others in the Council of Churches to do the same!

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, click on Donate, and then fill in your amount under “Food Pantry Donation”.

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.
- PROJECTO 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.

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.

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

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

March 7

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa.

They, with 4 other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

March 10

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery,

helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished.

Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher.

Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.



YOU ARE INVITED!

2023 ANNUAL GALA
APRIL FOOLS'
MASQUERADE BALL



A Night in Disguise...

Dress in your favorite mask for our Annual Gala and be sure to wear your dancing shoes!

The proceeds from the evening will support our mission to build community and improve lives by partnering with low-income families, volunteers and donors to build decent and affordable homes in stable and welcoming neighborhoods.

Honoring...

SECOND MILE AWARD
Genworth Financial

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR
Michael C. Sohon, Esq.
Daniel S. Nagel, Esq.

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You are cordially invited to Habitat CFC's April Fools' Masquerade Ball! A Special Evening of Food, Live Music & Fun awaits you!

SATURDAY
APRIL 1, 2023
6:30-11:00 PM

WOODWAY COUNTRY CLUB
540 HOYT ST, DARIEN, CT
HABITATCFC.ORG/GALA

PAYMENT INFORMATION

NAME _____
(as it should appear in acknowledgements)

COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

TOTAL PAYMENT AMOUNT _____

I am submitting this gift for a match by my employer:

CHECK ENCLOSED (payable: Habitat CFC) INVOICE ME

CHARGE MY CARD:

AMEX MASTER CARD VISA CVV# _____

CARD# _____ EXP. _____

PERSONAL CARD COMPANY CARD

NAME ON CARD _____

SIGNATURE _____

Habitat CFC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID #22-2597077. The non-deductible portion of each ticket is \$250/person. This reflects the fair market value of goods & services provided at the event.

BUY TICKETS ONLINE

Visit our event website to purchase tickets and sponsorship packages, and to register for the Silent Auction!

HABITATCFC.ORG/GALA