



# *Salem Lutheran Church*

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

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

*September 10,  
2023  
9:30 AM*



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

# Welcome to Worship!

We welcome as our supply pastor (last Sunday and today) the Rev. Peggy Yingst and we look forward to the Word of God she brings us again this week. We thank Pastor Chris Files for being on call last week, and Jeanette Harris for covering the weekday noon prayer conference line, the Wednesday noon prayer gathering, and the Wednesday 7 pm Bible Study. Pastor Marjo will return this week.

**In the readings assigned for this 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**, we are reminded that conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather together to worship the Three-in-One and One-in-Three God in whom perfect unity is found, assured that Christ is present among us with the power to reconcile seemingly irreconcilable differences, and that the Spirit is present among us, continually offering us the gift of peace.

**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!

**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 [volunteersignup.org/FC9RT](http://volunteersignup.org/FC9RT)
- **Sep 30 Sterling House**, Stop&Shop 200 E. Main St, Stratford [volunteersignup.org/3RQKH](http://volunteersignup.org/3RQKH)
- **Oct 14 Trumbull Food Pantry**, Stop&Shop 110 Quality St, Trumbull [volunteersignup.org/AD3L4](http://volunteersignup.org/AD3L4)
- **Oct 28 Operation Hope**, Stop&Shop 760 Villa Ave, Fairfield [volunteersignup.org/8DXYW](http://volunteersignup.org/8DXYW)

**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.

# Gathering

## GATHERING

## Here I Am To Worship

*Verse 1* Light of the world You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made This heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

*Chorus* So here I am to worship  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

*Verse 2* King of all days Oh so highly exalted  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor

*Bridge* And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

*CCLI Song # 3266032*

*Tim Hughes*

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*Performance # 1 by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Choir, Penticton, BC, 05/30/16  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PrZK4VaYs0> [3:58]*

*Performance # 2 by Russian Youth Choir, Slavic Christian Center, Tacoma, 07/03/10  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARPuKVSeqR0> [4:40]*

*Performance # 3 by Church of Christ 24, 08/02/11*

*Artist: Watershed Worship; Album: I Know You Love Me*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBmi171Vuz4> [3:50]*

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

## WELCOME

Welcome, in the name of the Triune God in whose very essence is Diversity within Unity  
in the name of Jesus who came to reconcile us with God  
and in the name of the Spirit in whom we are reconciled to one another!

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](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)**

**On Saturday you are invited to our Refill the Bishop Jean Williams Pantry event  
at the Stop & Shop on Main Street.**

Details are in the worship bulletin for today which can be found at [SalemBridgeport.org/Live](http://SalemBridgeport.org/Live).

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

**Then let's begin worship w/prayer!**

God, you are the great Three-in-One and One-in-Three, Diversity bound in Unity.

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.

Help us to follow where you lead, that your plan and purpose might be accomplished

both in our individual lives and in the life of this congregation.

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 HYMN**

**Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, # 470)*

- 1 Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name,  
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.**
- 2 As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.**
- 3 All our meals and all our living make us sacraments of you,  
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.**

*CCLI Song # 3393589*

*Text: based on Matthew 18.2- \* 1 Corinthians 12 by Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt  
from Songs of Praise, Enlarged Ed © Oxford Univ Press 1931; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7*

*Music: UNION SEMINARY by Harold Friedell, 1905-1938,  
© 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin*

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*Performance by Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 09/06/20*

*Andrew and Rachel Halladay, voices; Marilyn Kopperud, organ  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Cgq3vnnOc0> [2:58]*

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

**Pastor Peggy Yingst**

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die”, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 119:33-40**

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 13:8-14**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself”. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 18:15-20**

*You may stand if you so desire.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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.*

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed  
and lead us in paths of intentional listening and understanding.

Help us extend hands of reconciliation to those who are different from us –  
especially with those of different races, religions, denominations, and economic backgrounds –  
so that we might not only share our gifts with others, but receive the gifts they have for us,

We pray for our mission partners,  
especially today for Reconciling Works, and for Seafarers and International House.

We pray for effective psycho-social treatment and intervention  
for anyone suffering from mental illnesses and considering engaging in violent acts  
at Fairchild Wheeler High School or any other school.

And we pray for Salem members and their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:  
Eileen Anderson, Al DeWalt, and Thomas Larson.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation.

Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them.

Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God.

Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws.

Move us to treat all people with dignity & respect & guide our conversations with one another.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others.

Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick, 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. Guard their waking and their sleeping.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Awaken us, O God. Challenge & encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called.

We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment,

for those who are unemployed, underemployed, or who work in jobs that fail to provide a livable wage.

Help us to strive for justice that all may earn that which they need not only to survive but to thrive.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be our hope, O God.

We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith,

especially John Chrysostom & Cyprian. May their trust in your promise be our protection & our hope.

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 HYMN

### **Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 656)*

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**
- 2 Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**
- 3 We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**
- 4 From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

*Text: based on Acts 20:36-38, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 4:1-6  
by John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt; Meter S M*

*Music: DENNIS, by Johann G. Nägeli, 1773-1836, adapt  
Text & Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax  
07/19/21*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zhtg0g3UjU> [1:56]*

# 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 you are invited to our Refill the Bishop Jean Williams Pantry event  
at the Stop & Shop on Main Street.**

Details are in the worship bulletin for today which can be found at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

## 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 Psalm 119:

Turn your eyes from falsehood  
and God will give you the kind of life God wants you to have.  
Listen to God, and obey God,  
and God will fulfill all his promises to you. 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 SONG

## Seek Ye First

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,  
Worship & Praise # 122 and This Far by Faith # 149)*

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

**Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

*Text: based on Matthew 6:33, 7:7, adapt.; Meter Irregular*

*Music: LAFFERTY, Karen Lafferty, b. 1948*

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*Performance by Chris Brunelle*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JInofnk7OX0> [1:55]*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, knowing that God empowers you to love everyone with NO exceptions!  
**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**

**Awake, O Sleeper**

*(from the Hymnal Supplement 1991 # 813)*

*Refrain:* Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

- 1 Once you were darkness, once you were lost in the shadows.  
Once you were darkness, now you are children of light.

*Refrain:* Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

- 2 Live as God's people, live as God's justice and mercy,  
filled with compassion, filled with the power of love.

*Refrain:* Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

- 3 Shine out with the splendor of love, shine with justice and righteousness.  
Sing the music your spirit has heard, the songs of glory and light.

*Refrain:* Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;  
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

*OneLicense Song # #03165*

*Text: based on Ephesians 5 by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;*

*Music: AWAKE, O SLEEPER by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;*

*Text and Music: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.)*

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*Performance by Marty Haugen on Meditation Music's YouTube Channel, 06/05/19*

*from his album: Anthology II: 1985-1989 – The Best of Marty Haugen*

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*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X-ApQ289Fc> [3:30]*

# 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 3 & 4. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org .

**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.

**Calumet's Walk the Walk 2023 -- "On the Road Again!" CONTINUES!** This year we have 9 walkers: Pastor Marjo, Dave and Judy Albers, Eileen and Ray Anderson, Jean and Tom Larson, Cindy Roberts, and Dave Schulz! Please thank them for walking/biking on Salem's behalf to support our church camp! So far our results are as follows: 07/31 - 08/15 = 598 miles plus 08/16 - 08/30 = 599 miles, for a total so far of 1197 miles! We've got one more 2-week segment to go, so cheer each of our team members on! It's not too late to register – you can still sign up for Team Salem, Bridgeport by going to <https://www.calumet.org/giving/ontheroadagain> and report your miles retroactively if you keep that info. If you're not a walker you can provide an Angel Donor gift by going to the same site.

**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.

**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.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407** **Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher.

His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth").

Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court.

As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

**Holy Cross Day** **Thursday, September 14, 2023**

Helena, mother of Constantine,

made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion.

Her son built two churches there,

and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

**Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258** **Saturday, September 16, 2023**

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians.

He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress.

He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

## CREDITS

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