



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*14th Sunday after
Pentecost*

*September 3, 2023
9:30 AM*



Jesus Rebukes Peter

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[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome to Worship!

We welcome as our supply pastor, today and next Sunday, the Rev. Peggy Yingst and we look forward to the Word of God she brings. While Pastor Marjo is taking some time off this week, Pastor Chris Files will be on-call for emergency pastoral care. You may call him at 203-767-4189 or may call our office manager, Karl Kraft, at the church number, 203-336-3300. Our weekday noontime prayer calls and our Wednesday prayer and Bible study will continue this week.

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 14th Sunday after Pentecost, we find the prophet Jeremiah speaking of the incurable wound of his suffering and yet finding in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves first to God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, and then to those whom God calls us to serve.

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!

On Saturday at 9:00, you and your friends are invited to our monthly prayer breakfast at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford. If you can help cook, come at 8:00!

Gathering

GATHERING HYMN

Day by Day

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 790)*

- 1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, where at last I'll find eternal rest.
- 2 Day by day, I know you will provide me strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow, I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow till in glory I behold your face.
- 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me, you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promised land.

*Text: based on Isaiah 49:14-15 & Lamentations 3:22-23
by Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005; Meter 10 9 10 9 D*

Music: BLOTT EN DAG by Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882

Tr. © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

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Performance # 1 by Mary Munson, 09/30/21

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd8e3QPrMfA> [2:45]

*Performance # 2 by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran church of the Resurrection, Halifax,
10/07/22, Accompaniment Style: Piano Ballad*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvzt1Zop85k> [3:10]

Performance # 3 by Cantor David Cherwien, piano

& Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, 07/05/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pH51jqDyIxm> [4:03]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome, in the name of God who created us out of love,
in the name of Jesus who came as God's Word of Love Incarnate
and in the name of the Spirit who empowers us to love!

It is so good to be here! Thank you for joining us today!
Thank you, those of you out there in cyber space,
wherever you are – and whenever you happen to watching!
And thank you, those of you who are here in person with us,
especially our supply pastor, Peggy Yingst! Welcome!

For those of you who don't know me,
I am Cindy Roberts, the President 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 Saturday at 9:00 am you are invited to our monthly prayer breakfast at Grace Lutheran,
150 Chapel Street in Stratford. If you can help cook, come at 8:00!**

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 ears that we may hear your voice directly or through the voices of others.

Open our eyes that we may see you at work in the present.

Open our minds to a vision of where you are leading us as individuals and as a congregation,
Teach us to submit our wills to yours.

Give us the courage to follow you and to do what you ask, even when it means taking risks.

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

Please join now in our opening hymn...

OPENING SONG**Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song**

1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

*Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community, tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931;
 Meter 12 14 12 12*

Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus and L'Arche Community;

Text and Music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress;

Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Performance # 2 by Tim McNabb of [Halifax Lutheran Church](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_SprnZKKxc),, 02/20/21

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_SprnZKKxc [3:08]

CHILDREN'S SERMON *(if there are children present)*

Pastor Peggy Yingst

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 15:15-21

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.
And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 26:1-8

Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.
Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.
For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.
I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.
I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.
I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord". No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads". Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 16:21-28

You may stand if you so desire.

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

SERMON

Please be seated.

Pastor Peggy Yingst

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.

Remembering the caring and generous works of God,
we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

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

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church.

Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses,
and open your children to your truth when we stumble.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for KEYS (Kids Empowered with Your Support) and the New Paradigm Theatre.

We pray for the timely exposure and effective intervention of any violent act being planned
before it can be carried out at Fairchild Wheeler High School or at any other school.

And we pray for Salem members and their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Dennis Norberg and Richard Kenyon.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, renew the lands and seas of earth by your creating Spirit.

Challenge us to change the way we live and vote so that we might stem the tide of climax collapse
and instead live humbly, peaceably, and in harmony with the earth which you have placed in our care.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of power, lead those who govern to be moved by compassion, to hold fast to what is good,
and to work to tear down all systems of evil, including White supremacy, Christian nationalism,
and religious persecution in all parts of the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of wholeness and deliverance, we thank you for answering our prayers for healing
for Boni, Jacob, Melvin Sr, Natasha, & Sara Jean & for granting to Maggie the custody of her children!

And we continue to lift up others who are suffering, lonely, and in pain, especially

Barbro, Barry, Cliffy, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Eric, Francesca, Janice,
Jeff, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Karl, Marija, Melvin Jr, Natalie, Pastor Paul, Pastor Paula, Sara, Sasha, and
VL, and all those we name in our hearts and on our lips.

Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless.

On this Labor Day move us to insure livable wages and safe working environments for all.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times

and draw us more deeply into prayer and Bible study – both as individuals and as a congregation.

Bind us together in the unity of the Spirit that we may continue to serve where you call us.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints,

especially Peter Claver, who now dwell with you in splendor.

Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Lord, My Strength



1 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;
2 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a - lone:



Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan - d'ring heart.
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe - ly home.



Be my eyes, be my ears, be the on -
Ev-'ry step that I make, be the road



- ly voice I hear; guide my soul, give me sight,
I will take; be the thoughts that I keep



help me walk with - in your light.
and in ev - 'ry word I speak.

(instrumental interlude)



3 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;



Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan - d'ring heart.



Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a - lone:



Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe - ly home.

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

Music: LORD, MY STRENGTH by Dean Krippaehne

Text and music 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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

04/08/20

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

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**

**On Saturday at 9:00 am you are invited to our monthly prayer breakfast at Grace Lutheran,
150 Chapel Street in Stratford. If you can help cook, come at 8:00!**

THANK YOU

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,
I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace
who have worshipped with us.

I hope you will join us again.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray with Pastor Marjo,
you can reach her 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 Jeremiah 15

Hear what the Lord your God says,
"If you return to me, I will take you back.
If you utter what is precious, I will be with you to save you.
And I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless." 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

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: based on Psalm 126:6, Luke 18:31-34, John 12:35, 2 Timothy 2:11-13, 1 Peter 2:21
 by Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, alt;
 Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 7 8 7 7

Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN by Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress;

Music is in the Public Domain

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax,
 08/15/22; Accompaniment Style: Folk Pop*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFupKnbiPII> [3:37]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, loving God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength!!
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 **Let Streams of Living Justice**

(as found in the ELCA worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 710)

- 1 Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.
- 2 For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.
- 3 Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language; we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified.

Text: based on Isaiah 61:1, Amos 5:24, Luke 4:18-19 by William Whitla, b. 1934; Meter 13 13 13 13 13 13

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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Performance by Heather Jordan of St. George & St. Michael, 09/05/21

*Click to subscribe to our YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/3esjuto>
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioCT3EvNeWY> [2:52]*

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 .

Refill the Pantries scheduled 5 drives for September-October, 1 for each of 5 different pantries, plans to have volunteers from 5 churches assist. The one for nOUR BRIDGEPORT was held yesterday at the Stop & Shop on King's Hwy Cutoff in Fairfield. Thank you to all who helped! Please mark your calendars for the remaining 4 drives Thank you!

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

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.

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.

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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654 **Saturday, September 9, 2023**
Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia.
His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there.
He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

CREDITS

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