



# *Salem Lutheran Church*

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*25th Sunday  
after Pentecost*

*Sunday before  
Thanksgiving*

*November 19, 2023  
9:30 AM*



The Parable of the Talents

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

# Welcome to Worship!

**We want you to feel safe** so please know that we have 2 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary (the third is out for repair). And we also have one running 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 on this 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost as we watch how oppression leads to revolution and war**, our readings continue to speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather to worship the God of hope who is faithful and who will keep every promise!

**A Special Congregational Meeting** was held in October at which the congregation voted to close. Pastor Maria Hammons will be meeting with our Executive Committee and Council at the end of this month, and plans will be made to begin the legal process of dissolution beginning in January. There are practical and legal procedures which must be followed, and as the synod leads us through these, we ask your patience and your prayers.

**Kristin Huffman and New Paradigm Theatre invite you to a Gratitude Concert today at 5:00 pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 285 Lyons Plain Road, Weston – a perfect way to start out this week of Thanksgiving!**

**Please join many others from our New England Synod tomorrow (Monday 11/20) 6:30-7:45 and/or Tuesday (11/21) 9:30-10:45 for 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 this important event.

**[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)

**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 pray silently and anonymously, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers.

**This Wednesday instead of our regular evening Bible Study we'll have a special Thanksgiving Gathering on zoom – in a kind of cross between Bible Study and Momma J's Inner-View Chat and Chew!** The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . **Please join us!**

# 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*

*Text and Music © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP).*

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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 is the Source of All Things  
in the name of Jesus Christ who came that we might have Life and Life Abundant,  
and in the name of the Spirit who will teach us Everything

### **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 thank you, those of you out there in cyber space, wherever – and whenever! – you are!

### **For those of you who don't know me,**

I am 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.

**This afternoon you are invited to a Gratitude Concert by New Paradigm Theatre at 5:00**  
at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Lyons Plain Rd in Weston.

### **On Monday evening 6:30-7:45 and/or Tuesday 9:30-10:45,**

I hope you will join me and 150 others from the New England Synod on zoom  
for a discussion with Jeff Fuhrer on his book, The Myth that Made Us .  
The link to register is in your worship bulletin and on the Calumet website.

### **This afternoon at Every Monday-Friday at noon**

**you're invited to join us on our conference line for prayer.**

**On Wednesday, you are invited to our weekday prayer call at noon on our conference line,  
to our Wednesday Prayer Gathering at noon on zoom,  
& to a special Thanksgiving Gathering in lieu of our regular Bible Study at 7 on zoom.**

**All of our zoom events can be found on the Calendar under the Resources tab  
on our website: SalemBridgeport.org**

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

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

God, we come to praise you for who you are and to thank you for all you do!

You have called us to be in relationship with you.

You have gathered us to be in relationship with each other.

And you have entrusted us to live in your kingdom here on earth.

In our failures, you forgive; in our sins, you save; in our hopelessness, you help.

Change our hearts and minds this day that we might be the people you call us to be,  
people called to be light in the darkness and to work for justice and peace in all the world.

We pray all this in the Name of Jesus and by the Power of the Spirit. Amen

**OPENING HYMN**

**Christ, Be Our Light**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 715)*

*You may stand if you so desire.*

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness, Longing for truth, we turn to you,  
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see,**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled, Longing for hope, many despair,  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us, Make us your living voice.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for food, many are hungry, Longing for water, many still thirst,  
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless, Longing for warmth, many are cold,  
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Many the gifts, many the people, Many the hearts that yearn to belong,  
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

*Text: John 1:9, 3:19, 8:12, 9:5, 12:46, 2 Corinthians 4:6; Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957;  
Meter 9 8 9 6 and refrain*

*Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957*

*Text and Music: © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications*

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*Performance by the Reverend Marjo Anderson*

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

Be silent before the Lord GOD!  
**For the day of the LORD is at hand;**  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
**he has consecrated his guests.**

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs,  
**those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."**  
Their wealth shall be plundered,  
**and their houses laid waste.**  
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;  
**though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.**

The great day of the LORD is near,  
**near and hastening fast;**  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
**the warrior cries aloud there.**  
That day will be a day of wrath,  
**a day of distress and anguish,**  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
**a day of darkness and gloom,**  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
**a day of trumpet blast and battle cry**  
against the fortified cities  
**against the lofty battlements.**

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;  
**because they have sinned against the LORD,**  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
**and their flesh like dung.**

Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
**in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;**  
**for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.**

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

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 90:1-12**

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,  
**“Turn back, O children of earth.”**

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
**and like a watch in the night;**

you sweep them away like a dream,  
**they fade away suddenly like the grass:**  
in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
**in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

For we are consumed by your anger;  
**we are afraid because of your wrath.**

Our iniquities you have set before you,  
**and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
**we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

The span of our life is seventy years,  
**perhaps in strength even eighty;**  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,  
**for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

Who regards the power of your wrath?  
**Who rightly fears your indignation?**

So teach us to number our days  
**that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

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

**A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security”, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 25: 14-30**

*You may stand if you so desire.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents’. His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master’. And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master’. Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours’. But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

**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**

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.**

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.*

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life,  
as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve.

Turn us from fear and self-serving ways,  
that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for The Council of Churches  
of Greater Bridgeport's FEED Center and its Janus Center for Youth in Crisis,  
and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

We pray for the safety, protection, thriving & wellbeing of our teachers, educators, & their families,  
especially those at Fairchild Wheeler High School.

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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another.

Guide us in your work to sustain the life of the planet, and protect farmlands and harvests.

Direct all of us in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity.

Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders, and all of us who vote.

Free any who are oppressed, bring redemption to victims of injustice,  
and expose all corruption, bringing its perpetrators to justice.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, bring community. We  
remember before you especially Austin, Barbro, Barry, Boni, Bob, Cliffy, Clyde, Dave, David, Dennis,  
Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Francesca, Hans, Pastor Harv & his family, Ivy, Janice, Jean, Jeff, Jessica,  
Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Marija, Mary Anne, Mary Lou, Melvin Jr, Melvin Sr., Natalie, Pastor Paul, Pastor  
Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL, the families of George & Scott, & all we name in our hearts & on our lips.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church.

Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love.

Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of  
those who have died in faith, especially Clement, Miguel Agustin Pro, Justus Falckner, John Jones,  
William Passavant, and Isaac Watts, we praise your goodness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

# Thanksgiving

## OFFERING PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING WEEK

Let us pray.

**Father in heaven, like a farmer, you have watched us grow  
and picked us from your garden to show forth your light and glow.  
Open our minds to think of you. Open our mouths to sing.  
Open our eyes to see your world and share the joy you bring.  
Open our hearts to be your home – warm and welcome shells,  
washed clean of sin, a place wherein your love and light may dwell. Amen**



## OFFERING INVITATION *Please be seated.*

In response to God's grace, it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings. We are grateful for your generosity, which not only is an exercise of and witness to your faith, but which funds our ministry together here at Salem.

If you are a member of another congregation, we encourage you to give to your home congregation first, but invite you to contribute to our ministry also so that we can continue to take our worship online as a witness to the power and love of the amazing God we serve. Simply go to the menu on our website at SalemBridgeport.org and click "donate" or scan the QR code here in our Sunday worship program with a QR reader on your smart phone which will take you to that page.

**OFFERTORY SONG    Bring Forth the Kingdom / Reign / City**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Worship & Praise # 22)*

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the city of God!

**Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the city of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people, shine for the city of God!

**Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

You are a seed of the word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the city of God!

**Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

We are a blest and a pilgrim people bound for the reign of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the city of God!

**Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the city of God!**

*Text:     based on Matthew 5:13-16, 13:18-23, Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15 by Marty Haugen  
          Meter 9 7 9 7 & refrain*

*Music:   BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM by Marty Haugen*

*Text & Music © 1986 GIA Publications*

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*Performance by United Church in University Place, 09/06/21*

*Jeff Andersen, piano & vocals; A.J. Milleret, vocals*

*Don Thompson, guitar & audio mix; Judy Thierry, visuals*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=falBgJrtqVs> [2:43]*

# Sending

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**This afternoon you are invited to a Gratitude Concert by New Paradigm Theatre at 5:00**  
at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Lyons Plain Rd in Weston.

**On Monday evening 6:30-7:45 and/or Tuesday 9:30-10:45,**

I hope you will join me and 150 others from the New England Synod on zoom  
for a discussion with Jeff Fuhrer on his book, The Myth that Made Us .  
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**This afternoon at Every Monday-Friday at noon**  
**you're invited to join us on our conference line for prayer.**

**On Wednesday, you are invited to our weekday prayer call at noon on our conference line,**  
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**& to a special Thanksgiving Gathering in lieu of our regular Bible Study at 7 on zoom.**

**All of our zoom events can be found on the Calendar under the Resources tab**  
**on our website: SalemBridgeport.org**

## THANK YOU

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,

I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us.  
I hope you will join us again.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray with Pastor Marjo,  
you can reach her through Salem's 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 I Thessalonians 5:

Put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of hope.

For God has destined you not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through Christ  
so that whether you are in this life or in the next, you may live with God forever. 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,  
in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen**

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**  
**We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.**  
**Open our hearts to your coming,**  
**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**  
**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen**

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen**

## COMMUNION

*Please be seated.*

God be with you!	<b>And also with you!</b>
Open your hearts!	<b>We open them to God and one another!</b>
Let us give thanks to the God of all!	<b>It is right to give God thanks &amp; praise!</b>

In the night in which he was betrayed....

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.  
**Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen**

The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you.

*During communion, you may take your communion elements during worship  
or hold on to your kit until you get home.*

*If you take the elements inside the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet.  
After the service, please dispose of your own kit either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.*

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen!**

**SENDING HYMN**

**Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

*(as found in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, # 843)*

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**
  
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
  
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.**

*Text: Psalm 146:8, Isaiah 35:5, 61:1, Matthew 8:26, 15:30-38, Mark 4:9, Luke 4:18-19,  
John 4:13-14, Revelation 7:16-17 by Rusty Edwards, b. 1955; Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

*Music: NETTLETON by J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part III, 1813*

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*Performance by the Rev. Marjo Anderson, 05/10/20*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go, in gratitude for God's grace. Work for justice. Pray for peace.  
**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**

### **Oh, Give Thanks unto the Lord**

Oh give thanks unto the Lord For He is good, yes He is good  
Oh give thanks unto the Lord For He is good, yes He is good *(Repeat as desired)*

For He is worthy, worthy, For He is, yes He is good *(Repeat as desired)*

*Text: Judith C. McAllister. Tune: Judith C. McAllister;  
arr. by Brandon Waddles. © 2002, Judah Music Publishing.*

*Performed by Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 06/23/30  
Recorded with permission at Worship Symposium 2019 at Calvin University.*

*worship.calvin.edu  
as found at this link: [3:36]*



# Announcements

**On Reformation Day, United Lutheran Seminary President The Rev Dr R Guy Erwin preached and lectured at Yale Divinity School.** One of the most interesting parts of the lecture and discussion was on Luther's understanding that as human beings we have two "eyes" – a physical eye and a spiritual eye. The physical eye sees the material world around us and we can choose to respond with love or apathy, but even if we respond with love, our response is lacking. Why? because it is only with our spiritual eye that we can see the situation as God sees it and respond in a way that meets not only the physical, but the spiritual needs of the world. Both the sermon and lecture are posted on Salem's Facebook page and also on Salem's YouTube channel.

**Music on the Hill invites you to their holiday concert, Sounds of the Season, Friday December 1, at 7:30 pm** at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 10 Lyons Plain Rd., Westport. Suggested donation \$25.

**St. Matthew Baptist Church invites you to their Christmas Concert Sunday December 17, 1:30-2:30 pm,** at 126 Washington Avenue.

**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

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

**Thank you for your contributions to Salem's Food Assistance Fund!** While we may not have our own food pantry anymore, some of our members and others are still in need of food and Pastor Marjo distributes \$25 stop & shop cards as needed, requested and as available. We encourage you to donate to Salem's food assistance fund. You can give using the envelopes found in your quarterly envelope packet or you can put a check in the donation box at Salem marked "food assistance." In addition, you may send a check to the office or drop it in church mailbox or give it or cash to Pastor Marjo.

**nOURish BRIDGEPORT's Hydroponic Farm** is now open to the public. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and purchase leafy greens and herbs at 1895 Stratford Avenue, Stratford CT.

## **Our Refill the Pantry program for 2023 has finished!**

- \* ~~**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~~  
(Completed: 1,637 pounds of food, \$1,151 in cash)

**Totals collected for the year were 17,700 pounds of food, \$10,600 in cash, plus gift cards!**

**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](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.

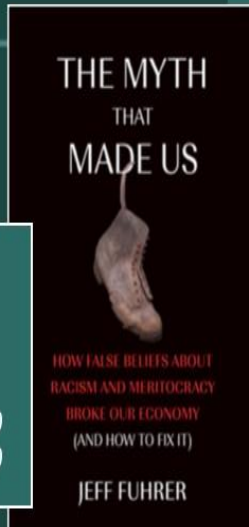
- 1. Get your annual "spiritual"** – just the way you get your annual physical.  
Call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 to arrange a time to discuss how you are, and let her know how she can pray for you.  
Or if you prefer to use email to set something up, send your email to [salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net).
- 2. Call in to our prayer line at 681-999-0232, using access code 673980#, at noon Mon-Fri** for prayer. You can pray silently & anonymously, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own.  
**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.



## “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**

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

### **Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100**

**Thursday, November 23, 2023**

Clement was the third bishop of Rome.

He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them.

As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

### **Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927**

**Thursday, November 23, 2023**

Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy.

He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless.

Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

### **Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America**

**Friday, November 24, 2023**

Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America,

but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent.

Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia

which led to the formation there of the 1<sup>st</sup> African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's).

William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

### **Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748**

**Saturday, November 25, 2023**

Thought by many to be the greatest hymn writer in the English language,

Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time.

He wrote about 600 hymns — many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

## CREDITS

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