



# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

**Reformation  
Sunday**

**October 29, 2023  
9:30 AM**

**Sola Gratia**

Grace Alone

**Sola Fide**

Faith Alone

**Sola Scriptura**

Scripture Alone

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[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/SalemLutheranChurch) – 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.

**Back when many of us were growing up, Reformation Sunday was the day we Lutherans boasted that we had gotten it right and the Roman Catholics had gotten it wrong.** It was a perfectly human thing to do, of course, which is why Paul warns us against such boasting in our 3<sup>rd</sup> reading today, reminding us that instead of being proud of what we've done, we should be standing in awe of what God has done for us. In our 1<sup>st</sup> reading, the prophet Ezekiel describes exactly what this is that God has done and is doing and will continue to do – pouring the Spirit into us to transform our hearts and spirits. And in our 4<sup>th</sup> reading, Jesus makes it clear that following the Spirit means giving up trying to control our lives, and instead, letting the Spirit blow where it will. And through all the uncertainties of life, we are reminded by the psalmist in our 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, that God is our rock and refuge. Yes, a mighty fortress is our God!

**A Special Congregational Meeting** will be held **IN-PERSON** after worship today. **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.

**Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study continues at 7:00 on zoom as we study Paul's letter to the Romans.** This past week we continued with chapter 6, and we'll pick up this week with 6:20 and likely move on to chapter 7 and discuss how wholeheartedly we feel we are serving God. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . **Please join us!**

# Gathering

PRELUDE

Ein Feste burg ist Unser Gott  
BMW Cantata 80  
Vss 1, 5 & 6 Choruses for SATB

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

## German Text

- 1, Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,  
Ein gute Wehr und Waffen;  
Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not,  
Die uns itzt hat betroffen.  
Der alte böse Feind,  
Mit Ernst er's jetzt meint,  
Groß Macht und viel List  
Sein grausam Rüstung ist,  
Auf Erd ist nicht seinsgleichen.
5. Und wenn die Welt voll Teufel wär  
Und wollten uns verschlingen,  
So fürchten wir uns nicht so sehr,  
Es soll uns doch gelingen.  
Der Fürst dieser Welt,  
Wie saur er sich stellt,  
Tut er uns doch nicht,  
Das macht, er ist gericht',  
Ein Wörtlein kann ihn fällen.
6. Das Wort sie sollen lassen stahn  
Und kein' Dank dazu haben.  
Er ist bei uns wohl auf dem Plan  
Mit seinem Geist und Gaben.  
Nehmen sie uns den Leib,  
Gut, Ehr, Kind und Weib,  
Laß fahredahin,  
Sie habens kein' Gewinn;  
Das Reich muß uns doch bleiben.

## English Translation

1. A secure/solid castle is our God,  
a good defense and weapon:  
He helps us free out of all need,  
Which us presently has struck.  
The old evil foe,  
he means it earnestly now.  
Great might and much guile  
are his horrible war equipment,  
On earth is not his equal.
- And if the world full of devils were  
And wished us to devour,  
So worry we yet not so much,  
Things should for us yet succeed.  
The prince of this world,  
how sour he acts;
- The Word they shall allow to stand  
and no thanks for it have  
He is with us well on the plain  
with his Spirit and gifts.  
Take they from us the body,  
Goods, name, child, and wife,  
Let all depart They hav eno winnings;  
the Kingdom must to us yet remain.  
Yet he does nothing to us,  
that adds up to he's been judged  
A tiny word can fell him.

*Text and Music are in the Public Domain*

*Performance by UCLA Chorale & Chamber Orchestra, Rebecca Lord, Conductor, 03/12/11  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY5rfNet9zg> [11:03]*

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

## **WELCOME**

**Welcome in the name of the Living God** who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and who at the same time is continually creating, redeeming and renewing all things!

Welcome to all of you:

to Pastor Maria Hammons, from our New England Synod,  
and to everyone else who is here in person, as well as 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).

**Immediately following worship, we will have a special congregational meeting.**

**On Tuesday you're invited to a special Reformation Day celebration at Yale Divinity School** where The Rev Dr Guy Erwin, President of United Lutheran Seminary, will be preaching at 11:30 and giving a lecture at 4:00.

You may park curbside, next door south on Prospect St at Betts House, on St. Ronan St or at Bethesda.

**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)**

**I hope you will all be here next week to celebrate a very special day in my life – the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination!**

**Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?  
Then let's begin our worship with prayer!**

God of all creation,  
we thank you for your Holy Spirit that is constantly working to make all things new.  
Pour out your Spirit this day on each one of us individually, on this congregation as a whole,  
and on the entire Church of Jesus Christ!

Allow us to experience your living, loving, transforming presence!

Fill us with such joy that our hearts can't contain it all and it bursts forth!

Cause your love to burn so hot in our hearts that we are driven to share it with all the world!

Enlighten our minds, enlarge our hearts, enable our bodies, and empower our spirits  
that we might do all you call us to do!

We pray these things in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. Amen

*(as found in the ELCA worship books Renewing Worship # 152)*

**Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down;  
O Comforter and Friend,  
how we need your touch again;  
Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down;  
let your power fall,  
let your voice be heard,  
come and change our hearts  
as we stand on your word;  
Holy Spirit, rain down.**

**No eye has seen, no ear has heard,  
no mind can know what God has in store.  
So open up heaven, open it wide,  
over your church and over our lives.**

*(Repeat song as desired.)*

**Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down;  
O Comforter and Friend,  
how we need your touch again;  
Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down;  
let your power fall,  
let your voice be heard,  
come and change our hearts  
as we stand on your word;  
Holy Spirit, rain down.**

**Rain down, rain down. *(Repeat as desired.)***

*CCLI Song # 2405227; Russell Fragar*

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*Performance by Middle Church*

*[to learn more about Middle Church and our Art & Soul Worship Celebration visit:*

*<http://www.middlechurch.org>],*

*with arr.by J. Del Cueto,*

*featuring Allison Mickelson and the Middle Community Chorus, Allison Mickelson, solo,*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujd74OFZvAo> [3:37]*

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 36:26-28**

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. And you...will be my people, and I will be your God.

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

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 31, selected verses**

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge...in your righteousness deliver me....

**Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;

**for your name's sake lead me and guide me....**

For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—

**as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.**

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

**My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

**Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD, for I call on you;**

let the wicked be put to shame; let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.

**Let the lying lips be stilled**

**that speak insolently against the righteous with pride and contempt.**

O how abundant is your goodness that you have laid up for those who fear you

**and accomplished for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of everyone!**

In the shelter of your presence you hide them from human plots;

**you hold them safe under your shelter from contentious tongues.**

Blessed are you, O LORD, for you have wondrously shown your steadfast love to me  
when I was beset as a city under siege....

**You heard my supplications when I cried out to you for help.**

Love the LORD, all you saints.

for the Lord preserves the faithful and abundantly repays those who act haughtily.

**Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD.**

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

## **A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 11 & 12, selected verses**

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry <sup>14</sup>in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them....

If the root is holy, then the branches also are holy. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree, do not boast over the branches. If you do boast, remember that it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you. You will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in". That is true. They were broken off because of their trust in themselves, but you stand only through your trust in God. So do not become proud, but stand in awe... [over] the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are God's judgments and how inscrutable God's ways! ... For from God and through God and to God are all things. To God be the glory forever. Amen.

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

Let love be genuine.... love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.... Live in harmony with one another ...for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

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

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 3:1-8**

*You may stand if you so desire.*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above". Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above'. The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

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



*You may stand if you so desire.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH for Reformation Sunday**

Let us confess our faith in the words of Martin Luther as he explained the Apostles Creed:

**I believe that God has created me together with all that exists.**

**God has given me and still preserves my body and soul:**

**eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.**

**In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink,**

**house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property;**

**along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life.**

**God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil.**

**And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy,**

**without any merit or worthiness of mine at all!**

**For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him.**

**This is most certainly true.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Creator in eternity**

**and also a true human being, born of a human mother, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being.**

**He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil,**

**not with gold or silver**

**but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom,**

**and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,**

**just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

**I believe that by my own understanding or strength**

**I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him,**

**but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel,**

**enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith,**

**just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, & makes holy the whole Christian church on earth**

**and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith.**

**Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins —**

**mine and those of all believers.**

**On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead**

**and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## **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.*

God our Heavenly Parent, you call us your children & have made us siblings through your Son.  
Heal the church's divisions, bring understanding & peace where there has been conflict & strife,  
and unite us in one body through the love of Christ.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

We pray for students, especially those at Fairchild Wheeler High School,  
that they grow in their confidence and desire to learn, to dream, and to accomplish.

And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:  
Steve Kuczo and Nancy Kidwell.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our Creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea,  
and the life that animates all creation.

Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness.

Inspire us to work to prevent climate collapse. Renew the face of the earth.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our Ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever.

Let your justice & peace roll down like waters wherever there is injustice, strife, conflict, or war.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our Champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

Draw near to all who suffer, especially Austin, Barbro, Barry, Boni, Bob, Cliffy, Clyde, Dave,  
David, Dennis, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Francesca, Hans, Pastor Harv, Ivy, Janice, Jean, Jeff, Jim,  
Joe, Joey, John, Marija, Mary Anne, Mary Lou, Melvin Jr, Melvin Sr., Natalie, Pastor Paul, Pastor  
Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL, those injured in the car crash at Sacred Heart University, the grieving  
family of Ruby, and all those we name in our hearts and on our lips. Be their rest and comfort.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our Reformer, you make all things new.

Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our Savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who died in the hope of your grace.  
We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has  
brought us closer to you.

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 SONG

### Change My Heart, Oh God

*(as found in the ELCA worship books  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 801 and Worship & Praise # 28.)*

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.  
Change my heart, oh God; may I be like you.**

**You are the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.**

*(Repeat as desired.)*

*CCLI Song # 1565*

*Text: based on Psalm 51:10, Isaiah 64:8, Jeremiah 18:5-6, and Romans 9:21,*

*by Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953; Meter P M*

*Music: CHANGE MY HEART by Eddie Espinosa*

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*Performance by Church of Christ the Saviour, 06/13/21*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQrs1qsGijY> [3:06]*

# Sending

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**I hope you will all be here next week to celebrate a very special day in my life – the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination!**

## 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 31:

Love the LORD, all you saints.

for the Lord preserves the faithful and abundantly repays those who act haughtily.  
Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD.

*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!

**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 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

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,  
This Far by Faith # 133 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 504)*

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.**
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.**
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.**
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!**

*Text: based on Psalm 46, Matthew 12:29, Mark 3:22-27, Mark 5:1-20, Luke 11:14-23,  
John 2:1-11, by Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship;  
Meter 8 7 8 7 6 6 6 7*

*Music: EIN FESTE BURG by Martin Luther*

*Text & Arrangement © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.*

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*Performance by First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE, March 26, 2017  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9uGNb8Zfic>*

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in harmony with one another!

**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**

**Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott  
BWV 720**

*Bach, J. S.*

*This music is in the Public Domain*

*Performance by Mark Brombaugh, Organist, 10/21/20*

*Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma, WA, [christchurchtacoma.org](http://christchurchtacoma.org)*

*Kathryn Nichols and Mark Brombaugh, Co-Directors of Music*

*<https://christchurchtacoma.org/music/...>*

*Organ by John Brombaugh & Associates, Eugene, OR, Op. 22, 1979/89*

*as found at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m\\_BBtg7ZLCQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_BBtg7ZLCQ) [3:39]*

## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

### **Reformation Day**

**Tuesday, October 31, 2023**

By the end of the 17th century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses, a summary of Spirit-led desires. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

### **All Saints Day**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2023**

This celebration goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates all people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

### **Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639**

**Friday, November 3, 2023**

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed Black woman from Panama. As a lay brother in the Dominicans, he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

# Announcements

**Celebrate Reformation Day with United Lutheran Seminary President Guy Erwin on Tuesday, October 31, at Yale Divinity School.** The Rev. Dr. Erwin will preach at Marquand Chapel (409 Prospect Street, New Haven) at 11:30 and at 4 pm will give a lecture titled “A Mirror of Compassion & Mercy: The Passion of Christ for Luther & Today” in Niebuhr Hall. You may park curbside, next door at Betts House on Prospect, on St. Ronan St or at Bethesda.

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin was appointed president of United Lutheran Seminary and Ministerium of Pennsylvania Chair and Professor of Reformation Studies on August 1, 2020. Prior to this appointment, he was fourth bishop of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

President Erwin holds a bachelor’s and two master's degrees from Harvard University and a doctorate from Yale University. He was a Fulbright grant recipient for two years of study at the University of Tübingen in Germany, and an IREX grant recipient for a year at the University of Leipzig. His doctoral dissertation was on the late medieval roots of Luther’s theology of the cross, and his subsequent scholarly work has focused on the religious culture of Lutheranism, particularly its worship and piety, with a special interest in the visual arts and architecture.

President Erwin is the ELCA’s first gay, partnered bishop and the first openly gay male to serve in that office in the churches of the Lutheran World Federation. As an enrolled member of the Osage Nation, on whose reservation he was born in Oklahoma, he is the first Native bishop in the ELCA.

In the ELCA Conference of Bishops, he served on the Executive Committee and as Region 2 liaison bishop to the ELCA Church Council, and as chair of the bishops’ Theological and Ethical Concerns Committee.

The lecture is sponsored by the Lutheran Studies Program at Yale Divinity School. For more information, contact [timothy.keyl@yale.edu](mailto:timothy.keyl@yale.edu).

**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, 10/26, 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, Blandford Cemetery. and this past week, Galveston Island and New York City. On 11/09 we’ll discussing the chapter on Gorgee Island and the Epilog.



**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 **11/18**, and 12/16. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, [bltomasko@yahoo.com](mailto:bltomasko@yahoo.com).

**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 20<sup>th</sup>, and 9:30-10:45 am Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.** *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 20<sup>th</sup>!*

**[Click here to register](#)**

**or go to:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejv2e0zo\\_usQ-FUFGlconMHyeqdmSVWpFzD1pvGIYKPOMkNQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejv2e0zo_usQ-FUFGlconMHyeqdmSVWpFzD1pvGIYKPOMkNQ/viewform)

**We are collecting for “Seafarers Christmas at Sea” now through December 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**You are invited to join the synod’s Anti-Racism prayer call** which meets on zoom the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 7:15-7:45ish.

**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:**

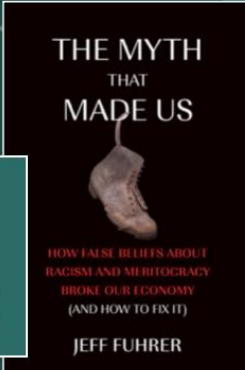
- \* ~~Sep 02 Nourish Bridgeport, Stop&Shop 1160 Kings Hwy Cutoff, Fairfield~~  
(Completed: 2,400 pounds of food and \$1,480 in cash)
- \* ~~Sep 16 Bishop Jean Williams, Stop&Shop 4531 Main Steet, Bridgeport~~  
(Completed: 2,455 pounds of food and \$691 in cash)
- \* ~~Sep 30 Sterling House, Stop&Shop 200 E. Main St, Stratford~~  
(Completed: 1,577 pounds of food, \$403 in cash, \$250 Thrivent gift card)
- \* **Oct 14 Trumbull Food Pantry, Stop&Shop 110 Quality St, Trumbull**  
**(Completed: 2,527 pounds of food, \$1,091 in cash, \$250 Thrivent gift card)**
- \* **Oct 28 Operation Hope, Stop&Shop 760 Villa Ave,**  
**(Completed: ? pounds of food, \$? in cash, \$250 Thrivent gift card)**

**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.



THE MYTH  
THAT



## “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**