



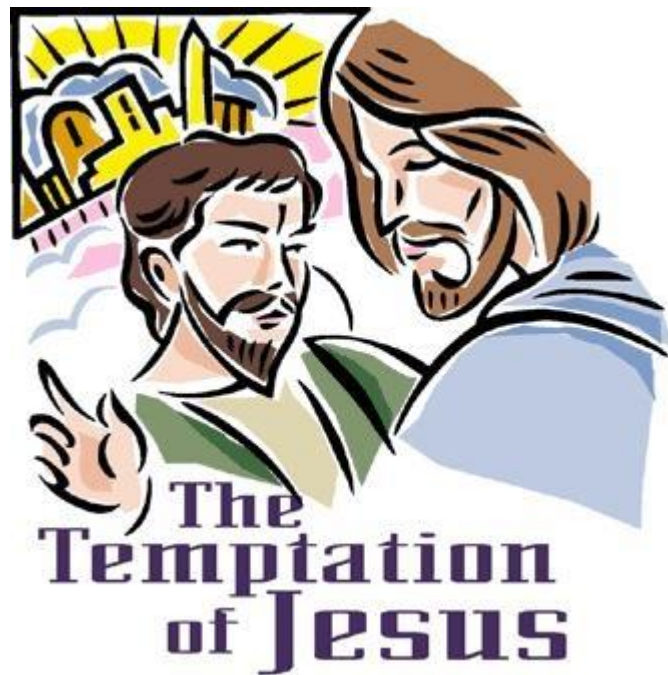
Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

1st Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024
9:30 AM



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor
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www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome to Worship!

We want you to feel safe so please know that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. (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.

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

Pastor Marjo will be on vacation from 2/24-3/6. Karl will be on vacation 2/18-28. Should you need emergency pastoral care, you may call the church cell 203-336-3300 or Pastor Chris Files at 203-767-4189.

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH at the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport's SCHOLARSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST at 9:00 AM Saturday, February 24th at Creative Venue & Rentals, 40 Logan Street. The Guest Speaker will be Rev. A. Iona Smith-Nze of Bethel AME Church. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by scanning the QR code or via CashApp at \$IMABPT21 – just note BHM in the memo line.



ON 2/25, SALEM WILL BE CELEBRATING RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY. Salem member, Cake Elie, will be preaching, so we hope everyone will come out to hear the message God has given her! There will be no communion that day.

ON 3/3, WE WELCOME THE REV PAUL SINNOTT to preach and preside at worship. Pastor Sinnott served on the staff of 3 different bishops (Isaksen, Payne, and Hazelwood), and after retiring, has served interims at St. James in Southbury and Immanuel in Oxford. He is one of the most active participants in our Anti-Racism Accountability Group hosted by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris.

PLEASE JOIN US in discussing Dr. Jemar Tisby's How to Fight Racism book! Sponsored by the New England Synod's Anti-Racism Committee and Calumet Lutheran Ministries, 2 zoom options are being offered: February 27th at 7 PM and February 28th at 9:30 AM. *Please note that Dr. Tisby himself will be joining us on the 27th!* To sign up, go to www.calumet.org/howtofightracism .

Gathering

GATHERING SONG Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 808)

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey; I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey. May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song. Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant, to carry your cross & to share all your burdens & tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark & the doubt of my journey; but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love, we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

*Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community, tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931;
Meter 12 14 12 12*

*Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus and L'Arche Community;
Text and Music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress;
Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress
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*Performance # 1 by Lutheran North Concert Choir (arr. Jared Brown), 12/17/21
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUzGnysDja8> [3:18]*

*Performance # 2 by Tim McNabb of [Halifax Lutheran Church](#),, 02/20/21
as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_SprnZKKxc [3:08]*

*Performance # 3 by Shenandoah Christian Music Camp (VA), sung at the 10th Annual Choral
Festival 2015, arranged and conducted by Lloyd Kauffman, 08/16/15
as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFxmIT_NJyo [3:01]*

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God from whom and with whom and to whom we journey!

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.

We invite you to join or regular weekly activities:

Our Mon-Fri noon prayer on our conference line will continue while Pastor Marjo is away

Please check Salem's bulletin and calendar for up to date info on Wednesday noon prayer on zoom, Wednesday Bible Study, and Monday's 4:00 Anti-Racism Accountability Group.

Our Anti-Racism Accountability Group will also continue on zoom at 4:00 on Mondays, unless we notify you otherwise.

THIS Sat 2/24 9 am is the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport's SCHOLARSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST at 40 Logan Street. Please see me for \$35 tickets.

Also this Saturday is our Lutherans & friends lunch in Trumbull.

Please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko.

And please put one more date on your calendar:

Tues 2/27 7 pm on zoom Dr. Jemar Tisby will join our synod's discussion of his book, How to Fight Racism.

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

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

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer:

Holy God, your Spirit drives us out into the wilderness of the world.

There, like your own dear child, Jesus, we find ourselves tempted to be our own gods, looking out for our own needs, as we build ourselves up at the expense of others, and strive to amass money and material goods in which we can place our trust.

Send your angels to teach us

to see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly every day.

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

OPENING HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 319)*

**O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill,
and trust in God's eternal word.**

**Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed
and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.**

Text: based on Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13

by Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930; Meter C M

Music: CONSOLATION by A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816;

arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress;

Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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Performance by Tim McNabb, Halifax Lutheran Church, 01/23/21

[442/655 in their hymn series]

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD4_kaHpBnU [2.11]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

My God, I put my trust in you;

let me not be put to shame,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

Show me your ways, O LORD,

and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;

in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

You lead the lowly in justice

and teach the lowly your way.

All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness

to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Mark 1:9-15

You may stand if you so desire.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

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.”

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

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT

(from The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa and from Indonesia)

As people of the household of God, in faith, and love, and with goodwill to all,
let us in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
give ourselves afresh to him and to one another in joyous covenant,
promising to walk together with God and one another.

We believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, & to free us from all forms of oppression.

We believe in the Spirit of God,

who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.

We believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.

We do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor in the power of oppression.

We believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people.

We denounce, stand, and work against racism,

in the power that comes from wealth & privilege,

or in any established order that enslaves.

We believe that all people are equally human,

that order based on violence and injustice is not order.

We do not believe that hunger and poverty are inevitable and peace unattainable.

We dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform,

fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth

where justice and peace will flourish.

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

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

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

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

May it be so!

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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

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

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

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

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things,
let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

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

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith.
We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people.
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
& the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.
We pray for the equitable and just funding of all Bridgeport Schools
that meets the real educational needs of our children,
especially for those living in impoverished spaces.
And we pray for Salem members & their families.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants.
Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters.
Move us from human carelessness and disregard to preserve species and habitats.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness.
Free all who govern from the temptations of power.
Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children.
Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair.
Feed hungry people living in food deserts.
Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble.
Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling, especially
Austin, Barbro, Barry, Bob, Boni, Bruce, 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, Mary Lou, Melvin Jr, Melvin Sr, MJ, Pastor
Paul, Pastor Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL, and all we name in our hearts & on our lips.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children.
We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith.
Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said, “Give and it will be given to you...
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Give us the confidence to cheerfully give our tithes & offerings of time, talent & 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

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

Out in the Wilderness

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Worship & Praise # 115)*

**Driven by the Spirit out in the wilderness;
driven by the Spirit out in the wilderness;
when the Spirit says, "Go," you can't say, "No."
You listen for the voice when you're bended low;
driven by the Spirit out in the wilderness.**

**Tempted by the devil out in the wilderness;
tempted by the devil out in the wilderness;
though you try to be strong, it's been so long.
He whispers in your ear and you know he's wrong;
tempted by the devil out in the wilderness.**

**Angels all around you out in the wilderness;
angels all around you out in the wilderness;
you are far from home where wild things roam.
There's danger ev'rywhere but you're not alone;
angels all around you out in the wilderness.**

**"You are my beloved" out in the wilderness.
"You are my beloved" out in the wilderness.
When you were baptized you realized
you'd heard the voice of God from the op'ning skies:
"You are my beloved" out in the wilderness.**

*Text: based on Matthew 4.1-11, Mark 1.9-13, Luke 4.1-13 by Jay Beech;
Meter 6 7 6 7 6 4 11 6 7*

Music: OUT IN THE WILDERNESS by Jay Beech

Text and Music: © 1999 Jay Beech)

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Performance by Abiding Grace Lutheran Church, 02/25/18

*sung by Vanessa Crixell accompanied by Rober Burnell, James Crixell & Jonathan Kraatz.
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQkiNFDeINM> [3:09]*

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We invite you to join or regular weekly activities:

Our Mon-Fri noon prayer on our conference line will continue while Pastor Marjo is away
Please check Salem's bulletin and calendar for up to date info on Wednesday noon prayer on zoom,
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Our Anti-Racism Accountability Group will also continue on zoom at 4:00 on Mondays,
unless we notify you otherwise.

**THIS Sat 2/24 9 am is the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport's
SCHOLARSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST at 40 Logan Street. Please see me for \$35 tickets.
Also this Saturday is our Lutherans & friends lunch in Trumbull. Please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko.**

And please put one more date on your calendar:

**Tues 2/27 7 pm on zoom Dr. Jemar Tisby will join our synod's discussion of his book,
How to Fight Racism.**

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

Links to the above events are found on our calendar at 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 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 from Psalm 25:

Put your trust in God
and you will not be put to shame,
neither shall your enemies triumph over you.
Keep God's covenant,
and God's steadfast love and faithfulness will guide you. 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

The Glory of These Forty Days

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 320)*

**The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

**Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.**

**So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
the herald of Messiah's name.**

**Then grant, O God, that we may, too,
return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,
and give us joy to see your face.**

*Text: based on Deuteronomy 9:8-21, Daniel 1, 6, Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13,
Luke 4:1-13, Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.
Meter L M*

*Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543
Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.,
© Oxford University Press,*

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance by Tim McNabb, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 02/18/22
as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-rCqUT2_s8 [2:10]*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, into the desert with God,
knowing that between the wild beasts and the angels, God is preparing you!
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

Guide My Feet

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
This Far by Faith # 153)*

- 1 Guide my feet while I run this race. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.
- 2 Hold my hand while I run this race. Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.
- 3 Stand by me while I run this race. Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.
- 4 I'm your child while I run this race. I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.
- 5 Search my heart while I run this race. Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.

*Text: based on Psalm 139.22-24, Isaiah 40.28-31, 1 Corinthians 9.24-27, Philippians 3. 12-15,
2 Timothy 4. 6-8, African American spiritual; Meter 8 8 8 10*

Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual; arr. This Far by Faith

Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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Performance by First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn Choir at NYU, 03/08/09

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-WVIppNBls> [3:11]

CREDITS

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Announcements

Pastor Marjo, our Officers, and our Council would like to offer praise to God and thanks to all of you for your participation in Salem's final congregational meeting on February 11. Our heartfelt prayer was that the Spirit would be mightily present, that everyone would be respectful, expressing their truth in love, that the difficult and challenging work of Salem's leadership would be truly appreciated, and that everyone would leave the meeting feeling that God's will had indeed been done. We thank almighty God for answering our prayer!

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 dates this month and next are February 24 and March 23.** If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, bltomasko@yahoo.com.

Update on our regular weekly activities:

Our Mon-Fri noon prayer on our conference line will continue while Pastor Marjo is away

Our Wednesday noon prayer on zoom will likely also continue,

but please check Salem's calendar to confirm.

Due to Pastor Marjo's schedule, **our Wed 7-8 pm zoom Bible Study calendar is as follows:**

02/21 – TBD

02/28 & 03/06 – NO Bible Study while Pastor Marjo is away

03/13 & 03/20 – TBD

03/27 – NO Bible Study as there is an ecumenical Holy Week Service that night
at Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue,

sponsored by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport

04/03 & 04/10 – TBD

Please check Salem's calendar for updates.

Our Anti-Racism Accountability Group will also continue on zoom at 4:00 on Mondays, but again, please check Salem's calendar to confirm.

You are invited to join in a Lenten Bible Study from our New England Synod,

“Encountering God: Moving Forward with a Changing Church”

Videos will be sent out on Mondays with discussion on Thursdays on zoom.

02/19-22 Week 1 – Genesis 8 – The Flood Subsides –

Rafaela Radcke, LLM Santuario / Nuevo Amanecer, Synod Council

02/26-29 Week 2 – Ezekiel 37:1-14 – The Valley of Dry Bones –

Rev. Elizabeth Nees, Transition Consultant, Coach (PCC), Dean Boston Metro

03/04-08 Week 3 – Matthew 15:21-27 – The Canaanite Woman's Faith –

Rev. Dr. Richard Simpson, Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Western MA

& Rev. Jennifer Gregg, Missioner for Servant Leadership

03/11-15 Week 4 – John 3 – Nicodemus Visits Jesus –

Cassandra Wilson, Synod Council, Member of Redeemer, Woburn, MA

03/18-22 Week 5 – Luke 24 – The Walk to Emmaus –

Ryan Heckman, Christian Education Director, St. Matthew, Avon, CT

For more info and to register, contact mwhyte@nesynod.org

Due to Lay Licensed Minister Jeanette Harris' class schedule, there will be no Inner-View Chat & Chew for Genesis Gospel café in February. The next regularly scheduled date (the third Saturday of the month) is March 16th. For more info or to RSVP, please contact "Momma J" at 203-366-6778 or jharris524@yahoo.com.

REFILL THE PANTRY 2024. We are gearing up for another year of making a positive impact in our community. We are reaching out to invite you to join us once again for our Refill the Pantry food collection program. Last year, with God's guidance and the generosity of our volunteers, we have been able to provide essential food items to countless individuals and families in need. Together, we collected 17,700 pounds of food and over \$12,000 for five food pantries. This year, we aim to make an even greater impact, and we believe that with your continued support, we can achieve this goal. We scheduled ten food collections for this year going to five local food pantries. Your participation would mean a great deal to us and, more importantly, to those in our community who rely on the support provided through Refill the Pantry. Please let Rich Lansing at rlansing@optonline.com know if you are able to participate this year.

Pastor Gabrielle Beam and Mary of Bethany Church invite you to join the launch of their public worship service at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue, at 7 pm on Palm Sunday Eve Saturday March 23. Their Anglican bishop will be there as well as many local clergy from Bridgeport and beyond. Your presence would be greatly appreciated!

Looking ahead to Holy Week!

Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday...

Remember back in the day when there were Holy Week services every night of the week? Well, there still are! The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport will be hosting an ecumenical service at the *Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue, at 7 pm every night in Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday 3/24 and continuing through Good Friday 3/29. We invite Salem members to specifically attend Sunday through Wednesday.*

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday...

As we worshipped with *Our Saviour's Lutheran Church* on Ash Wednesday, so we will also join them at *7:30 pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, 160 Hill Farm Road, Fairfield.*

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 March 15th. The link is on Salem's calendar.

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 9.** 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.

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

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation.

Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Friday, February 23, 2024

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history.

He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.



**ENCOUNTERING GOD:
Moving Forward with a Changing Church**

A Lenten Collaborative Bible Study

Five weeks starting Feb. 19th through March 21st

Week 1 - Genesis 8: The Flood Subsides
Rafaela Radcke, LLM Santuario/ Nuevo Amanecer, Synod Council

Week 2 - Ezekiel 37:1-14: The Valley of Dry Bones
Rev. Elizabeth Nees, Transition Consultant, Coach (PCC), Dean Boston Metro

Week 3 - Matthew 15: 21-27: The Canaanite Woman's Faith
Rev. Dr. Richard Simpson, Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Western MA
Rev. Jennifer Gregg, Missioner for Servant Leadership

Week 4 - John 3: Nicodemus Visits Jesus
Cassandra Wilson, Synod Council, Member of Redeemer, Woburn, MA

Week 5 - Luke 24: The Walk to Emmaus
Ryan Heckman, Christian Education Director, St. Matthew, Avon, CT

Inquiries and Zoom registration: mwhyte@nesynod.org

The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and Vicinity Presents:



Black History Month *Scholarship Prayer Breakfast*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024
9:00AM**

**CREATIVE VENUE AND RENTALS
40 LOGAN ST.
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06607**

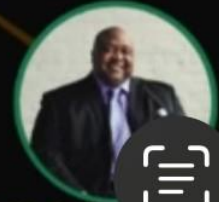


Guest Speaker:
Rev. A. Iona Smith-Nze
Bethel A.M.E. Church



Scan QR Code For Tickets

TICKETS: \$35



Rev. William D. McCullough, President
Rev. Brenda J. Barnes-Vice President

\$IMABPT21

Dr. Jemar Tisby's "How To Fight Racism"

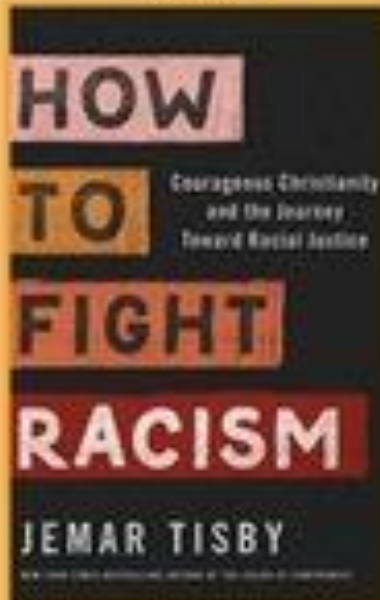


Sponsored by the Anti-Racism
Advisory Board of the New England
Synod, ELCA & Calumet Lutheran
Ministries

Join with others in reading and
discussing Dr. Tisby's book.
There are two Zoom options:

FEB 27 or FEB 28

Note that Dr. Tisby will be
joining us on the 27th!



www.calumet.org/howtofightracism