



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

***20th Sunday after
Pentecost***

***October 15, 2023
9:30 AM***



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www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome to Worship!

We want you to feel safe so please know that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. And we also have one running here in the lounge for when we have coffee hour or adult forums there. Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

Today we read about banquets. In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others, but one must not only show up but make sure one is in right relationship to the host. God spreads a feast of blessings before us each and every day. Transformed by our encounter with the living God, we go forth with great joy to invite others who are hungering and thirsting for the abundant life Jesus offers.

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 finished chapter 5 and reflected on how we experience the "Adam" in us (the path of sin and death) and the "Christ in us (the path of faith and life). Paul loved reflecting on what faith meant in his own life and in sharing his thoughts with others. As we prepare for this week, reflect on what might help you be more excited about reflecting on your faith and sharing it. You can also read Romans 6, noting how God is speaking to you personally in this chapter. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org .

You are invited to our adult forums following worship today and next Sunday 10/22 in preparation for the Special Congregational Meeting which will be held **IN-PERSON** after worship on Sunday 10/29. **The only resolution which may be discussed and voted upon at this meeting is the following:**

The Salem Council moves that the congregation vote either to:

1. Remain Open in its current form

but with a commitment to Live by developing a new mission

OR

2. Pursue Holy Closure.

Voting members are those who have, since January 1, 2022, communed in-person or have been communed by the pastor on zoom AND who have made a financial contribution of record. All current voting members have been emailed an introductory letter and the agenda for the meeting which contains the resolution and some implications of that resolution. That information plus a list of current voting members and a cover article by the pastor are available in the October newsletter available on our website.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Give Thanks

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Worship & Praise # 41 and This Far by Faith # 292)*

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!

*Text: based on Psalm 126:3, 2 Corinthians 12:10, Ephesians 5:18, Philippians 4:5-18,
Colossians 3:15-17, by Henry Smith; Meter P M*

Music: GIVE THANKS by Henry Smith

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Performance # 1 by Renata Triani, City Harvest Church, 01/06/18

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DmFfDDUkwM> [5:26]

Performance # 2 by Bridge of Hope Children's Choir from Uganda Africa

at Immanuel Lutheran Church Mercedes, TX, 11/18/18

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXtjKQsQBBc> [3:32]

Performance # 3 by the La Salle College Mass Choir, 04/21/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8ArTDFQ3Ew> [2:13]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome, in the name of God who sets before us every day a banquet of blessings
in the name of Jesus who invites everyone to his table,
and in the name of the Spirit who fills us with all we need from day to day!

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, 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.**

You are invited to join the synod's Anti-Racism prayer call which meets on zoom the first
Monday and the third Thursday of each month from 7:15-7:45ish.

**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 3 events:
Grace Lutheran Church's Country Store, Fair & Tag Sale, from 9:00 to 3:00;
The Stratford's Children's Business and Family Fun Fair from 10:00 to 1:00;
Rise to Read's Harvest Festival from 12:00 to 2:00,
celebrating this summer's City-Wide Literacy-based Vacation Bible Camp**

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer!

God, you are the Source of the Universe, the Source of Life, the Source of Every Blessing!
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 at your invitation, to delight in your presence, to be fed by your hand,
and to enjoy encountering everyone else you have invited.
Thank you for feeding our minds and hearts, our bodies and souls each and every day.
We pray all of this in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 873)*

- 1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.**

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

- 2 With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days.**

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

- 3 With all the angel choirs, with all the saints on earth
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rapture, noblest mirth.**

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

- 4 Still lift your standard high, still march in firm array,
as pilgrims through the darkness wend till dawns the golden day.**

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

- 5 At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest.**

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

- 6 Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest, one God forevermore.**

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

*Text: based on Psalm 20:5, 71:22, Philippians 4:4, by Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.
Meter S M and refrain*

Music: MARION, by Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax
05/28/21, 584/655 in our hymn series*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owhKikoZsnc> [3:15]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O LORD,
you are my God;
I will exalt you,
I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm
and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵**the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,**
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹**It will be said on that day,**

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰... be strong in Christ and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all God's people.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 22:1-14 *You may stand if you so desire.*

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are invited, but few respond.”

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

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH for the season of Pentecost

Let us affirm our faith together.

Through the Holy Spirit God created the heavens and the earth.

Inspired by the Spirit of God we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives.

We believe there are many gifts, but the same Spirit.

There are many ways of serving, but the same Lord.

There are many sorts of abilities, but it is the same God

who activates all of them in everyone for the sole purpose of doing God's will.

To each child of God is given an expression of the Spirit for the common good.

Through baptism in the Spirit, God confers the gifts of

wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge

and awe at God's boundless power and joy in God's endless love.

The Spirit also manifests in such gifts as healing, prophetic insight,

speaking in tongues, extraordinary ability, witness, and service.

The Spirit's living presence in us is demonstrated by our fruits:

love & joy, peace & patience, faithfulness, goodness, kindness, gentleness & self-control

all of which are activated by one and the same Spirit,

who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses,

to the glory of God and the joy of humankind. Amen

PURPOSE STATEMENT *(updated by Council in June of 2019)*

As members and friends of Salem Church, let us remind ourselves who we are:

We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.

In response to God's transforming love, we share our joy through praise and service, that we may encounter God, build relationships, and change lives.

May it be so!

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated.

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land,
that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace,
staying firm in the Lord.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for
the New England Synod and Region 7 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
We pray for the educational success, social-emotional wellbeing and thriving
of every school-aged child in Bridgeport, especially those at Fairchild Wheeler High School
And we pray for Salem members and their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Joel Hintz, Leah Hintz, Wes Murphy, Mary Ann Kenyon, Edith Larson, Scott DeWalt, & Merlee Lange.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world,
that creation flourishes & humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority,
that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice,
providing shelter & refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace & prosperity for all.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and
and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them.
We pray especially for Barbro, Barry, Boni, Bob, Cliffy, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Dolores,
Dorothy, Francesca, Hans, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Marija, Mary Anne, Melvin Jr,
Natalie, Pastor Paul, Pastor Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL, the Fairfield University students and Uber
driver injured in the car crash, and all those we name in our hearts & on our lips.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord,
the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful
of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy, especially
Luke, Evangelist, Ignatius, bishop & martyr, & Teresa of Avila, teacher & renewer of the church,
we pray that their faithful witness guides your church until we join them at your heavenly feast.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through 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,
and 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

Thine the Amen

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 801 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 826)*

**Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.**

**Thine the life eternally thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.**

**Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving evermore evermore.**

**Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing at thy feast at thy feast.**

**Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness only thee only thee.**

Text: based on Psalm 145:10-13 by Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926; Meter 14 14 15 14

Music: THINE by Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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Performance by Concordia Publishing House, 02/19/16

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n91YCW4pgCU> [2:28]

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.**

You are invited to join the synod's Anti-Racism prayer call which meets on zoom the first Monday and the third Thursday of each month from 7:15-7:45ish.

**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 3 events:

Grace Lutheran Church's Country Store, Fair & Tag Sale, from 9:00 to 3:00;

The Stratford's Children's Business and Family Fun Fair from 10:00 to 1:00;

Rise to Read's Harvest Festival from 12:00 to 2:00,

celebrating this summer's City-Wide Literacy-based Vacation Bible Camp.

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 Ephesians, chapter 6:

Put on the full armor of God,

be strong in Christ and in his mighty power,

and pray in the Spirit, so that you can take your stand firm against the devil's schemes. 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,
whose 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!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!

We open them to God and one another!

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 is here given for you and the blood of Christ is here 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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 547)*

- 1 **Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**
- 2 **With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

*Text: Matthew 13:45-46, Mark 4:8, Luke 8:8, by Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt
Meter 6 6 11 6 6 11 D*

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

*Text © 1964 World Library Publications. 3708 River Road, Suite 400. Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158.
www.wlpmusic.com. All rights reserved.*

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Performance by UNITY Lutheran Brookfield, WI, 08/26/20

Molly Pufall-Brown, vocalist; Janet Day, organist

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvW9yGEunOE> [2:00]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, be alert, and always keep on praying for all God's people!

Thanks be to God!

PEACE

As Christ reconciles us with God,
let us be reconciled with each other by sharing the peace of the Lord!
The peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you!

Please share that peace!!

POSTLUDE SONG The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 531)*

- 1 The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.**

Refrain: **Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin. The feast is ready to begin.**

- 2 Tables are laden with good things; oh, taste the peace and joy he brings.
He'll fill you up with love divine; he'll turn your water into wine. Refrain**

- 3 The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav'n & earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord. Refrain**

*Text: Psalm 34:8, Isaiah 25:6-10, John 2:1-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17,
by Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; Meter L M and refrain*

Music: THE FEAST IS READY, by Graham Kendrick

*Text & music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere.
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*Performance by the Praise Band of Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA,
<http://www.genevapres.org>, Charlotte Hsieh, organ, Eileen O'Hern, director, 06/09/19
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-I-BqZoGfs> [2:06]*

Announcements

There will be no Genesis Inner-View Chat and Chew this month. Instead, Jeanette “Momma J” Harris invites you to support the following two events:

Grace Lutheran Church invites you to their Country Store, Fair and Tag Sale, from 9:00 to 3:00 Saturday, October 21st, featuring huge tag sale, book nook, bake shop with homemade goodies, gift basket raffle, crafts & country café, serving a delicious menu. Free Admission & Parking. Handicapped Accessible. Rain or Shine. Everyone Welcome. For more info, go to gracelutheranstratford.org.

You are invited to the Stratford’s Children’s Business and Family Fun Fair from 10:00 to 1:00 on Saturday, October 21st on the Paradise Green (corner of Main St. & Huntington Rd) in Stratford. Come and support young entrepreneurs who will be marketing their products.

Also on Saturday, October 21st from 12:00 to 2:00 you are invited to reconnect with the kids, families and volunteers from this summer’s Rise to Read City-Wide Literacy-based Vacation Bible Camp for a Harvest Festival at Washington Park. Even if you weren’t able to volunteer you are welcome to come and celebrate the success of the camp!

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 -9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 12/26, and 11/09 - 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 last sessions, we read the Prologue “The Whole City Is a Memorial to Slavery”, and the chapters on Monticello, Whitney plantations, Angola Prison, and this past week, Blandford Cemetery. On 10/26 we’ll begin by discussing the next chapters on Galveston Island and New York City.

Like our prayer breakfasts, a lunch is held each month to build relationships among Lutheran and other congregations in our area at noon at Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull. The upcoming dates are **10/28**, 11/18, and 12/16. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, bltomasko@yahoo.com.

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 3rd**, 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 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 20th.

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.

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 Street, Bridgeport~~
(Completed: 2,455 pounds of food and \$691 in cash)
- ~~Sep 30 Sterling House, Stop&Shop 200 E. Main St, Stratford~~ (Completed: 1,577 pounds of food, \$403 in cash, \$250 Thrivent gift card)
- ~~Oct 14 Trumbull Food Pantry, Stop&Shop 110 Quality St, Trumbull~~
- **Oct 28 Operation Hope**, Stop&Shop 760 Villa Ave, Fairfield volunteersignup.org/8DXYW

Please sign up today for this exciting and important event – an online discussion with Jeff Fuhrer about his new book, The Myth that Made Us: Beliefs about Racism and Meritocracy Broke Our Economy (And How to Fix It) by Jeff Fuhrer. Pastor Marjo and Knute Ogren have worked together with the New England Synod's Anti-Racist Advisory Board and Camp Calumet Lutheran to plan 2 opportunities for discussion: **6:30-7:45 pm Monday, November 20th**, and **9:30-10:45 am Tuesday, November 21st**. *A free book (which retails for 34.95 plus shipping!) will be mailed to the first 100 people who sign up for the event by October 20th!*

[Click here to register](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejv2e0zo_usQ-FUFGLconMHyeqdmvWpFzD1pvGIYKPOMkNQ/viewform)

or go to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejv2e0zo_usQ-FUFGLconMHyeqdmvWpFzD1pvGIYKPOMkNQ/viewform

We are collecting for “Seafarers Christmas at Sea” now through December 3rd. Gift suggestions include woolen caps, sweatshirts (L or XL), thermal or white socks, chocolate, canned nuts, hard candy, Christmas cards, and money. Please place items in the marked box in the narthex on Sundays. A packing party will be held on Saturday December 16th, following the Lutherans & Friends breakfast at 9:00 at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford. If you have questions contact Carol Lansing at 203-520-3752

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.

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. If you have financial needs, please contact Pastor Marjo or Parish Nurse Carol Lansing.

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=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3elll2ZmtiZEpadz09>
- 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

Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582
Sunday, October 15, 2023

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115
Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.

Luke, Evangelist
Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.

CREDITS

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The Country Store



Fair and Tag Sale

Saturday, October 21, 2023

9am to 3pm

Featuring: Huge Tag Sale, Book Nook,
Bake Shop with homemade goodies,
Gift Basket Raffle, Crafts & Country Café
serving a delicious menu.

Grace Lutheran Church 150 Chapel Street Stratford

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE RAIN OR SHINE EVERYONE WELCOME

gracelutheranstratford.org



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KEYS
2023 Fall Benefit

Music
 THE LANGUAGE OF US ALL

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
 RSVP BY OCT. 20TH

Host Committee
 Susie & Glenn Crafford
 Annie & Jim Haskel
 Lou & Nelson Heumann
 Kelley & Julien Jarreau
 Cathleen & Jon Morgan
 Angela & Tim Riley
 Peggy & Mike Rivage-Seul
 Bevo & Roger Tarika
 Lana Taubin & Carter Via
 Jacqueline & Jerry Telgheder
 Mary Zeman

Benefit Committee
 Katherine Silvan, *Chair*
 Cathleen Morgan
 Jeanette Osborne
 Liane Roseman
 Jacqueline Telgheder

KEYS Board of Directors
 Jon Burleigh, *Chair*
 Greg Bauer
 Edwin Farrow
 Andrew Foote
 Adrienne Reedy
 Liane Roseman

David Sachs
 Greg Smith
 Rev. Sara Smith
 Shelita Washington
 Bill Young

KEYS Executive Director Karen Cobham

INTERNATIONAL FOOD STATIONS
 FULL BAR
 DESSERT & COFFEE

LIVE MUSIC
 TRIBUTES
 PADDLE RAISE

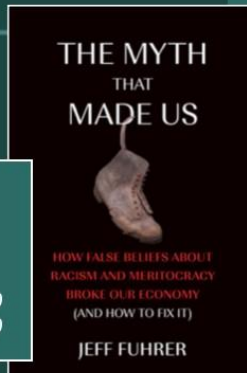
Scan me for tickets



“Author Talk”

This November — on Zoom

There is no cost for the book for the first 100 people who sign up for the event by OCT 20



The synod's ***Anti-Racist Advisory Board & Calumet*** invites **People of Faith** to read & then gather for conversation.

MON, NOV 20, 6:30-7:45 PM

TUES, NOV 21, 9:30-10:45 AM

HOW FALSE BELIEFS ABOUT

Seafarers

Christmas at Sea

Collection dates: **September 10 – December 3**

Gift Suggestions:

- Woolen caps
- Sweatshirts (L-XL)
- Thermal or White Socks
- Chocolates
- Canned Nuts
- Hard Candy
- Christmas Cards
- Money



If you have questions, contact Carol Lansing at (203) 520-3752

Please place items in the marked box in the Narthex