



# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

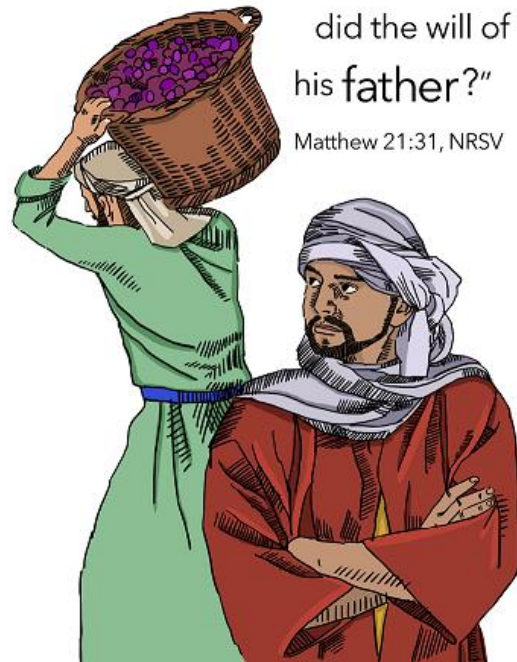
***Full Text  
Large Print***

***18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost***

***October 1, 2023  
9:30 AM***

"Which of the two  
did the will of  
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



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[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/salembridgeport) – 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 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**, we are reminded that faith is not about following God's rules, but about following God. Jesus continues to challenge those who are committed to following a bunch of rules in a book, but have missed the entire reason for the rules in the first place. In fact, the very first "rule" in the book is actually an invitation into a relationship with the Author of the Book, an invitation that has been completely ignored. Ezekiel issues a similar challenge, reminding people that the point of the rules is to lead them to LIFE. And Paul urges us to be of the same mind of Christ, which will, in fact, reconcile our differences and make us all of one mind, something that only occurs when we put our faith, not in our works, but in God.

**YOU are more important than your money!** Showing up for events is just as important and sometimes more important than writing a check, so please think about that when you are invited to participate in events listed in these announcement pages!

**Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study continues at 7:00 on zoom as we study Paul's letter to the Romans.** This past week we spent the whole time on chapter 5, verses 3-5: "*...we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us*" as we discussed times in our own lives when suffering has led to endurance that has produced character and led to hope which has not disappointed us. As we prepare for this week, begin reading Romans 5:6 and continue to the end of the chapter, noting how God is speaking to you. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org .

**Please join the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) Team for a sacred conversation on race as they discuss Clint Smith's book How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America.** In this book Smith recounts his travels to "8 places in the US as well as one abroad to understand how each reckons with its relationship to the history of American slavery." For more info on the book, go to: <https://www.clintsmithiii.com/how-the-word-is-passed>. **5 Online Sessions -Every Other Thursday - September 14 - November 9 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm.** Register by going to: <https://ccgb.org/rtb> . As we read we are journaling about what we are feeling and learning. For the first session, we read the Prologue "The Whole City Is a Memorial to Slavery", and the chapters on Monticello and Whitney plantations and last week we looked at the one on Angola Prison. On 10/12 we'll begin by discussing the next chapter on Blandford Cemetery.

# Gathering

## GATHERING SONG

## He Is Exalted

(as found in the ELCA worship book Worship & Praise # 55)

**He is exalted, the King is exalted on high;  
I will praise him!  
He is exalted, forever exalted,  
and I will praise his name!  
Jesus is Lord!  
Forever his truth shall reign!  
Heaven and earth, rejoice in his holy name!  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.**

*(Repeat as desired.)*

*Text: based on 1 Chronicles 29:11, Psalm 33, Philippians 2:9-11, Revelation 7:9-12, 19:6-7  
by Twila Paris; Meter P M*

*Music: HE IS EXALTED by Twila Paris*

*Reprinted / Streamed with permission under CCLI # 11092038.*

*Performance # 1 by NACTV New Apostolic Church, 11/08/21*

*Tenor: Fabian Messina; Pianist: Leigh Hannies; Organist: Carl Johnson  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5hoohkp4a8> [2:46]*

*Performance # 2 Saint Kateri Music Virtual Choir, 05/24/20*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUR6rf12tRM> [2:19]*

*Performance # 3 He Is Exalted // I Exalt Thee (Medley) by Sounds Like Reign, 05/29/20  
from our ongoing Endless Praise project: a fresh take on hymns and worship songs.*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pM3DCuDvafY> [5:20]*

*FREE Downloads & CDs available - <https://bit.ly/2tkaoLf>*

*SHOW YOUR SUPPORT - Patreon - <https://goo.gl/mkfhZF>; Donate - <https://goo.gl/YUJ3db>*

*Our MUSIC - Sounds Like Reign Website - <http://www.SoundsLikeReign.com>*

*Free Downloads - <https://tinyurl.com/2uv2rvwu>; Order CDs - <https://goo.gl/iQVTZC>*

*Our FAMILY VLOG - Tiny Notes From Home*

*On YouTube - <https://goo.gl/T7UYSz>; Website - <http://www.TinyNotesFromHome.com>*

*Our SOCIAL MEDIA*

*Subscribe on YouTube - <https://goo.gl/iZ88ko>; Instagram - <https://tinyurl.com/yygt9y7a>*

*Facebook - <https://goo.gl/JnJf8f>; Email Newsletter - <https://tinyurl.com/2uv2rvwu>*

*Contact US: Email - [Updates@SoundsLikeReign.com](mailto:Updates@SoundsLikeReign.com);*

*Snail Mail - Brackin Kirkland, PO Box 1415, Rosman, NC 28772*

*As an Amazon Associate I earn from qualifying purchases: <https://amzn.to/39AC5zz>.*

***Please note that here we go live on Facebook.***

## WELCOME

Welcome, in the name of God, the source of life,  
in the name of Jesus who came that we might have life abundant,  
and in the name of the Spirit who continues to breathe that life into us!

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 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'm Pastor Marjo Anderson  
of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the US.

To find out more about our ministry or to contact us,  
you can go to our website [SalemBridgeport.org](http://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](http://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](http://SalemBridgeport.org)**

**Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?**

**Then let's begin our worship with prayer!**

God, you are the Source of Life, the Source of Love, the Source of Grace and Mercy.

We are here to give you thanks and praise for the amazing God that you are.

We are here to give you thanks for everything that we are and everything that we have.

We are here to encounter you and be transformed by your grace.

We are here to build our relationships –

with you, with each other, with our neighbor, and even with the earth of which we are a part.

We are here to bow before your boundless power & endless love and submit our wills to yours.

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

## OPENING HYMN

## O God, My Faithful God

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 806)*

- 1 O God, my faithful God, true fountain ever flowing,  
without whom nothing is, all perfect gifts bestowing:  
give me a healthy frame, and may I have within  
a conscience free from blame, a soul unstained by sin.**
- 2 Give me the strength to do with ready heart and willing  
whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling--  
to do it when I ought, with all my might--and bless  
whatever I have wrought, for you must give success.**
- 3 Keep me from saying words that later need recalling;  
guard me, lest idle speech may from my lips be falling;  
but when, within my place, I must and ought to speak,  
then to my words give grace, lest I offend the weak.**
- 4 When dangers gather round, oh, keep me calm and fearless;  
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheerless;  
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,  
and, by your Spirit's might, to live at peace with all.**

*Text: based on Matthew 10:38, Mark 8:34, Luke 14:27, 1 Corinthians 1:4-9  
Colossians 3:17, James 1:22, James 2:9-10  
by Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt  
Meter 6 7 6 7 6 6 6 6*

*Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT by Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629-1701  
Text & Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Choirmaster Zack, St John's Lutheran Church, Richlandtown, PA,  
02/28/21*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CxnCuwJVDk> [4:05]*

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair”. Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair”. O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 25:1-9**

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you;**

let me not be put to shame,

**nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;

**rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.**

Show me your ways, O LORD,

**and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;

in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

**remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

**You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.**

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

**A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 21:23-32** *You may stand if you so desire.*

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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.*

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.*

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church.

Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment.

Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Good Shepherd, Grace, Our Saviour's,  
and the other congregations of our Southern CT conference of our synod.

We pray for Bridgeport schools, especially Fairchild Wheeler High School,  
that they become known to be among the best in Connecticut.

And we pray for Salem members and their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:  
Brandon DeWalt.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation.

Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment.

Summon us to be advocates for healthy water, soil, and air.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority.

Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way,  
Especially Barbro, Barry, Bob, Cliffy, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Eric, Francesca,  
Hans, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Marija, Mary Anne, Melvin Jr, Natalie, Pastor Paul, Pastor  
Paula, Sara, Sasha, and VL, and all those we name in our hearts and on our lips.

Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Teach us your paths and help us to discern your will for us as we pray for this congregation.

Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together  
for the sake of the gospel here in Bridgeport.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation, especially Saint  
Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, Theodor Fliedner, renew of society,

William Tyndale, translator and martyr, and Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America.

Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart,  
trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **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 if using video)*



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

**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](http://SalemBridgeport.org)**

## 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 the book of the prophet Ezekiel, chpt 18:

Hear the word of GOD.  
Repent and turn from all your transgressions....  
and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!  
For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD.  
Turn, then, and live. 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

## Lead Me, Guide Me

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 768)*

*You may stand if you so desire.*

*Refrain* **Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with you. Lead me, my whole life through.**

**1 I am weak & I need your strength & pow'r to endure with grace my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness your face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

*Refrain* **Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with you. Lead me, my whole life through.**

**2 Help me walk in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when Satan & sin oppress.  
I am trusting you whate'er may be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

*Refrain* **Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with you. Lead me, my whole life through.**

**3 I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without your light to see.  
Lord, forever may I your servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

*Refrain* **Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with you. Lead me, my whole life through.**

*Text: based on Psalm 27:11, 61:2, by Doris M. Akers, 1922-1995; Meter Irregular*

*Music: LEAD ME, GUIDE ME by Doris Akers*

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*Performance by the Choir & Congregation of First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE, 03/05/17*

*Tom Trenney, organist*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPX5tt480Q8> [4:47*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, following Jesus!  
**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

### Thy Word

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
This Far by Faith # 132 and Worship & Praise # 144)*

*Chorus*

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path**

*Verse 1*

**When I feel afraid And I think I've lost my way  
Still You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear As long as You are near  
Please be near me to the end**

*Verse 2*

**I will not forget Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide And hold me to Your side  
I will love You to the end**

*CCLI Song # 14301*

*Text: based on Psalm 119:105, Amy Grant, b. 1960; Music: Michael W. Smith, b. 1957;  
arr. Keith Phillips, Worship and Praise # 144, Augsburg Fortress;*

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*Performance by The Mullett Family, 12/04/17*

*Join Chantaya (8) & Kyra (7) as they sing about the importance of God's Word.*

*Order the full DVD: [TheMullettFamily.com/DVD](http://TheMullettFamily.com/DVD)*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Afz0q0cQjII> [3:05]*

# Announcements

**Thank you to our Salem Bridgeport Team for Camp Calumet Lutheran's Walk the Walk 2023 -- "On the Road Again!"** This year our 9 walkers/bikers consisted of Pastor Marjo, Dave and Judy Albers, Eileen and Ray Anderson, Jean and Tom Larson, Cindy Roberts, and Dave Schulz, who together racked up a grand total of 1,775 miles! Please thank them for walking/biking on Salem's behalf to support our church camp! Stay tuned for the grand totals for this annual fundraising event!

**Since the Refill the Pantry program began**, we have collected over 5 ½ tons of food and nearly \$8,200 in donations for food pantries.

Refill the Pantry program will continue to help our local food pantries this fall. We added another Bridgeport food pantry, Nourish Bridgeport. Collections for five food pantries are scheduled from September 2 through October 28 every other Saturday.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rich Lansing at (203) 520-3751 or [rlansing@optonline.com](mailto:rlansing@optonline.com).

**To sign up as a volunteer or driver, please go to:**

- ~~**Sep 02 Nourish Bridgeport**, Stop&Shop 1160 Kings Hwy Cutoff, Fairfield (Completed: 2,400 pounds of food and \$1,480 in cash)~~
- ~~**Sep 16 Bishop Jean Williams**, Stop&Shop 4531 Main Steet, Bridgeport (Completed: 2,455 pounds of food and \$691 in cash)~~
- **Sep 30 Sterling House**, Stop&Shop 200 E. Main St, Stratford [volunteersignup.org/3RQKH](https://volunteersignup.org/3RQKH)
- **Oct 14 Trumbull Food Pantry**, Stop&Shop 110 Quality St, Trumbull [volunteersignup.org/AD3L4](https://volunteersignup.org/AD3L4)
- **Oct 28 Operation Hope**, Stop&Shop 760 Villa Ave, Fairfield [volunteersignup.org/8DXYW](https://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.



**KEYS (Kids Empowered by Your Support)** invites you to their **2023 Fall Benefit**, “Music – the Language of Us All”, celebrating KEYS founder, Rob Silvan, 7-10 pm Friday, November 3, at the Shorehaven Golf Club, 14 Canfield Avenue, Norwalk. Tickets are \$200/person and include International Food Stations, Full Bar, Dessert & Coffee, Live Music, Tributes, and a Paddle Raise. To RSVP, go to [KEYSMUSIC.org/Benefit](https://KEYSMUSIC.org/Benefit) or send your check or credit card info (name, number, exp date, security code, and signature) to KEYS, Inc., PO Box 532, New Canaan, CT 06840 by October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**NYC Slavery & Underground Railroad Walking Tour** – You are invited to join the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport’s Raising the BAR on a field trip, taking the train to NYC on November 18 to do the 1:00 pm tour. Go to <https://insideouttours.com/tours/nyc-slavery-underground-railroad-tour/> to register, using the discount code: Bridgeport10off . Space is limited, so please sign up soon! As the date gets closer, we will reach out about plans for getting to the city together.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary". Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

**Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

**William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536**

**Friday, October 6, 2023**

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

**Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787**

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

# KEYS

## 2023 Fall Benefit



CELEBRATING KEYS FOUNDER

**ROB SILVAN**



FRIDAY | NOV 3 | 7-10 PM

SHOREHAVEN GOLF CLUB  
14 CANFIELD AVE NORWALK CT

**TICKETS \$200  
per person**

REPLY BY THE ENCLOSED CARD  
OR ONLINE AT [KEYSMUSIC.ORG/BENEFIT](https://KEYSMUSIC.ORG/BENEFIT)  
RSVP BY OCT. 20TH

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Susie & Glenn Crafford  
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Cathleen & Jon Morgan  
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Lana Taubin & Carter Via  
Jacqueline & Jerry Telgheder  
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INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD STATIONS  
FULL BAR  
DESSERT & COFFEE

LIVE MUSIC  
TRIBUTES  
PADDLE RAISE



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