



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Christ the King

*Thanksgiving
Weekend*

*November 26, 2023
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
marjoanderson@aol.com
203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: 203-336-3300;

www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) – 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.

In the midst of the chaos and evil in our world we long for someone to lead us to peace and justice. Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, but he came not to rule in the physical world, but in the spiritual one. Every time we follow in faith, we step into God's kingdom on earth where Christ rules through the power of truth and love. Every time we exercise our faith through worship, prayer, Bible study, witness, service, and the work of justice, God is able to manifest the kingdom of heaven in us here on earth.

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.

On Wednesday our regular evening Bible Study continues at 7:00 on zoom as we continue to make our way through the book of Romans, picking up with chapters 8 & 9. The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . **Please join us!**

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.

Please join the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport for a Clergy, Lay & Delegates Breakfast on December 2nd at the Messiah Baptist Church, 210 Congress Street. We are excited to invite you to this breakfast so we may gather together, break bread and share what is happening in our churches. **Please RSVP** to Coleen at coleenlane@ccgb.org **by November 29th.**

A Special Congregational Meeting was held in October at which the congregation voted to close. Pastor Maria Hammons met with our Executive and Finance Committees this week and will meet with Council on Monday, and will be with us for worship next Sunday, December 3rd, and afterwards will discuss the legal process of dissolution which will begin in January and likely be completed this spring. As the synod leads us through the practical and legal process of holy closure, we ask your patience and your prayers.

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: [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 of all creation,
in the name of Jesus Christ, in whom creator and creation meet,
and in the name of the Spirit who connects us to God through Christ.

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'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.

Every Monday-Friday at noon you're invited to join us on our conference line for prayer.

**On Wednesday, you are invited to our weekly Prayer Gathering at noon on zoom,
and to 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**

FYI, I will be unavailable Tuesday due to jury duty.

**Music on the Hill invites you to their holiday concert Friday evening at 7:30 pm
at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Westport.**

**Please join the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport for a Breakfast on Saturday
at Messiah Baptist Church. Please RSVP by Wednesday**

**Next Sunday Pastor Maria Hammons will be here for worship
and will meet with us following to explain the process of holy closure.**

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!

We open our minds and hearts, our bodies and souls, to you – that you may transform us.

God, you have complete power over all things – us, your church, your world, & even time & space.

Yet you sent Jesus to show us that we can trust your love in all things great and small.

Open us to the transformative work of your Holy Spirit that we might be raised from death to life
right here and right now.

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

OPENING HYMN Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 435)*

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

**Ev'ry eye shall now behold him robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at nought before him, pierced & nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall their true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his Passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers.
With what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

*Text: based on Daniel 7:13-14, Zechariah 12:10, Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:26-27,
Luke 21:25-28, John 19:37, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, Revelation 1:7,
by Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.; Meter 8 7 8 7 12 7*

Music: HELMSLEY by Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by St. Bartholomew's Choir, Choristers & St. Bart's Singers, 12/03/20
Dr. Paolo Bordignon, Organist and Choirmaster
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88ZR9O0vogE> [5:22]*

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

¹³As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 93

The LORD is king, robed in majesty;

the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting.

The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;

the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,

mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.

Your testimonies are very sure,

and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Revelation 1:4b-8

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega”, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 18:33-37

You may stand if you so desire.

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

You may stand if you so desire.

The Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia

Taken from A New Zealand Prayer Book, The Church of the Province of New Zealand, p 481.

https://prodigal.typepad.com/prodigal_kiwi/2011/06/sunday-an-affirmation-of-faith.html

Let us affirm our faith together.

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you**

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.

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world,
let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

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

Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body
to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom.

Raise up diverse leaders who teach and serve your people.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially those who work for justice through diversity, equity, and inclusion,

like Pastor Marjo and the rest of our synod's anti-racism advisory board,

Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response,

and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's World Hunger Appeal.

We pray for proper and competitive compensation to retain and attract the best teachers and educators
especially those at Fairchild Wheeler High School and other schools in Bridgeport.

And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Justin Claus and Bruce Tomasko.

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

Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places.

Lead us to promote the protection of wildlife habitats and endangered species,
that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy.

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

Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf.

Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work.

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

Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated.

Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration.

Empower activists who advocate for change.

Bring healing to all in need, 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, and all we name in our hearts and on our lips.

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

Teach those of us who call ourselves Lutherans to worship in the language of the people
that we might pass the faith on to the next generation

Lead us into deepened prayer and an increased sense of your presence this Advent.

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

In your eternal presence the saints sing of your majesty.

Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin.

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 prayers to you, gracious God,

trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

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

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 434)*

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**
- 2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.**
- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.**
- 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.**
- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our king;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.**

Text: based on Psalm 8:2, 72:8, 17, Isaiah 61:1

Matthew 11:28, 21:15-16, Luke 4:18-19, Ephesians 5:2

by Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; Meter L M

Music: DUKE STREET attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Text and Music are in the Public Domain

Performance by First Plymouth Church, Lincoln NE, 01/18/18

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5U4IMtvp6bg> [3:49]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Every Monday-Friday at noon you're invited to join us on our conference line for prayer.

**On Wednesday, you are invited to our weekly Prayer Gathering at noon on zoom,
and to 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**

FYI, I will be unavailable Tuesday due to jury duty.

**Music on the Hill invites you to their holiday concert Friday evening at 7:30 pm
at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Westport.**

**Please join the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport for a Breakfast on Saturday
at Messiah Baptist Church. Please RSVP by Wednesday**

**Next Sunday Pastor Maria Hammons will be here for worship
and will meet with us following to explain the process of holy closure.**

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 me,
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 in cyberspace
this blessing based on our reading today from the first chapter of the book of Revelation:

Christ who loves us and who freed us from our sins by his blood,
calls us to be priests to serve our God and father,
and to live in his kingdom now and forever. Amen

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

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 power is boundless and whose love is endless. **Amen**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love as Jesus loves.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.
We have ignored voices that call for your justice.
We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness.
We have spoken and acted in ways that disrupt your beloved community.
We truly repent of things we have done and left undone.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Restore our troubled spirits, so that we may live in newness,
follow the way of the Spirit, and build up the body of Christ. Amen**

Rejoice and be glad!
God hears the prayers of all who cry out,
and restores us to life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| God be with you! | And also with you! |
| Open your hearts! | We open them to God and one another! |
| Let us give thanks to the God of all! | It is right to give God thanks & praise! |

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENDING HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal!

(as found in the ELCA worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* # 805)

- 1 **Lead on, O King eternal!**
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.
- 2 **Lead on, O King eternal,**
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.
- 3 **Lead on, O King eternal:**
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!

*Text: based on Job 7:1-7, Psalm 31:3, Zephaniah 3:14-20, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 4:9
by Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.;
Meter 5 5 8 8 5 5*

Music: SELENBRÄUTIGAM by Adam Drese, 1620-1701

Text and Tune are in the Public Domain.

Performance by Sanctuary Choir of First United Methodist, Downtown, Houston, TX, 02/10/19

Dr. Terry Morris, Director of Traditional Music

John Gearhart, Organist; Jonathon Saint-Thomas, Pianist

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzlponYvF30> [2:12]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. Live in the kingdom.
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 MUSIC

All to Jesus I Surrender

(as found in the ELCA worship book This Far by Faith # 235)

**All to Jesus I surrender; All to him I freely give.
I will ever love and trust him, In his presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.**

**All to Jesus I surrender; Humbly at his feet I bow;
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me, Jesus, take me now.
I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.**

**All to Jesus I surrender; Make me, Saviour, wholly thine;
Let me feel thy Holy Spirit, Truly know that thou art mine.
I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.**

**All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee;
Fill me with thy love and power, Let thy blessing fall on me.
I surrender all, I surrender all, All to thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.**

CCLI Song # 4836083

Text: Judson W. Van de Venter (1855-1939); Meter 8 7 8 7 with refrain

Music: Winfield Scott Weeden (1847-1908)

© 2006 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

Reprinted/Streamed with permission under CCLI License # 11092038

Performance by Maranatha Christian Church located in United Kingdom.

“We do not ask for money. The gospel is free!”

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4WbR_AtoK0 [4:23]

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.

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 9th, 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.

We will once again be collecting hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for our "Mitten Tree" from today until 12/17. There will be a box in the narthex on Sunday mornings for your contributions. Thank you for your support!

Join New Paradigm Theatre for their Annual Holiday Show Saturday Dec 9th at 8pm (<https://fairfieldtheatre.org/shows/stageone/new-paradigm-theatre-co-holiday-show-3>)
or Sunday December 10th at 2pm at Fairfield Theatre Company, 70 Sanford St, Fairfield. (<https://fairfieldtheatre.org/shows/stageone/new-paradigm-theatre-co-holiday-show-4>)
For tickets click the above links. To see a video from past shows, click on this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CedbdJNtTcw&fbclid=IwAR345IwG0UWAaOs0Z80Skv99QuC1Bp-ornFsCkfK9rc8HpD3dFh0iUTfK2g>

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.

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

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.

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 . 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 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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Andrew, Apostle

Thursday, November 30, 2023

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

CREDITS

From sundaysandseasons.com. © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS005794.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989,

Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission.

 **Council of Churches**
OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT INC.

Invites you
to join us for a

**Clergy, Lay
& Delegates
Breakfast**

The Church: Where Are We Now
and Where are We Headed?

Saturday, December 2 • 9 am–11 am

Messiah Baptist Church
210 Congress St.
Bridgeport

RSVP: Coleen Lane
coleenlane@ccgb.org

 Guest Speaker:
Rev. Earl Jones Jr.
Senior Pastor,
Morning Star
Missionary Baptist
Church, Queens, NY

Host: Rev. Shivonne McKay Annan, CCGB President & CEO

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

**the new
paradigm
theatre^{co.}**

Holiday Show!

**AT FAIRFIELD THEATRE COMPANY
December 9th and 10th
TICKETS: WWW.NPTHEATRE.ORG**

**"Oh what fun...
for the whole family"**

A stylized illustration of Santa Claus with a red hat, white beard, and rosy cheeks, smiling. The background of the entire advertisement is red with several white snowflake icons scattered around.