



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

***Full Text
Large Print***

***21st Sunday after
Pentecost***

***October 22, 2023
9:30 AM***

The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
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3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: 203-336-3300;

"GIVE TO CAESAR
WHAT IS CAESAR'S,
AND TO GOD
WHAT IS GOD'S."

MATTHEW 22:21, NIV



Karl Kraft, Office Manager
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

www.salembridgeport.org
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.

As we read from scripture today, we are reminded that when Moses led Israel, he was functioning as both a religious and political leader. In Jesus' day Israel was no longer an independent country but was living under Roman occupation and oppression. Jesus recognized civil authority, but understood that all authority – be it political or religious – is under God's ultimate authority. We pray that God would work through both church and state to bring justice and peace to our world. And we pray, too, that God would work through each of us, to work towards justice and peace in the church and in our city, state, nation, and world.

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 began chapter 6, and since so much of what Paul talks about is death and dying, we reflected on the times we have come closest to death. As we prepare for this week, read over chapter 6 again and think back to the various "bosses" you have had in your life – your first boss, your best boss, your worst boss. 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 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

He Is Exalted

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

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

(Repeat as desired.)

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

Music: HE IS EXALTED by Twila Paris

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under CCLI # 11092038.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our FAMILY VLOG - Tiny Notes From Home

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

Our SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

Contact US: Email - Updates@SoundsLikeReign.com;

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

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

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome, in the name of God who calls us to justice,
in the name of Jesus who promised us peace,
and in the name of the Spirit who empowers us to do the work of justice and peace!

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 1st Monday and the 3rd 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 help Refill the Pantry of Operation Hope
with a collection at the Stop & Shop on Villa Ave in Fairfield
For more info or to sign up see details in our worship bulletin.**

**Also on Saturday is our monthly Lutherans and Friends lunch.
If you'd like to go please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko**

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer!

God, you are Lord of Lords, King of Kings, God of gods.
While you have unlimited power over our lives, you also have unlimited love for us.
We are here to thank and praise you for your grace and mercy.
We thank you for bringing us this far along the way, for your presence beside us,
and for your promise to continue to lead and guide us every day of our lives.
Increase in us this day faith and trust and hope
that you will fulfill your plan and purpose in each of our lives and in this congregation.
We pray all of this in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 413)*

- 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.**
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.**
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

*Text: based on Exodus 33.20, 1 Kings 4.12, Isaiah 6.1-3, 1 Timothy 6.16, Revelation 4.4-11;
by Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.; Meter Irregular*

Tune: NICAEA by John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

Performance by First Plymouth Church, UCC. Lincoln Nebraska, 05/13/13

Arrangement: Julian Wachner

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heEFzCRJYeQ> [4:48]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight’. Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest”. And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

The LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name”. Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray”. And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the LORD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 99

The LORD is king; let the people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

The LORD, great in Zion, is high above all peoples.

Let them confess God’s name, which is great and awesome; God is the Holy One.

O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down before God’s footstool;

God is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among your priests,

and Samuel among those who call upon your name,

O LORD, they called upon you, and you answered them,

you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;

they kept your testimonies and the decree that you them.

O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God’s holy hill;

for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 22:15-22 *You may stand if you so desire.*

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

SERMON

Please be seated.

Pastor Marjo

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH for the season of Pentecost

Let us affirm our faith together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Through baptism in the Spirit, God confers the gifts of

wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

May it be so!

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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

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

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

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

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated.

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.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world
and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ.

Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport,
and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport.

We pray for all children, especially those at Fairchild Wheeler High School,
that they have the ability to focus and perform at or above grade level
in reading, math, sciences, social sciences, and the arts.

And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Frank Claus

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

Creating God, seas roar, earth rejoices, & the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made.
Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation.

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

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos.

As you once fulfilled your promises to Moses for the sake of Israel and all nations,
so accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants.

Guide them with your wisdom and compassion.

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

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering,
and so we lift up all in need of your embrace, especially 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, those injured in the car crash at
Fairfield University, and all those we name in our hearts and on our lips. Pour out your abundant
mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy.

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

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you.

When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray,
remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope.

Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters.

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

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word.

We give you thanks for their witness & pray we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom.

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

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW # 686

- 1 We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**
- 2 May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first-fruits give.**
- 3 The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace — it is a Christ-like thing.**
- 4 And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.**

*Text: based on Exodus 23:19, 1 Chronicles 29:14, Matthew 25:31-46, James 1:27
1 Peter 4:1, 1 John 3:17-18 by William W. How, 1823-1897, alt; Meter S M*

Music: HEATH by L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantic Lauda, 1850

This hymn is in the Public Domain

Performance by Second Church, 07/09/12

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fJ70-bTxX4> [2:12]

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 1st Monday and the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7:15-7:45ish.**

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**Also on Saturday is our monthly Lutherans and Friends lunch.
If you'd like to go please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko**

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 Exodus, chapter 33:

God says to those who have found favor in his sight,
"I know you by name ... my presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

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

Lift Every Voice and Sing

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 841, and This Far by Faith # 296)*

**Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938; Meter PM

Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING; J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance by Abyssinia Baptist Church, New York, NY

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGaEV_ir3KQ [4:54]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, and proclaim the greatness of the LORD!

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 HYMN God of Grace and God of Glory

- 1 God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
- 3 Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal
- 4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

*Text: based on Joshua 1:9, 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 27:14, 46:91,
Proverbs 9:13-16, Isaiah 2:4-11, Micah 4:3
by Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969, Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7 7*

Music: CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes, 1873-1932

Text & Music are in the Public Domain

*Performance by First-Plymouth Church Choir & Congregation, Lincoln, Nebraska, 07/10/22
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IyyNowMPx6E> [3:26]*

Announcements

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.

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 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,**
Fairfield volunteersignup.org/8DXYW

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.

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.

CREDITS

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Do you want to talk or pray with your pastor? Well, just like you call your doctor or dentist to schedule an annual wellness visit or a visit to deal with a particular issue, you can contact Pastor Marjo via text or phone at 203-982-3441, or through Office Manager Karl Kraft via text at 203-336-3300 or email at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net . Our bodies are intimately connected with our minds and hearts and spirits, so the health of one part impacts the health of the other parts.

1. Get your annual “spiritual” – just the way you get your annual physical.

Call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 to arrange a time to discuss how you are, and let her know how she can pray for you.

Or if you prefer to use email to set something up, send your email to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net.

2. Call in to our prayer line at 681-999-0232, using access code 673980#, at noon Mon-Fri for a brief time of prayer.

You can remain silent and anonymous, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers.

OR join our weekly prayer gathering on Zoom, Wednesdays at noon, at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09>

3. Begin a fast or establish a new healthier habit.

4. Commit yourself to some new work of charity and one new work of justice.

If you're wondering what the difference is, it's like this.

If people are hungry and you give them fish, that's CHARITY.

If people are hungry and you teach them to fish, that's EMPOWERMENT.

If people are hungry and you work to change laws so that they receive high enough wages from their jobs so they can afford to buy fish, that's JUSTICE.

If you're not sure how to “do justice” as God commands through the Prophet Micah (6:8), Pastor Marjo can offer suggestions.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

Monday, October 23, 2023

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters

Thursday, October 26, 2023

These great hymnwriters all worked in 17th-century Germany in times of war and plague.

Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week.

He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying", known as the King and Queen of Chorales.

Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith.

Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Saturday, October 28, 2023

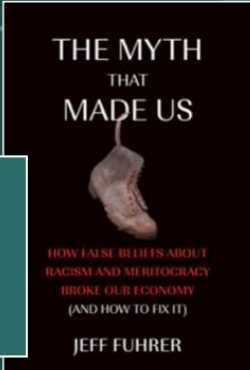
We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists.

Jude, also called Thaddeus,

asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.



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