



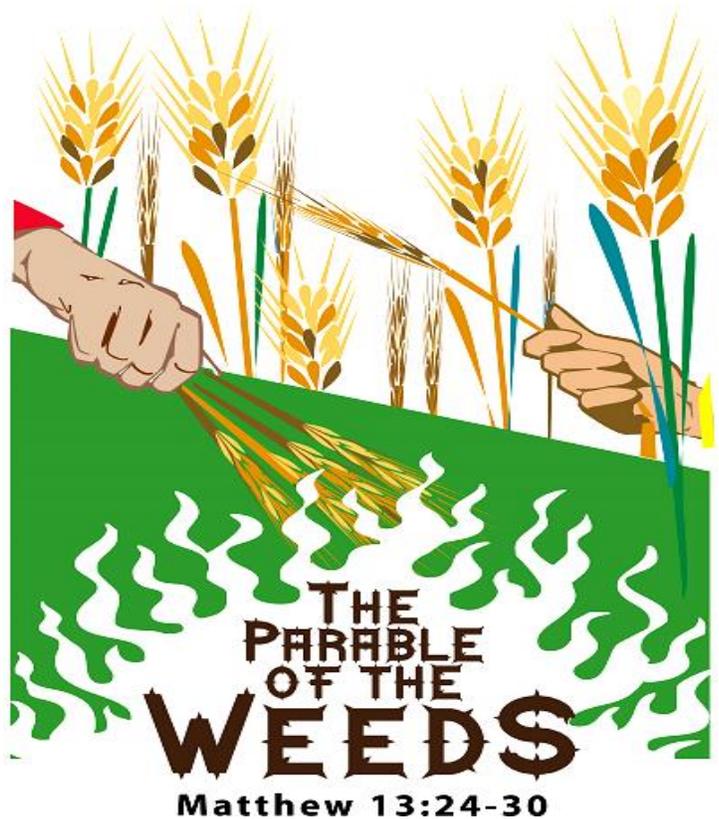
Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*8th Sunday
after Pentecost*

*July 23, 2023
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
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www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/SalemLutheranChurch) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome to Worship!

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 for when we have coffee hour or adult forums there.** Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

On this 8th Sunday after Pentecost, we hear the 2nd of 7 parables of Jesus that were recorded by the gospel writer, Matthew. Last week we heard the story of a crazy farmer who threw seed everywhere. And this week we hear what Jesus has to say about our human tendency to classify others as good or bad, for or against us, "in" or "out", and what God expects us to do about it. Who are the "wheat" plants in your life? And who are the "weeds"? Wait, before you answer, let's see what Jesus has to say! ;)

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study continues at 7:00 on zoom as we study Paul's letter to the Romans. Why Romans, you ask? Well, according to Martin Luther... "This Epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is so worthy that not only should every Christian know it word for word, by heart, but feast on it every day as bread for the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes." While you may not be ready to memorize it or read it every day, we do invite you to study it weekly with us! The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org .

Calumet's Walk the Walk 2023 -- "On the Road Again!" BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY! This year's theme is, "On the Road Again!" because 2023 will mark the return of partnership between Walk the Walk and Reach the Beach. Learn more by visiting www.calumet.org/ontheroadagain and then please...

- 1. REGISTER** (\$25 tax-deductible fee) for Team Salem, Bridgeport by going to <https://www.calumet.org/giving/ontheroadagain> ;
- 2. WALK** (bike, hike, or swim) **beginning July 30** ; and
- 3. REPORT** mileage to **Pastor Marjo on August 15, August 30, and September 16.**

The total mileage goal will depend on the total number of registrants.

Also, Calumet is asking that every single congregation pick an option:

Option 1 – Be a sponsoring congregation of "Calumet 2023 -- On the Road Again"

by providing an Angel Donor gift by September 16 which will support the Annual Fund.

Option 2 – Identify one or more people (members of the congregation or not) to Walk the Walk as a way of representing their congregation in this big event.

Option 3 – Both options 1 and 2!

We have been invited by Congregation B'nais Israel and CONECT (COngregations for a NEw CT) to the next event in their Social Justice Film Series – the movie DENIAL on July 27 at 7pm. The movie Denial is based on the acclaimed book, Denial: Holocaust History on Trial. DENIAL recounts Deborah E. Lipstadt's legal battle for historical truth against David Irving, who accused her of libel when she declared him a Holocaust denier. In the English legal system, in cases of libel, the burden of proof is on the defendant, therefore it was up to Lipstadt and her legal team, led by Richard Rampton, to prove the essential truth that the Holocaust occurred. Please spread the word and please come!

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Refiner's Fire

Verse 1 Purify my heart, make me as gold or precious silver,
purify my heart, make me as gold, pure gold.

Chorus Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire is to be holy, set apart for you, my Master,
ready to do your will.

Verse 2 Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

CCLI Song # 426298 by Brian Doerksen

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Vineyard Songs Canada (Admin. by Integrity Music)

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Performance # 1 by Jeremy and Katie Riddle at Dwelling Place Anaheim, 04/21/20

Philippians 3:7-8. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

*What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.*

I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayH5iV5zmrI> [7:17]

Performance #2 by Jeremy Passion & The Katinas, 03/19/12

*Check out our 2nd collaboration right here: "One More Time / Thank You" by The Katinas
(feat. Jeremy Passion) <http://youtu.be/iTMerbByiyE>*

*Hi Everyone, I had the privilege and blessing of traveling to Nashville, TN
to work with a group of guys that I grew up listening to.*

Upon meeting them, I noticed something very special about them; their hearts.

*Aside from our common love for music and singing, we shared the same heart for people,
for our families, and most importantly, for our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.*

This is a song by Brian Doerksen that inspires me and something I hope will inspire and bless you, too.

Blessings & don't forget to subscribe to my channel as well as The Katinas! Love, Jeremy Passion

Twitter: @jeremypassion ; FB: <http://www.facebook.com/JeremyPassion...>

Tumblr: <http://www.jeremypassion.tumblr.com> ; Official Website:<http://www.jeremypassion.com>

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KATINA'S MUSIC HERE: Official Website: <http://www.thekatinas.com>

Let them know what you think and share the message! Blessings!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqpOJMYJvhU> [5:40]

Performance # 3 by The Worship Project, FT BRIAN DOERKSEN & TWP BAND, 10/26/18

Everything about this video is so special to us! The song, the venue, the people...

*30 of us worship leaders from all over the GTA together for a weekend retreat
to grow and learn from legendary worship leader/songwriter Brian Doerksen.*

*What a privilege it was to work on this one-take collaboration of "Refiner's Fire",
one of our favorites written by Brian and to have him be a part of the project.*

We hope that you would be blessed by this special release

and that you would help us SHARE this around as well! Check out the Worship Project on Facebook.

Like the Page and stay updated with latest worship videos story videos, and live sessions!

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLyQAx8DpBI> [4:53]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome, in the name of God who created the earth,
in the name of Jesus who is the Vine growing out of the earth
and in the name of the Spirit who attaches us to that Vine that we might bear fruit.

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 you are – and whenever you happen to watching!

For those of you who don't know me,

I am 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.

**You are invited to our weekday prayer call at noon on our conference line,
to our Wednesday Prayer Gathering at noon on zoom,
and to our Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 7:00 on zoom.**

**All of our zoom events can be found on the Calendar under the Resources tab
on our website: SalemBridgeport.org**

**On Thursday at 7 we've been invited by Congregation B'nais Israel here on Park Avenue
to view the social justice movie DENIAL,
about people who actually deny that the Holocaust happened**

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings? Then let's begin worship w/prayer!

O God, you are our Creator, the One with boundless power,
and you are our Heavenly Parent, the One with endless love!

We gather here today to praise you for who you are and to thank you for what you do.

And we also gather here to hear you speak to us –

through the readings, through the sermon,
and through our witness to what you are doing in our lives

Till the soil of our bodies, minds, hearts and spirits
that we might readily receive the seed of your word.

Grow in us the fruits of your Spirit.

Weed out from our lives anything that is not of you.

And most of us, give us the faith and patience to trust that you will fulfill your plan and purpose
in each of our lives and in this congregation.

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

OPENING HYMN Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.**
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take the harvest home;
from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.**

[Interlude]

- 4 Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!**

*Text: based on Isaiah 9:3, Matthew 13:24-43, Revelation 14:14-16, 22:20
by Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Meter 7 7 7 7 D*

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR by George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

*Performance by the Choir & Congregation of First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE,
11/11/18*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWiEMJPxoZ8> [3:46]

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Beth-el, meaning House of God.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;

give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,

and glorify your name forevermore.

For great is your love toward me;

you have delivered me from the pit of death.

The arrogant rise up against me, O God,

and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

Turn to me and have mercy on me;

give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;

because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 8:12-25 (NRSV, JBP, MSG)

So then, brothers and sisters, you can see that there is no reason to feel grateful to our mere human nature, or to live life on this human level. Indeed that way of living leads to certain spiritual death. But if on the other hand we stop living according to our own desires and obey the Spirit, we are on the way to real living. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

That means that you are not meant to relapse into your old attitudes of fear and control, but live knowing that you have been adopted into the very family circle of God to live an adventurously expectant life, greeting God with a childlike “What’s next, Papa?” God’s Spirit touches our spirits and endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Think what that means: we are going to get what’s coming to us — an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the challenging times with him, then we’re certainly going to celebrate the victories with him!

In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the children of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because that’s how God wants it — yet God has given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of creation will be rescued from its enslavement to decay and death and will have its share in that magnificent freedom which can only belong to the children of God!

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it’s not only around us; it’s within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We’re also feeling the birth pangs. These empty and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. We were saved by this hope, a hope that we can’t yet see, for who hopes for what is already here? So in our moments of impatience let us remember that hope always means waiting for something that we haven’t yet got, but something that we know is on its way!

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

You may stand if you so desire.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this’. The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ”

Later, after he had left the crowds and gone into the house, his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field”. He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Child of Humanity will send the angels to collect out of the kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH for the season of Pentecost

Let us affirm our faith together.

**Through the Holy Spirit God created the heavens and the earth.
Inspired by the Spirit of God we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives.**

**We believe there are many gifts, but the same Spirit.
There are many ways of serving, but the same Lord.
There are many sorts of abilities, but it is the same God
who activates all of them in everyone for the sole purpose of doing God's will.**

To each child of God is given an expression of the Spirit for the common good.

**Through baptism in the Spirit, God confers the gifts of
wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge
and awe at God's boundless power and joy in God's endless love.**

**The Spirit also manifests in such gifts as healing, prophetic insight,
speaking in tongues, extraordinary ability, witness, and service.**

**The Spirit's living presence in us is demonstrated by our fruits:
love & joy, peace & patience, faithfulness, goodness, kindness, gentleness & self-control
all of which are activated by one and the same Spirit,
who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses,
to the glory of God and the joy of humankind. 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

Please be seated.

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns,
let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

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

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation & truth both near & far.
Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it,
trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport,
and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport.

We pray for an increase in overall performance and test scores across all metrics in all schools,
especially those in Bridgeport, and particularly at Fairchild Wheeler High School.

And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Dolores Kuczo, and Victor Ladue,

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas.
Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You desire peace among nations and peoples.

Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters,
and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who are suffering in any way, especially
Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Eric, Jacob,
Janice, Jeff, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Karen, Marija, Natalie, Natasha, Natasha, Pastor Paul, Pastor
Paula, Sara, Sara Jean, Sasha, Tyler and VL, and all those we name in our hearts & on our lips.
Sustain your people living with HIV/AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused,
and release any who are unjustly imprisoned.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You name each of us as your children.

Help us to see everyone who comes into our lives
as a gift from you to transform our lives and theirs,
and inspire us to move beyond meeting needs of individual persons to impacting their lives,
and to move beyond working with individuals to working for justice for all people.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church.
Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray,
in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, 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

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 your home congregation 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.

Refrain: **Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation
can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

- 1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your body shall die,
in Christ you shall rise through the Spirit who brings you to life. [Refrain]**
- 2 All who are led by the Spirit shall live as children of God,
and heirs with Christ Jesus, God's adopted and chosen and loved. [Refrain]**
- 3 All of the suff'ring we now must endure is nothing to the glory
so soon to be revealed when creation itself is set free. [Refrain]**
- 4 All of creation awaits the new birth, the fullness of redemption,
through labor pains of love, and so we wait in patience and hope. [Refrain]**
- 5 All things work for the good for the ones who love God, and if God is for us,
then who can be against us? God's justified cannot be condemned. [Refrain]**
- 6 Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship or distress,
persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?**

Refrain: **Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation
poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord, poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

Text: based on Romans 8:11-19, 22-25, 28-35, 38, by Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Meter Irregular
Korean tr. Chan Gyu Jang; Cantonese tr. Yvette Lau;
Spanish tr. Ron Krisman & Maria Cornou; Indonesian tr. Ester Widiasih

Music: NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, by Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Performance by Calvin Symposium on Worship 2021 Virtual Choir (including Pastor Marjo Anderson!)

Soloists: Elizabeth Canfield, Ivan Manoraj, Luke DeVries (English); Sa El Lee (Korean);
Yvette Lau (Cantonese); Carlos Lemagne (Spanish); Cindy Tuna (Indonesian)

Instrumentalists: Marty Haugen (piano); Glen Okonoski (percussion);
Tom Good (guitar); Kevin Panepento (guitar); Jay Round (bass guitar)

Editing: Glen Okonoski and Jay Round

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**You are invited to our weekday prayer call at noon on our conference line,
to our Wednesday Prayer Gathering at noon on zoom,
and to our Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 7:00 on zoom.**

All of our zoom events can be found on the Calendar
under the Resources tab on our website: SalemBridgeport.org

On Thursday at 7 we've been invited by Congregation B'nais Israel here on Park Avenue
to view the social justice movie DENIAL,
about people who actually deny that the Holocaust happened

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 together,
you can reach me through our website or Facebook.

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 online:
this blessing based on our first reading for the day from Genesis 28:

Know that God is with you and will keep you wherever you go,
and that God will not leave you until he has done what he has promised you.

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 Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in the one true faith. **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!

PEACE

As Christ reconciles us with God, let us be reconciled with each other.
The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**
Please share that peace with one another!

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

Bring Forth the Kingdom / Reign / City

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Worship & Praise # 22)*

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the city of God!

**Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people, shine for the city of God!

**Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

You are a seed of the word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the city of God!

**Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

We are a blest and a pilgrim people bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the city of God!

**Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

*Text: based on Matthew 5:13-16, 13:18-23, Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15 by Marty Haugen
Meter 9 7 9 7 & refrain*

Music: BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM by Marty Haugen

Text & Music © 1986 GIA Publications

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Performance by United Church in University Place, 09/06/21

Jeff Andersen, piano & vocals; A.J. Milleret, vocals

Don Thompson, guitar & audio mix; Judy Thierry, visuals

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=falBgJrtqVs> [2:43]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, knowing that Jesus has met you here
and the Spirit sends you out that God's plan and purpose for your life might be fulfilled.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE MUSIC

On What Has Now Been Sown

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 550)*

- 1 On what has now been sown your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise, and yours alone shall be the praise!
- 2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive and to your word a blessing give.
- 3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met before you here,
may meet together thus when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

*Text: based on Matthew 13:3-23, Mark 4:3-20, Luke 5:4-15
1 Corinthians 3:6-7, Revelation 22:20 by John Newton, 1725–1807, alt
Meter 6 6 6 6 8 8*

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH by John Darwall, 1731–1789

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Performance by Choirmaster Zack von Menchhofen,

St. John's Lutheran Church, Richlandtown, PA, 07/12/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOIYaS7qGO8> [2:38]

CREDITS

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Announcements

Do you want to talk or pray with your pastor? Well, just like you call your doctor or dentist to schedule an annual wellness visit or a visit to deal with a particular issue, you can contact Pastor Marjo via text or phone at 203-982-3441, or through Office Manager Karl Kraft via text at 203-336-3300 or email at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net . Our bodies are intimately connected with our minds and hearts and spirits, so the health of one part impacts the health of the other parts.

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. Call in to our prayer line at 681-999-0232, using access code 673980#, at noon Mon-Fri for a brief time of prayer.

You can remain silent and anonymous, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers.

3. Begin a Pentecost 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 wondering what the difference is, it's like this. If people are hungry and you give them fish, that's CHARITY. If people are hungry and you teach them to fish, that's EMPOWERMENT. If people are hungry and you work to change laws so that they

receive high enough wages from their jobs so they can afford to buy fish, that's JUSTICE.

If you're not sure how to “do justice” as God commands through the Prophet Micah (6:8), Pastor Marjo can offer suggestions.

Please join Pastor Marjo at the **Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport's Scholarship Service at 11:00 on Saturday the 12th of August 2023 at Russell Temple, 555 Connecticut Avenue.** The mission of the IMA is to empower clergy – and their congregations – to unite and mobilize to bring about social and economic justice in the city of Bridgeport and beyond. One way we are doing this is by providing Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarships for high school graduates who are going off to colleges and universities. In 2022, 17 students each received \$500. The worship service on 8/12 will celebrate our young people's accomplishments and give thanks for all those who have supported them. To have people from Salem there at the worship service would be a tremendous sign of support. Another way to support this important ministry is to give to the IMA Scholarship Fund by CashApp at \$IMABPT21 or via check made out to The IMA of Greater Bpt, with “Scholarship Fund” in the memo, and mailed to: IMABPT, c/o Russell Temple, 555 Connecticut Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06607.

nOURish BRIDGEPORT's Hydroponic Farm is now open to the public. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and purchase leafy greens and herbs at 1895 Stratford Avenue, Stratford CT.

RISE TO READ

"SON-SHINE"

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

MONDAY - FRIDAY

AUGUST 14TH - AUGUST 18TH

TIME 12PM - 4PM

AGES 4 -12

LOCATION: WASHINGTON PARK

318 BARNUM AVENUE

BRIDGEPORT, CT 06808

(Under the tent)

COST: FREE

ARTS & CRAFTS

MINI -THEATRE

GAMES & PRIZES

FUN FOR ALL

For more information : (203)984-7499

email: Info@risetoread.net

Rise to Read's FREE ecumenical city-wide 2023 Vacation Bible Camp "Son-Shine" for 4-12 year olds is just a few weeks away! It runs from 12 – 4 pm Monday-Friday, August 14th-18th and will be held under the big tent in Washington Park, 318 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport 06808. The days will include arts & crafts, games & prizes, and fun for all. New this year will be a drama component which will bring the Biblical story alive in a new way!

Last year the camp served over 100 children, not only providing help with reading and math skills, but introducing children to the love of God in Christ Jesus! Half of the children attending had never been to church before! Salem has already committed up to \$1000 to purchase water and snacks to supplement the government supplied lunches and there are other ways individual members can get involved. Among the volunteers from Salem last year were Jean Larson who coordinated the lunches and snacks, and Nancy Headford, Sandra Brown, Bruce and Diane Tomasko, and Pastor Marjo who helped her, as well as others who arranged for coolers and the purchase of water and snacks.

For those who would like to volunteer, you are invited to the weekly planning zoom calls at 6 pm on Mondays 7/17, 24, 31 and 8/7. A zoom link will be sent out soon. If you can't make the meetings, notes can be forwarded to you. For more info talk with one of the Salem members who helped last year or call 203-984-7499 or email Info@RiseToRead.net

If you enjoyed New Paradigm Theatre's production of The Little Mermaid last summer, you'll want to purchase tickets for this summer's show, "Grease", Friday August 18th at 7:00 or

Saturday August 19th at 2:00 and 7:00, at Black Rock Church, 3685 Black Rock Turnpike in Fairfield. Given the popularity of the movie and the state-of-the-art theatre at Black Rock Church, this show will be a fun combination of live and movie-style experiences. Sing along with your favorite songs as cast members perform, dress up in 50s era costumes, AND EVEN enjoy a pre-show car show of 50s car in the parking lot! General admission is tickets are \$10-35; VIP tickets, including the best reserved seats, and a backstage/onstage tour before the show are \$50, and for \$100 you can sit Onstage during the Act 2 prom scene for those 16 years and older! As NPT partnered last year with the Norwalk Maritime Center for Little Mermaid, this year's theme has led it to partner with a non-profit that helps victims of domestic abuse. For tickets go to nptheatre.org or speak with Pastor Marjo.

**the new
paradigm
theatre^{Co.}**
PRESENTS



Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

AUGUST 18 (7PM) & AUGUST 19 (2PM AND 7PM)

PERFORMED AT BLACK ROCK CHURCH - 3685 BLACK ROCK TURNPIKE, FAIRFIELD, CT

For tickets visit us at nptheatre.org

or



"Grease" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.
www.concordtheatricals.com

NPT PARTNER NON-PROFIT:

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



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 & 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 at Salem 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.

Join Bridgeport Rescue Mission Meet & Greet August 11 at 1:00pm. A 20 minute tour of its newly renovated building followed by a meet and greet and discussion about its programs and service. To RSVP, please contact Joslynn Hernandez, (203) 333-4087, ext 103.

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.

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

Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters.

Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman.

Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

James, Apostle

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

James & his brother John were sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the 1st of the 12 apostles to be martyred & his death is the only one recorded in scripture

Johann Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Handel, died 1759; musicians July 28, 2023

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church.

Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces,

and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music.

Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts.

Handel's great work, Messiah, is a setting of scriptural texts.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home

that they offered him — Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him.

Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway.

He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly.

Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.