



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

***13th Sunday after
Pentecost***

***August 27, 2023
9:30 AM***



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
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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.

In the readings assigned for this 13th Sunday after Pentecost, we find the following: In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. **Today we focus on the reading from Isaiah, a proclamation of abundance in the midst of scarcity, of faith in the midst of doubt, and of joy in the midst of despair!**

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/3ROKH

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

GATHERING SONG

Goodness Of God

Verse 1 I love You Lord Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus All my life You have been faithful All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2 I love Your voice You have led me through the fire
In darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a father I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God (*Chorus*)

Bridge Your goodness is running after It's running after me
Your goodness is running after It's running after me
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now I give You everything
Your goodness is running after It's running after me

CCLI Song # 7117726

*Ben Fielding | Brian Johnson | Ed Cash | Jason Ingram | Jenn Johnson © 2018 Capitol CMG
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Performance # 1 by Westmore Church of God, 06/09/19

with soloist, Alicia Wheeler and the Westmore Sanctuary Choir.

For more information about Westmore, visit westmorechurch.com.

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqRME_Ho6rI [9:31]

Performance # 2 by Kingscliff Church, 12/31/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CRVnPYJW74> [5:48]

Performance # 3 by Holly Halliwell, 09/29/21,

recorded for the ShareWord Global Conference 2021

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8ncnkkAm6U> [3:29]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome, in the name of God who created abundance,
in the name of Jesus who came that we might have life abundant
and in the name of the Spirit who leads us to life in all its abundance!

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.

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**

**This is the last day we will be collecting clothing, household textiles, and small household items
for Grace Lutheran Church.**

**And 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 are here to worship you and to praise you in song and prayer.

We are here to listen to your word in scripture and in preaching
and to learn whatever it is that you desire to teach us.

We have come to be touched by your presence

that we may leave here different from how we arrived,
with our minds and hearts and spirits transformed by your grace.

Open our eyes to see and our ears to hear the abundance of life around us.

Open our minds to new ways of thinking.

Cleanse our hearts from all anger and hate and fill us with love for every one of your children –
even our enemies.

Most of all, God, fill our spirits with your own presence that we might love you above all things,
with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and bodies.

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

OPENING HMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

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

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.**

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.**

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

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

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

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

For the LORD will comfort Zion;
and will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;

before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,

because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength within me.

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,

when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,

perceiving the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;

your right hand shall save me.

You will make good your purpose for me;

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 16:13-20

You may stand if you so desire.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God”. And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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.

God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to trust in you and not in ourselves.

Strip away the arrogance that claims our views are “right”.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Lutheran World Relief,

Lutheran Disaster Response, & the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's World Hunger Appeal.

We pray for all schools, especially Fairchild Wheeler High School,

that they be protected and free from all violence,

including gun violence, bullying, prejudice, racial bias, abuse, and hazing.

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

Sharon Norberg, Mark Dollhopf, and Joan Crossman

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

Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony.

Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness.

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

Stir the leaders of nations, regions, and towns, legislatures, judiciaries, and militaries,
to respond to your teachings.

Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression.

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

Show your steadfast love & faithfulness to those suffering from loneliness, depression, & despair.

Increase their faith, joy, & hope, keep safe any in the midst of trouble,

and protect vulnerable people from harm.

We pray especially this day for Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Diane,

Dolores, Dorothy, Eric, Francesca, Jacob, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Karl, Marija,

Melvin Sr, Melvin Jr, Natalie, Natasha, Pastor Paul, Pastor Paula, Sara, Sara Jean, Sasha, Tyler

and VL, and all those we name in our hearts and on our lips.

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

Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church.

Refresh, restore & renew this congregation's pastor, office manager, officers & council members,

that they may be filled with love for you, one another, and those most different from them.

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

God of all, death is overcome in Christ's resurrection. We rejoice with the faithful departed.

Sustain us in hope until we come at last to our heavenly 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 SONG

Goodness Of God

Verse 1 I love You Lord Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus All my life You have been faithful All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2 I love Your voice You have led me through the fire
In darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a father I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus All my life You have been faithful All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God

Bridge Your goodness is running after It's running after me
Your goodness is running after It's running after me
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now I give You everything
Your goodness is running after It's running after me (*repeat Bridge*)

Chorus All my life You have been faithful All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus All my life You have been faithful All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God
Yes I will sing of the goodness of God, I will sing of the goodness of God.

CCLI Song # 7117726

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Performance by Kingscliff Church, 12/31/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CRVnPYJW74> [5:48]

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**

**This is the last day we'll be collecting clothing, household textile, & small household items
for Grace Lutheran Church.**

**And 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 Psalm 138

Hear this, all you who love the Lord with your whole heart:
When you call, God will answer;
when you walk in the midst of trouble, God will keep you safe.
God will make good his purpose for you,
for God's steadfast love endures forever & God will not abandon the works of his hands. 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 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 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 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]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, giving thanks for the abundant life God offers 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 MUSIC **God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

- 1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.
- 2 Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.
- 3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

*Text: based on Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27,
2 Corinthians 8:8-14, Ephesians 4:11-13
by Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006; Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

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SUNG TO Tune: BEACH SPRING,

*The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985
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Performance by First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE, 05/14/17

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om3IU7Z02gk> [2:40]

Announcements

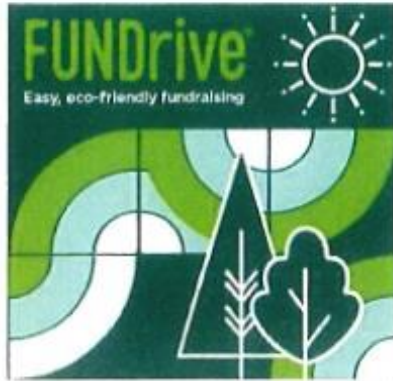
Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study continues at 7:00 on zoom as we study Paul's letter to the Romans. Why Romans, you ask? Well, according to Martin Luther... "This Epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is so worthy that not only should every Christian know 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 & 3. 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=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09>
- 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.

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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430 Monday, August 28, 2023

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo (present-day Algeria).

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400 Monday, August 28, 2023

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872 Saturday, September 2, 2023

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of 2 great Danish theologians of the 19th century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

CREDITS

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