



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

***12th Sunday after
Pentecost***

***August 20, 2023
9:30 AM***



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
marjoanderson@aol.com
203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: 203-336-3300;

www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](#) – 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.

We humans tend to judge one another. but scripture reminds us that we are all equally beloved by God. In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for *all* people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might we build relationships with those who are less than, but simply different, from us?

Calumet's Walk the Walk 2023 -- "On the Road Again!" BEGINS TODAY! 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!

Refill the Pantries has already scheduled four drives for the September-October period this fall for the same four pantries we helped last year, and plans to have volunteers from five churches assist. Mark your calendar – the drive for Operation Hope is October 28, details to follow. It's truly amazing what can be accomplished when working together. Thank you!

Sep 02 – Nourish Bridgeport, Stop&Shop 1160 Kings Hwy Cutoff, Fairfield volunteersignup.org/ABDEA

Sep 16 – Bishop Jean Williams, Stop&Shop 4531 Main St, Bridgeport volunteersignup.org/FC9RT

Sep 30 – Sterling House, Stop&Shop 200 E. Main St, Stratford volunteersignup.org/3RQKH

Oct 14 – Trumbull Food Pantry, Stop&Shop 110 Quality St, Trumbull volunteersignup.org/AD3L4

Oct 28 – Operation Hope, Stop&Shop, Villa Ave, Fairfield volunteersignup.org/8DXYW

Gathering

SONG

Now in This Banquet

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Worship & Praise # 104)*

Refrain:

**Now in this banquet, Christ is our bread; here shall all hungers be fed.
Bread that is broken, wine that is poured: love is the sign of our Lord.**

1. You who have touched us and graced us with love,
make us your people of goodness and light. *(Refrain)*
3. God who makes the blind to see, God who makes the lame to walk,
bring us dancing into day, lead your people in your way. *(Refrain)*
4. Hope for the hopeless, light for the blind:
“Strong” is your name, Lord, “Gentle” and “Kind” . *(Refrain)*
5. Call us to be your light, call us to be your love,
make us your people again. *(Refrain)*
6. Come, O Spirit! Renew our hearts!
We shall arise to be children of light. *(Refrain)*

*Text: based on Ezekiel 36:26, Matthew 15:30-31, Luke 7:22, Ephesians 5:8
Marty Haugen; Meter 5 4 7 5 4 7*

Music: NOW IN THIS BANQUET by Marty Haugen

Text and Music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Reprinted with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

Performance #1 by New Kremlin, 01/17/15

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dB3VE3knDk> [6:23]

Performance #2 by Thomas Powell 88 Keys, 06/11/23

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mfwe2YkKpLA> [4:44]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome, in the name of God who created everyone,
in the name of Jesus who died for everyone,
and in the name of the Spirit who desires to gather the whole human family into one.

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!

We want to especially welcome Pastor Maria Hammonds, synod consultant,
and Ms. Kimberly Bergstrand, associate to the bishop, who have joined us today!
Pastor Maria will be preaching, and after worship and a short coffee hour,
she and Kim will meet with us to help us as we continue to discern where God is calling Salem.
Thank you for making the trip to be with us today!

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.

Following worship, you are invited to an adult forum on Lutheran theology after worship.

Don't forget to sign up for Camp Calumet's walk-a-thon!

**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**

**Please note that CCGB's annual Backpack & School Supply Drive runs through Aug tomorrow,
See details in your bulletin or at CCGB.org.**

**And we'll also be collecting clothing, household textiles, and small household items
for Grace Lutheran Church today and next Sunday.**

**Our next Refill the Pantry event will be held September 2nd at Stop & Shop,
1160 Kings Hwy Cutoff, Fairfield, to benefit nOURish BRIDGEPORT.
See the link to sign up in today's worship bulletin.**

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

God, we thank you for who you are and what you do!

We have come to worship you, to praise you, to magnify you, and to bless your holy name.

You love us, but you love every one of your children as much as you love us

You desire us to love not only those like us, but those who are different from us.

Transform our hearts and minds and spirits this day that we may perfectly love you & all your children.

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

OPENING SONG

All Are Welcome

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 641)

Verse 1 **Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain **All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place.**

Verse 2 **Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain***

Verse 3 **Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain***

Verse 4 **Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain***

Verse 5 **Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen;

Text & Music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc..

7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 8.442.3358

Reprinted/Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

Performance by Plymouth Church DSM, 09/08/19

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhvnbhPvbsA> [5:24]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice,
and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad
and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations on earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.
May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 15:10-28 *You may stand if you so desire.*

[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles”. Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us”. Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon”. But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us”. He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”. But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me”. He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs”. She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table”. Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

SERMON

Please be seated.

Pastor Marjo

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, your Spirit gathers the church.

Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel,
breathe life into ecumenical & inter-religious endeavors, & support missionaries throughout the globe.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's FEED Center & its Janus Center for Youth in Crisis.

We pray for equitable and just funding of all Bridgeport Schools

to meet the real educational needs of our children, especially those living in impoverished spaces.

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

David Schulz and Jean Larson

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

You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good.

Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals,
and make us so aware of our impact on the environment that it impacts our actions.

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

You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity.

Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage,
support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans,

and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility.

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

You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference,

heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal
the sick, especially Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy,

Eric, Francesca, Jacob, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Marija, Melvin, 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.

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

O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions, including marriage, pregnancy, & retirement.

Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel.

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

We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors.

Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel,

until that day when we join with them in our eternal home.

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN **There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship similar to text # 587 with music # 655)*

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.**
- 2 For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

*Text: Psalm 86:13, John 10:16, Ephesians 3:18, Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

*Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710
arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932*

Text & Music are in the Public Domain

Performance by The Riverside Church, 05/03/2

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfyZIJUHKpU> [2:27]

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following worship, you are invited to an adult forum on Lutheran theology after worship.

Don't forget to sign up for Camp Calumet's walk-a-thon!

**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**

**Please note that CCGB's annual Backpack & School Supply Drive
runs through Aug tomorrow. See details in your bulletin or at CCGB.org.**

**And we'll also be collecting clothing, household textiles, and small household items
for Grace Lutheran Church today and next Sunday.**

**Our next Refill the Pantry event will be held September 2nd at Stop & Shop,
1160 Kings Hwy Cutoff, Fairfield, to benefit nOURish BRIDGEPORT.
See the link to sign up in today's worship bulletin.**

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 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 online,
this blessing based on our reading today from Isaiah 56:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon God's salvation will come, and God's deliverance will be revealed.

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!

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

In Christ There Is No East or West

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 650)*

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.**
- 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.**
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.**

*Text: based on Matthew 8:11, Luke 13:28-29, Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:11
John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.; Meter C M*

*Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949
This hymn is in the Public Domain*

Performance by Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 05/24/20

*Soprano: Sophia Yaple, Soprano; Mindy Kim, Alto; Sung Lee, Baritone
Susan Wolbrecht, Organist*

Sung Lee, Film Editing/Audio Engineering, Mixing & Mastering

as found at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agkihl5gt-8> [1:55]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and may the light of God's face shine upon you!

Thanks be to God!

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!

POSTLUDE HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People!

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 665)*

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.
- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.
- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation God's new creation.

Text: Isaiah 60:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.; Meter 11 11 11 5

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ by Dale Wood, 1934-2003

Text & Music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under One License # A-727372

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax
10/18/20; 290/655 in our hymn series*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgf2oAbEKAM> [2:06]

CREDITS

From sundaysandseasons.com.

*Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission
under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS005794.*

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989,

*Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of
America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

*Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission.*

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works
and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith.
He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

Bartholomew, Apostle

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke,
Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael,
leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person.
Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

Announcements

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! This week we'll be looking at chapters 2. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org .

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.

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.
OR join our weekly prayer gathering on Zoom, Wednesdays at noon, at this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3elI2ZmtiZEpadz09>
- 3. Begin a 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.



The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, Inc. Presents, a

BackPack & School Supply Drive

At the end of August, we will distribute the FREE backpacks full of school supplies to students in Bridgeport.



July 1st-August 21st
2023

Items accepted for donation:

Back Packs, Binders, Calculators, Colored Pencils, Crayons, Folders, Hand Sanitizers, Highlighters, Notebooks, Mini Staplers, Loose leaf paper, Pens, Scissors, USB, School Planner



Monday -Thursday
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday's
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Drop Off At: 1718 Capitol Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06604

Our Backpack & School Supply Drive is a collaborative community effort to make school supplies available for Bridgeport Students (5th through 12th grade) so they are ready to succeed on the first day of school and throughout the school year!

CCGB's annual Backpack & School Supply Drive begins in July and runs through August 21st. Items accepted for donation include back packs, binders, calculators, colored pencils, crayons, folders, hand sanitizers, highlighters, notebooks, mini staplers, loose leaf paper, pens, scissors, USB, school planners.

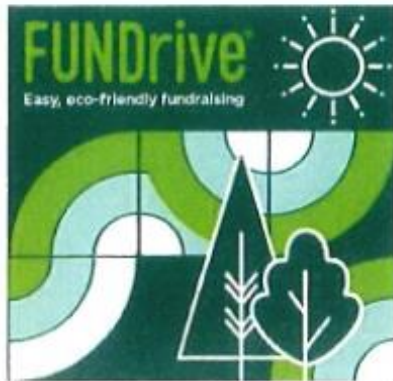
At the end of August, we will distribute the FREE backpacks full of school supplies to students in Bridgeport.

DROP OFF LOCATION: The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, 1718 Capitol Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Please bring the donated supplies within the hours of 10am-5pm Monday through Thursday and 10am-3pm on Fridays.

MONETARY DONATIONS & GIFTCARDS to purchase supplies may be dropped off or mailed to the office (information listed above).

Any questions please feel free to contact our office at 203-334-1121 ext. 10.

In collaboration with Grace Lutheran Church, we are helping with a collection of clothing, household textiles, and small household items. The Lansings will accept your donations on August 20, and the Tomaskos will accept your donations on August 27.



FUNDrive® Coordinator

Peggy
(203) 375-3151
gracel@snet.net

Our Goal: \$500

193 Tall Kitchen Bags (avg. 13 lbs.)
38 Medium boxes (household goods)

Fundraiser Dates:

08/25/2023 - 08/26/2023

Clean out your closets and cupboards for Grace Lutheran Church ELCA!

De-clutter and Clean Closets for a good cause.

Save your items. Save the dates.

Grace Lutheran Church will be collecting gently used clothing and small housewares.

Clothing should be in kitchen size garbage bags and small housewares in manageable boxes.

Friday, August 25th from 5:00-7:00 pm

Saturday, August 26th from 9:00-11:00 am

150 Chapel Street, Stratford

For more info contact Peggy at 203-375-3151.

We Are Collecting

Clothes

men's, women's and children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, ties, belts, backpacks, etc.

Household Textiles

bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

Small Household Goods

kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly packed boxes for small household goods.

All items must be clean and in sellable condition.

The FUNDrive logo is displayed in a large, bold, green font.

FUNDrive® is an eco-friendly fundraiser for nonprofit organizations. Collect gently-used items in your community and FUNDrive® will buy them.

Visit <https://FUNDrive.savers.com> to learn more.



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.

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.

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.