



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*5th Sunday after
Epiphany*

*February 4, 2024
9:30 AM*



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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. In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth & numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service. Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up & healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

We hope that last week you picked up your personal Star Word (which can serve as your guiding light throughout the year), as well as both your Epiphany House Blessing and Anniversary of Baptism inserts. If not, please remember to pick up yours today.

Upcoming services at our regular time include:

Today – Sunday 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 2 weeks ago and to the Council who met with Pastor Maria last week to complete step two of the process. The third step in the Legacy process will be a congregational meeting after worship NEXT 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.

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.



PLEASE, PLEASE, 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 MUSIC

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne, Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare By Thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer, The joys I feel, the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits burn With strong desires for Thy return.
With such I hasten to the place Where God my Savior shows His face
And gladly take my station there And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face, Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height, I view my home and take my flight.
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise To seize the everlasting prize,
And shout, while passing through the air, "Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

*Text: William Walford; Music: William Bradbury; This hymn is in the public domain.
Performances (which we do not have permission to stream) are found at the following links:*

Celtic Instrumental Hymn - Sweet Hour of Prayer, Jun 14, 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5L-DKyW4pE> (4:01)

Music arranged by Christian Music World

Tennessee Ernie Ford - "Sweet Hour of Prayer", Sep 24, 2014

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NcdxnPZyLE> (2:53)

The Vine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMSPHY5MPiE> (3:38)

The Protégé Group

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRrIF30Jn8Q> (2:24)

*Jazz a cappella vocal arrangement of a classic hymn. "Sweet Hour of Prayer"
written by W. W. Walford*

Arranged and produced by Jon Waller Vocals: Asia Green and Jon Waller

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of the transcendent God of all creation,
in the name of the immanent God revealed in the incarnate Jesus,
and in the name of the Spirit who connects us through Jesus to the God who made us.

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.

Please remember that next Sunday is the date of Salem's final congregational meeting.

Please add 2 other dates to your calendars:

**Sat 2/24 9 am is the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport's
SCHOLARSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST at 40 Logan Street.**

**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 a SalemBridgeport.org

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer:

God, you are so great, and we are so small, we are but grasshoppers in your sight.

And yet you know us by name and meet us at the point of our needs.

We are here to praise you for who you are, to thank you for all you do,

and to recommit ourselves to getting to know you better through Bible study and prayer,
that we might see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly,
day by day.

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

OPENING HYMN

I Need Thee Every Hour

1. I need thee ev'ry hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

Refrain: I need thee, oh I need thee, ev'ry hour I need thee;
oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

2. I need thee ev'ry hour, stay thou near by;
temptations lose their pow'r when thou art nigh.

Refrain: I need thee, oh I need thee, ev'ry hour I need thee;
oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

3. I need thee ev'ry hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

Refrain: I need thee, oh I need thee, ev'ry hour I need thee;
oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

4. I need thee ev'ry hour, teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises in me fulfill.

Refrain: I need thee, oh I need thee, ev'ry hour I need thee;
oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

5. I need thee ev'ry hour, most Holy One,
oh, make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.

Refrain: I need thee, oh I need thee, ev'ry hour I need thee;
oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

Hymns for Worship # 549

Text: Annie Sherwood Hawks, 1835-1918, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826-1899, refrain;
Meter 6 4 6 4 & refrain

Music: LOWRY, Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

Arrangement: Sam Robson

Performance by Sam Robson (all parts), 05/04/13

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3wSbLa2uGg> [3:41]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.

The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.

Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.

God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,
but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. Hallelujah!

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

A READING FROM THE LETTERS OF SAINT PAUL: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Mark 1:29-39

You may stand if you so desire.

As soon as [Jesus and the four disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you". He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do". And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Please be seated.

Pastor Marjo

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR 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.

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church.
Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for food pantries and community suppers
at Bishop Jean Williams & Kingdom Builders Impact Ministries & Golden Hill United Methodist
and elsewhere & for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.
We pray for our city's Mayor, School Board, City Council, School Superintendent,
and our state's Governor to have the best interest of our children at heart,
and to introduce, implement, and support policies that will allow
for the growth and flourishing of the children of Bridgeport.
And we pray for Salem members & their families.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil.
Provide all living things with healthy food and adequate shelter.
Move each one of us to take personal steps to stop pollution and contamination of soil, water, and air.
Work through government and business and non-profits to be better stewards of our earthly home.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever.
Open the ears & eyes, and hearts & minds of elected officials and other leaders of towns & countries.
Guide them to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering.
Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need, 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.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who gives power to the faint, move us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives.
Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people,
especially those whose perspectives challenge our own.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died.
Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation.
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 & 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. Although our building at 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, CT is closed at present, our ministry continues because of your generosity.



If you are watching and are part of another faith community, we encourage you to give your tithes to your own church first, and, if in addition to that, you would like to support our work here at Salem, we would be most grateful.

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 **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 742)*

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**
- 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer.**
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

*Text: based on Psalm 41:9, Matthew 11:28-30, 21:22, Mark 11:24, Luke 7:34, John 15:13-15,
by Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886, Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

Music: CONVERSE, ERIE, Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

This hymn is in the Public Domain.

Performance by the Reverend Marjo Anderson, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT, 02/27/21

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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our Monday-Friday noon prayer on our conference line,
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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 Isaiah, chapter 40:

Wait for the LORD & he shall renew your strength & you shall mount up with wings like eagles; you shall run and not be weary; you shall walk and not faint. 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 SONG It's Me, O Lord / Standing in the Need of Prayer

(as found in the ELCA worship book This Far by Faith # 240)

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer,
not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

**It's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;
it's me, (it's me) it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.**

Text: African American spiritual;

Music: STANDING IN THE NEED, African American spiritual

Performance by Charles (Chuck/Chaz) Szabo, an American singer songwriter and educator from Ohio, who covers old public domain songs to give them new life and who also performs his originals.

He specializes in lyric videos with words for people to sing along with.

His recordings are mostly simple, straightforward vocal & piano or guitar arrangements.

Szabo's original songs range from love songs to songs for celebrating each holiday.

His music is available on YouTube at the Charles Szabo or Szabo Music channels.

On Spotify and all other streaming services (Apple, iTunes, Amazon, Deezer, etc.)

he can be searched and found as Charles Szabo Music.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kyd1M3U5VsQ> [2:13]

DISMISSAL

God gives you power when you are faint and strength when you are powerless.
God heals your broken heart and binds up your wounds.
Go, therefore, in peace, to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PEACE

As Christ reconciles us with God,
let us be reconciled with each other by sharing the peace of the Lord!
The peace of the Lord be with you always!
And also with you!
Please share that peace!!

POSTLUDE MUSIC **Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**

*(As found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship #752, This Far by Faith #247,
and Worship & Praise #92)*

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: based on Psalm 5:1-3 & 1 Peter 3:12 by Ken Medema, b. 1943; Meter 9 8 9 9

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING by Ken Medema

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Performance by members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, OH:

*Kristi Cetti-vocals, Lucas Setter-bass, Casey Johnson-director of photography,
Bob Schwartz-drums, Frank Wiewandt-guitar, Alex Jowanovitz-titling and lyrics,
Jim Greene-sound support, Ken Holdt-piano,*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yh9ivThjOz4> [2:39]

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.

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

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.

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!

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

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597
Monday, February 5, 2024

Christianity was brought to Japan in the 16th century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 26- missionaries & converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.



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

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

Scan QR Code For Tickets

TICKETS: \$35

\$ IMABPT21

The poster features a black background with gold and red accents. It includes a circular logo for the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) in the top left, a QR code for tickets in the center, and circular portraits of the guest speaker and a church president. The text is a mix of bold sans-serif and elegant script fonts.

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



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!

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

HOW

TO

*Courageous Christianity
and the Journey
Toward Racial Justice*

FIGHT

RACISM

JEMAR TISBY

www.calumet.org/howtofightracism