



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*3rd Sunday after
Epiphany*

*January 21, 2024
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
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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 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. (A big thank you to Bill Winter for getting our 3rd one repaired!). There is also one running in the lounge for when we have worship, coffee hour, or adult forums there. Also, you are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

The season of Epiphany is about revelation, not only about who Jesus was revealed to be during the time he lived as a human on earth, but about who Jesus continues to be revealed to be in the present time and place – specifically as he is revealed to us. But it doesn't stop with the revelation. Once it has been revealed to us, then we become agents of God's continuing revelation. As we live under God's reign in God's kingdom, as we follow Jesus, and as we allow the Spirit to transform our lives from the inside out, we become the ones whose light shines to light the way for others. The key, however, is what we read about today: repentance. But the kind of repentance Jesus preached wasn't about being sorry, but about living in an entirely different way than we did before.

We hope you got your Epiphany House Blessing and Anniversary of Baptism inserts last week, but if not, please remember to pick up yours today. Also, Pastor Marjo as a personal “Star Word” for each of you – which can serve as your guiding light throughout the year!

Upcoming services at our regular time include:

Today, Jan 28, & Feb 4 – Sundays after Epiphany

Sunday Feb 11 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday – Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd., Ffd

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Legacy Workshop last Sunday (and a special thank you to our president Cindy and everyone else who stepped up to lead worship and host the meeting in Pastor Marjo's absence!). Today we ask you to keep the Council in your prayers as they meet with Pastor Maria in the Lounge after worship to complete the next step in the process. The third step in the Legacy process will be a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday February 11th to officially vote on the distribution of our cash assets. This is all part of the specified process of dissolution to which we committed when we signed a covenant with the synod as part of the vote to close on 10/29/23. There are practical and legal procedures laid out by the state, our synod, and our constitution which must be followed, and as the synod leads us through these, we ask your patience and your prayers.

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 THIS SATURDAY, February 24 and March 23. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, bltomasko@yahoo.com.

Gathering

GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 532)*

Here in this place new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in – the lost & forsaken. Gather us in – the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty. Gather us in – the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water. Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion. Give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining: now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever. Gather us in and make us your own.
Gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Meter 10 9 10 10 D

Music: GATHER US IN; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Performance # 1 by Tim McNabb, Halifax Lutheran Church, 09/09/22

Accompaniment Style: Worship 6-8; with lyrics

If you are following along in the hymn book,

you will notice I took some liberties with the timing of the music.

This has to do with Marty Haugen throwing in the odd 9-8 measure in a 6-8 piece of music.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31IpMpzimT0> [3:06]

Performance # 2 by Chris Brunelle, 05 /22/15

To support my ministry via Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/chrisbrunelle>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8j-TOnG0UbM> [3:08]

Performance # 3 by The Heralds Choir of St Mary's Music Ministries

of the Church of St Mary of the Angels, 07/18/21, featuring choristers and musicians:

*Shun, Nina, Jeja, Annie, Mavic, Sarah, Steph, Jason, Mark, LJ, Kalvin, Estee, Jhona, Mulya, Pat,
Zac (piano), Randy (guitar), Joycelyn (flute 1), Leng (flute 2), Zachary Sebastian Wong (editing)*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y94LRdZzRnc> [2:32]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the God who names us beloved children,
in the name of Jesus into whose death we are baptized and into whose life we are raised,
and in the name of the Spirit, who sends us out to proclaim the gospel in word and deed!

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.

**Please don't forget to take home your 2024 Epiphany House Blessing
and your Anniversary of Baptism inserts if you haven't already done so.**

Also make sure you get your personal Star Word to shine light on your path this year.

We invite you to join or regular weekly activities:

our Monday-Friday noon prayer on our conference line,

our Wednesday weekly prayer at noon on zoom,

and our Wednesday evening Bible study at 7:00 on zoom,

as well as the Anti-Racism Accountability Group on zoom at 4:00 on Mondays.

A Lutherans & Friends lunch will be held on **Saturday** at the **Old Towne Restaurant** in **Trumbull**.

For more info or to RSVP, please contact Bruce Tomasko, Sandra Brown, or Nancy Headford.

Links to the above events are found on our calendar a SalemBridgeport.org

**For more details on these announcements or to hear about other upcoming events
please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.**

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer:

God of boundless power and endless love,

from the beginning of creation, you have been calling all things back to you.

From the time you knit us together in our mothers' wombs,

you have been calling us back into relationship with you.

In baptism you claim us as your beloved children

and you tell us you are pleased with what you have created in us,

with the potential you have planted in us,

with the plan and purpose you are processing in us,

even in the midst of our disobedience.

We thank you for your love which justifies us

and your power which sanctifies our lives as we draw closer to you.

Accept our prayers and praise this day, and open us to receive all that you have to give.

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

OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 532)*

**Here in this place new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in – the lost & forsaken. Gather us in – the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
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Gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Meter 10 9 10 10 D

Music: GATHER US IN; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Performance by Chris Brunelle, 05 /22/15

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as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8j-TOnG0UbM> [3:08]*

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you”. So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 62:5-12

For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

In God is my deliverance and my honor;

God is my strong rock and my refuge.

Put your trust in God always, O people,

pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

Put no trust in extortion;

in robbery take no empty pride;

though wealth increase,

set not your heart upon it.

God has spoken once,

twice have I heard it,

that power belongs to God.

Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Mark 1:14-20

You may stand if you so desire.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news”.

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people”. And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR EPIPHANY

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**

*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*

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,
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.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form,
we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken.
We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us.
Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today
for the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport,
and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport
& the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

We pray for an increase in overall performance and test scores across all metrics,
especially at Fairchild Wheeler High School.

And we pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Kristin Schulz and Michael Lange.

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

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea.
Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them.

Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them.

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

God who proclaims judgement & offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation & the world. As
they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth.

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

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse
and sustain all who minister to them.

Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty,
and any among us who are ill or in pain, especially Austin, Barbro, Barry, Bob, Boni, Bud,
Christopher, Cindy, Cliffy, Clyde, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Francesca, Hans,
Ivy, Janice, Jasmina, Jeanette, Jeff, Jessica, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Karen, Kevin, Lynn, Marija, Pastor
Marjo, Mary Lou, Melvin Jr, Melvin Sr, MJ, Natalie, Pastor Paul, Pastor Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL, & all
we name in our hearts & on our lips.

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

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news,
empower us and this faith community to be open to your call.

When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us.

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

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care.
Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation.

Continue to comfort those who grieve, especially families & friends of Joe, Jim, Phyllis, & Ann.

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

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

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us,
we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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 it 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

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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

Please don't forget to take home your 2024 Epiphany House Blessing and your Anniversary of Baptism inserts if you haven't already done so. Also make sure you get your personal Star Word to shine light on your path this year.

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please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

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 me 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 of Psalm 62:

Wait in silence; hope; trust; and pour out your hearts before God.
And God will be your deliverer, your rock and refuge, your salvation and stronghold,
so you shall never be shaken. Amen

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may stand if you so desire and make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in the one true faith. **Amen**

God's love is infinite and unconditional.

As individuals we have only to accept it and live in its light. The moment we confess, we are forgiven. As together we gather for worship, so together we confess our sins as our community, and together we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess:

**that too often we focus on the things we lack,
that too often we are attached to our own personal agendas,
that too often we insist on doing things our own way,
that too often we are oblivious to the needs for justice around us.**

God who has heard our confession both forgives and forgets every failing. **Amen!**

Loving God, teach us:

**to see your amazing abundance rather than any lack,
to listen more - to you and to each other - and to talk less,
to trust in your power and not our own,
to build relationships with those who are not like us.**

God who has given us the will to do these things ✝ graciously gives us the power to perform them. **Amen!**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!

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

We Are Called

*(as found in the ELCA worship books
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 720 and Worship & Praise # 147)*

**Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

**We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more.**

**We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.**

**We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

Text: David Haas, b. 1957; Meter irregular

Music: WE ARE CALLED; David Haas, b. 1957

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Performance by Saint Kateri's Music Ministry's Virtual Choir, 05/02/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eancn5COZ8k> [3:31]

DISMISSAL

The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near!
Repent, believe in the good news, and go in peace, following Jesus!
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 **MEDLEY: I SURRENDER ALL + I GIVE IT ALL**

I SURRENDER ALL

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 Savior I surrender all
All to Jesus I surrender Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken Take me Jesus take me now (*Refrain*)

I GIVE IT ALL TO YOU

I give it all to You I give my life to You Yielding my thoughts All of my dreams
I lay them down A living sacrifice My willing offering All I am, wholly Yours I give it all
You can have it all Every part of me I surrender all I am For Your glory (*Refrain*)

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)

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I Give It All - CCLI#: 7158576

Text & Music: Nicholas Hung and Grace Lim

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*Performance by Creative Trio, 07/17/21- Musical Arrangement by Ivan Tangkulung
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwRAWzcEzoE> [6:29]*

CREDITS

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Announcements

Remember to put 11:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of the month on your calendar so that you won't miss the opportunity to join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café for their monthly Inner-View Chat and Chew. The next date is February 17th. For more info or to RSVP, please contact "Momma J" at 203-366-6778 or jharris524@yahoo.com .

It's a brand new year and time for new year's resolutions! So we encourage you to resolve to grow in your relationship with God. And what better way than through talking to God and listening to God? That's exactly what happens when we pray and read & study scripture. We can do those things on our own, of course, but when we do them together it's far more impactful – kind of like addition and multiplication. Praying and studying on our own is like adding 4 + 4 which gives you 8, but praying and studying together is like multiplying 4 x 4 which gives you 16. Certainly, we are "better together". **And so we invite you to join us for:**

*** our prayer line at noon Monday-Friday** for a time of prayer. You can pray silently and anonymously, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers. The number 681-999-0232, access code 673980#, is also listed on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org.

*** our weekly Prayer Gathering Wednesdays at noon on zoom.** The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . If you cannot access zoom just let Pastor Marjo or Jeanette Harris know and you can join one of us via speakerphone; and

*** our regular evening Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:00 on zoom as we continue to make our way through the book of Romans, picking up with chapter 8, verse 18.** The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . Again, if you cannot access zoom just let us know and you can join one of us via speakerphone.

You have another opportunity for Bible Study as well on zoom on Tuesday evenings 7:30-8:30. This group, led by Pastor Rip Hoffman, looks at the gospel for the coming Sunday. For the link, contact Pastor Marjo or Pastor Hoffman.

You are invited to join the Anti-Racism Accountability Group hosted by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris on Mondays 4:00-5:00 on zoom. The group began in the fall of 2020 as a response of our Southern CT Lutheran pastors to the murder of George Floyd, but has grown into a diverse group that includes people who are White and Black, Christian, Jewish, Unitarian, and Rastafarian, clergy and lay, and from CT, MA, and DE. Some come every week while others drop in as their schedule permits. The link is on Salem's calendar, so please drop in and see what God is doing to help us fulfill our baptismal call to work for justice!

You are invited to join members of the New England Synod on the first Monday and third Thursday of the month 7:15-7:45ish on zoom as we undergird the anti-racism work of our synod with prayer. The next date is January 18th. The link is on Salem's calendar.

As Salem continues its ministry through April, expenses continue as well. If we are to give the maximum amount of our assets, we are depending on YOU to fulfill your pledge for this year & to continue your giving in 2024. While we can cover expenses from our endowment, we would much rather be able to celebrate the commitment and generosity of each & every one of our members!

As important as your financial contributions are, please remember that YOU are even more important than your money! Showing up for prayer, Bible study, Salem activities, and ecumenical events – either in person or on zoom or on conference calls – is just as impactful and sometimes more impactful than writing a check, so please think about that when you are invited to participate in events listed in these announcement pages!

Thank you for contributing to our collection of hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for our “Mitten Tree”!

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.

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County – Building Dreams in Fairfield – Your Gift Matched Dollar-for-Dollar – Still Time to Give! There is still time to make the dream of homeownership in the town of Fairfield possible for four families! We need to raise \$800,000 to build these homes in the Tunxis Hill neighborhood located at 240-246 Greenfield Street. The Elizabeth and Joseph Massoud Family Foundation and an anonymous Fairfield family are offering a dollar-for-dollar match for donations up to \$400,000. If Habitat CFC can raise \$400,000 through our Annual Appeal, the money will be matched, and we will have the funds needed to complete the Fairfield homes! Please donate today to support our goal to help four low-income, working families achieve their dream of home ownership in the town of Fairfield! Give online! Scan the QR code or visit habitatcfc.org/donate or mail a check to 1542 Barnum Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06610. For more info, contact us at 203–333–2642 (phone) or 203–333–2650 (fax) or www.habitatcfc.org. If you’ve recently given please know we appreciate your gift.

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

Agnes, martyr, died around 304

Sunday, January 21, 2024

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome.

The details of her martyrdom are not clear,

but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword.

The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

Conversion of Paul

Thursday, January 25, 2024

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul.

His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Friday, January 26, 2024

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul.

Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete,

and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul.

Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church;

Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchræ.

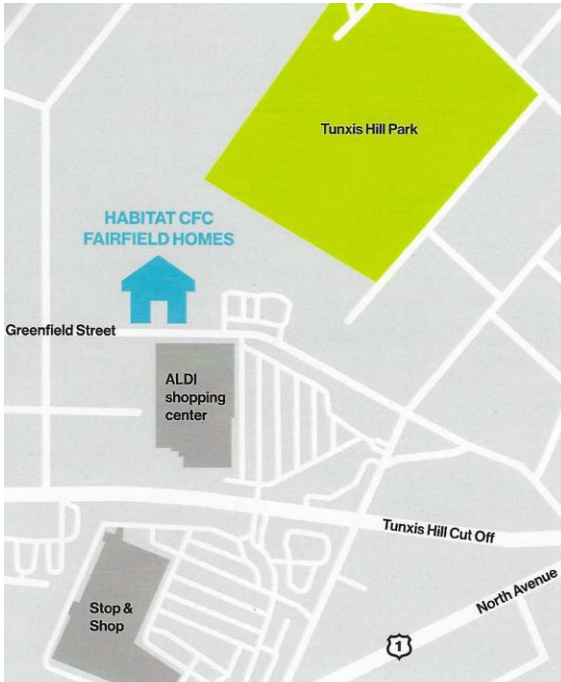


Building Dreams in Fairfield

Your Gift Matched Dollar-for-Dollar!



Still time to give!

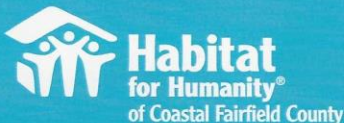


There is still time to make the dream of homeownership in the Town of Fairfield possible for four families!

We need to raise **\$800,000** to build these homes in the Tunxis Hill neighborhood located at 240-246 Greenfield Street. **The Elizabeth and Joseph Massoud Family Foundation** and an anonymous **Fairfield family** are offering a **dollar-for-dollar match for donations up to \$400,000!** If Habitat CFC can raise \$400,000 through our Annual Appeal, the money will be matched, and we will have the funds needed to complete the Fairfield homes! Please donate **TODAY** to support our goal to help four low-income, working families achieve their dream of homeownership in the Town of Fairfield!

Give Online! Scan the QR code or visit [habitatcfc.org/donate](https://www.habitatcfc.org/donate).

If you've recently given, please know we appreciate your gift.



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