



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

*Large Print
Full Text*

*Service of
Leave-Taking*

*April 14, 2024
9:30 AM*



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

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

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

www.salembridgeport.org
www.facebook.com/salembridgeport
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome to Worship!

We want you to feel safe so please know that we have 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!). You are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like.

We are grateful to all who made our Celebration Worship last Sunday so meaningful, especially: *the Celebration Task Force Members* – Bonnie McWain, Nancy D'Andrea, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Laurie Kulakowski, Kristin LaDue, Christiane Wolff, Carol Lansing, and Rich Lansing; *our Worship Leaders* – Pastor Marjo, Pastor Steven Wilco, Mark Adamy, Bonnie McWain, David Schulz, Cindy Roberts, Nancy D'Andrea, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Tom Larson, Ray Anderson, Eileen Anderson, Carol Lansing, Rich Lansing, Jean Larson, & Christiane Wolff; *our Choir* – **Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, Christiane Wolff, Jean Larson, Cindy Roberts, Cake Elie, Rich Kenyon, and Mark Dollhopf**; and *Ephraim French 7th Day Adventist Tech Team Members* – Vladimir Laguerre, Changlet Chery, and David Charles. **THANK YOU!!!**

Today we gather as the people of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT, for our last worship service in this beloved place. This worship service will be followed by a luncheon at Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull.

Current active members, if you have decided which congregation God is calling you to join, please give us written notice, either by text, email, or letter as soon as possible. You may text the church phone 203-336-3300 AND Pastor Marjo 203-982-3441, or send an email to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net AND marjoanderson@aol.com, or mail a letter to the church at 3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport 06604. For those of you who discern a call to another ELCA congregation, Pastor Marjo will transfer your membership. For those of you who discern a call to a congregation in another denomination, we can't transfer you, but we can give you a letter of introduction if you so desire. If you haven't decided, please speak with Pastor Marjo about your options. Those letters will be available in the near future.

The Officers, Executive Committee, and Council will continue to meet as needed, as will the Inventory Task Force, until all the work here is concluded to the satisfaction of the state Attorney General and Salem Lutheran Church officially closes. Karl Kraft will be continuing through the end of June as we wrap up our ministry here at Salem. Pastor Marjo will also be continuing full-time through the end of April and half-time for the next two months, so if you have need for pastoral care before you join a new congregation, please don't hesitate to reach out to her.

The Need is Great - You Can Help. Over 10 percent of Connecticut adults say they do not have enough money to buy food. According to estimates from Feeding America, more than 380,000 Connecticut residents struggle with hunger; more than 83,000 children are food insecure. These people include your neighbors. You can make a difference. You can help **"Refill the Pantries."** Ten collections are planned in 2024 to support five food pantries in the area. Last year's nine food drives contributed 17,700 pounds of food and over \$12,000 to the pantries. You can sign up for the various dates/times at <https://volunteersignup.org/YXRFK> or by contacting Rich Lansing at (203) 520-3751 or rlansing@optonline.com.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG Holy Spirit (You Are Welcome Here)

Verse 1 **There's nothing worth more that will ever come close
Nothing can compare You're our living hope –
Your Presence, Lord**

Verse 2 **I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone
Your Presence Lord**

Chorus **Holy Spirit, You are welcome here!
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere!
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your Presence, Lord.**

Interlude **Your Presence Lord**

Interlude **Your Presence Lord Your Presence
Oh God how we love Your Presence Lord**

Bridge **Let us become more aware of Your Presence –
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness (Lord)**

CCLI Song # 6087919

by Bryan Torwal and Katie Torwalt,

© 2011 Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Jesus Culture Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

On the Bryan and Katie Torwalt album "Here on Earth". Year 2011.

as found here: <https://amzn.to/3ao4OuO>

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

Reprinted/Streamed with permission under CCLI License # 11092038

Performance by the Times Square Church Choir, 08/08/20, Matthew Grant

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsI_ctYTLqQ [8:10]

Performance by Heavens Mutambira & Amplified Praise, 06/17/17, AmplifiedPraiseTV1

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2q7hMfmVL3I> [7:45]

WELCOME

Pastor Marjo

Today we gather as the people of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT, for our last worship service in this beloved place.

This worship service is for current active members only, and will be followed by a lunch at Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull.

I know this may be a very difficult day for many, if not for all of us, so thank you for being here.

Because this is a private service, we are not livestreaming it.

We have, however, asked Ephraim French Seventh Day Adventist Church's tech team to record it for us –

so that those active members who were not able to be with us here today will be able to watch it and so that the recording may be sent to the archives.

We are here today to give thanks for the ministry that has happened for and in and through this congregation and for the people who have been fed and nurtured in the Christian faith throughout the years. Even as we mark the end of an era in this place, we remember that we continue to be participants in God's mission – a mission that continues beyond this day and beyond these walls – and each one of us has been commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into all the world to witness and serve that all may know you, the God of boundless power and endless love.

At this time, I invite Pastor Maria Hammons, Associate to the Bishop for Mergers and Holy Closure from the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to greet us.

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then I invite you to begin our worship with the Easter Proclamation.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Almighty and Most Merciful God,

**to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Jesus, we remind ourselves of your words:

**You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.
This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like it,
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments
depend all the law and the prophets.**

O God, through your Son and the gift of the Holy Spirit,
you have promised to be with your church forever.
We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers
and for the signs of your presence in this congregation throughout its life.
As this congregation, Salem Lutheran Church, concludes its time together,
and as each of us takes the next step in our own personal faith journeys,
we trust that you will lead us to our new faith community and church home.

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen**

OPENING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 836)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.**
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**
- 4 Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**
- 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.**

*Text: based on Psalm 13:1-2, Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, 1 Corinthians 3:3-11,
Ephesians 2:20, 4:4-6, 5:25-27, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Revelation 5:9-14, 19:7-8
by Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900; Meter 7 6 7 6 D*

Music: AURELIA by Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

Text & Music are in the Public Domain.

Word

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Genesis 12:1-9

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land". So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8, 11-12

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken....

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
**Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us....**

Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:

that power belongs to God,
and steadfast love belongs to you, O LORD.

For you repay to all
according to their work.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Revelation 21:1-4, 22-26, 5-7

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

...²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new". Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true". ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children...."

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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 15:1-11

You may stand if you so desire.

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
This Far by Faith # 133 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 504)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.**
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!**

*Text: based on Psalm 46, Matthew 12:29, Mark 3:22-27, Mark 5:1-20, Luke 11:14-23,
John 2:1-11, by Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship;
Meter 8 7 8 7 6 6 6 6 7*

Music: EIN FESTE BURG by Martin Luther

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

Tune is in the Public Domain.

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372.

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(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

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**

At the dedication of a church building,
it is customary to ask God's blessing on the places of the word and sacraments.
Today we return to these symbols of God's grace in our lives.
Because proclaiming the word and celebrating the sacraments
are the heart of a congregation's ministry,
we give thanks for the ways that God has nurtured this congregation throughout the years
and has led us to serve others in Christ's name.

At the place of the word

Let us pray.
O God, your mighty word at the dawn of creation
breathed life into the earth and all of its inhabitants.
By the gift of your incarnate Word in Jesus,
you brought good news of life and salvation to all humankind.
Through your word proclaimed in worship here,
this congregation has been challenged and healed.
Let your voice, which has sounded in this place,
echo in our lives as we proclaim your message of peace
into the places you will send us;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

At the place of baptism

Let us pray.
O God, through the flood in the time of Noah,
and through the waters of the Red Sea,
you saved your people of old.
Through the waters of baptism in this place,
your people have been born to new life
and have been commissioned for service in Christ's name.
May all the baptized continue to give witness
to your saving grace throughout the world;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

At the place of the meal

Let us pray.
O God, through manna on a wilderness journey
and through loaves of bread multiplied on a hillside,
you fed people who needed sustenance for their bodies and souls.
May all who have been nourished here with the body and blood of Christ
give themselves away as food for the hungry.
May all who have feasted here welcome others to the banquet of salvation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated.

Called, gathered, enlightened, sanctified, and kept by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray for healing, wholeness, and peace in our lives, in the Church, and in all the earth.

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

For the one holy catholic and apostolic church in all times and places,

We give our thanks and praise!

For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the Conference of Bishops, Church-wide Staff, and Church Council, for United Lutheran and our other seminaries, and Reconciling Works, and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land,

We give our thanks and praise!

For Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's World Hunger Appeal,

We give our thanks and praise!

For the New England Synod, Bishop Jim Hazelwood, Synod Staff, and Synod Council, for the Mission Development Fund and the Seminarian Fund, and for Camp Calumet Lutheran and LuMin-Lutheran Ministry at Yale,

We give our thanks and praise!

For the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, the NAACP of Greater Bridgeport, FaithActs for Education, CONECT-Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut, and all public schools in Bridgeport, especially Fairchild Wheeler High School,

We give our thanks and praise!

For our Southern CT Conference and its congregations and rostered leaders:

Bethlehem in Georgetown and Supply Pastor James Wisecup,

Genesis Gospel Café in Bridgeport and Lay Licensed Minister Jeanette Harris,

Good Shepherd in Monroe and Pastor Doug Ryniewicz,

Grace in Stratford and Supply Pastor Nicholas Sollom,

Our Saviour's in Fairfield and Pastor Susan Williamson,

St. Andrews in Ridgefield and Pastor Beth Anderson,

St. John's in Stamford and Interim Pastor Mark Grorud, and

St. Michael's in New Canaan and Interim Pastor Harvey Weitzel;

for Holy Trinity Slovak Zion Lutheran Church in Trumbull and Pastor Kathleen Mills; and

for First Presbyterian Church of Fairfield and Pastor Greg Penza,

We give our thanks and praise!

For the congregations and pastors that have shared this space with us:

Southern CT Church of Christ and Pastor Jeff Schachinger,

New Direction Ministries and Bishop Eron Simmonds,

Christ Presbyterian Church and Pastors Andrew Holbrook and Milas Shepherd,

and Christ's House of Unity, Restoration, Charity and Hope and Pastor Errol Johnson,

We give our thanks and praise!

For Pastors Jean Villot Mars & Nesly Bien Aime & Ephraim French 7th Day Adventist Church who purchased our property and who have been most gracious and generous hosts,

We give our thanks and praise!

For the people who founded this congregation,
who made personal sacrifices in order for it to grow and flourish,
and who used their talents and skills in building up a community of faith,

We give our thanks and praise!

For this congregation's ministries throughout its life, its gatherings for praise and prayer,
its faithful use of the means of grace, and its study of the scriptures,

We give our thanks and praise!

For other mission partners,
including CT Foodshare, Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County,
nOURish BRIDGEPORT, Bridgeport Rescue Mission, the Center for Family Justice,
the Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry, Golden Hill United Methodist Community Suppers,
Sterling House Food Pantry, Seafarers' International House, Operation Hope, Pivot Ministries,
Rise to Read, KEYS-Kids Empowered with Your Support, the New Paradigm Theatre,
and Scouting programs locally and around the world,

We give our thanks and praise!

For this building and our prior one that have sheltered Salem Lutheran Church for 137 years,
that the memory of this place will continue to inspire devotion to the God
who makes all things possible,

We give our thanks and praise!

For all who hold special attachments to this congregation and to this building;
for those who have been baptized, nurtured in faith, confirmed, or married in this place;
that the Holy Spirit's gifts continue to sustain them
even as this congregation's outward expression comes to a conclusion,

We give our thanks and praise!

For the members of this congregation,
who will continue gathering as people of God in other communities of faith,
that today will mark not only the end of an era
but also the beginning of new opportunities for worship and service,
as their gifts for ministry are welcomed & shared so faith may grow & mission may flourish,

We give our thanks and praise!

For all who have been a part of the ministry of this congregation throughout its life,
those who have remained constant in the face of challenges, those who have moved away,
and all who have died and now rest in you,

We give our thanks and praise!

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

We place these and all the prayers of our hearts in your hands O God,
trusting in your mercy and love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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**



AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain
a tempo

As the grains of wheat once

scat - tered on the hill were gath - ered in - to one to be -

come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from

all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in

1., 2.	<i>To verses</i>	3.
--------	------------------	----

you. you.

Verses

1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
 2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

poco rit. *D.S.*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

**While we will no longer be gathering for worship,
videos of our worship service will remain online on our FB page, Salem Bridgeport.**

The Officers, Executive Committee, and Council will continue to meet as needed,
as will the Inventory Task Force,
until all the work here is concluded to the satisfaction of the state Attorney General
and Salem Lutheran Church officially closes.

Karl Kraft will be continuing through the end of June as we wrap up our ministry here at Salem. Pastor Marjo will also be continuing full-time for the next 2 wks & ½- time for the next 2 months, so if you have need for pastoral care before you join a new congregation, please don't hesitate to reach out to her.

Also, she will be available to transfer you to another ELCA congregation or give you a letter of introduction to another faith community any time between now and the end of June.

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,
who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **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!
Open your hearts!
Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!
We open them to God and one another!
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

*We eat, not at our own table, but at the table of Christ who welcomes all –
each and every one of you.*

What you believe and how you receive is a matter between you and God.

*According to Lutheran theology,
we teach that Christ is truly present in the gifts of this sacrament –
in the bread and wine and in the people gathered.*

As we are fed by Christ's body, we become his body.

*Nourished, strengthened & made whole by these gifts of God's forgiveness & grace,
we go with joy to share God's love for the world.*

You may come up the center aisle and return by the side aisles.

*If you prefer a prepackaged cup of grape juice with wafer on top,
you may pick up one from the baskets on either side of the aisle,
and stop in front of Pastor Marjo to receive the word accompanying the elements.*

*Or, you may receive the wafer (request gluten free if needed) alone
which Pastor Marjo will place in the palm of your hand,
and then proceed to one of the people offering the chalice
to intinct/dip the bread into the wine.*

*Those who wish to receive only a blessing may indicate their desire
by crossing their arms over their hearts.*

Come! The feast is ready to begin! Jesus invites you to the table!

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

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, at your table you strengthen us for service wherever you will send us.

As we leave this place that has been a home

for worship, learning, witness, service & fellowship,

help us to gather in new church homes with open minds and hearts and spirits

as we are offered new opportunities for our faith life and ministry,

until that day when you welcome us forever into your embrace,

and all people from every time & every place worship together in the unity of the Spirit. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN **The Church of Christ, in Every Age**

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 729)*

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**
- 2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.**
- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**
- 4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.**
- 5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.**

*Text: based on Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:41, Luke 6:12-16, John 6:1-14, 35
by Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000; Meter L M*

Music: WAREHAM, by William Knapp, 1698-1768

Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music is in the Public Domain.

DECLARATION

We give thanks to God for the work accomplished in this place.
May the witness of the people who have ministered here in the name of Jesus Christ,
continue to live on as they leave these walls and begin life in a new place. **Amen**

BLESSING

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

DISMISSAL

God has called each of us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.
We know not where we go, but with God's hand leading us and God's love supporting us,
we go in faith and hope and with courage – for Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! And thanks be to God!

PEACE

As Christ has reconciled 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

Now Thank We All Our God

(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book, ELW # 840)

- 1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.**
- 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

*Text: based on 2 Timothy 1:5, by Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878;
Meter 6 7 6 7 6 6 6 6*

*Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT (isometric) by Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
Text & Tune are in the Public Domain.*

*Performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska, 09/23/18
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmJtef10DWw> [3:32]*

CREDITS

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989,

Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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

As the Grains of Wheat –

Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573;
renewers of the church**

Friday, April 19, 2024

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms.

Olavus published a catechism and hymnal;

Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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 Paula, Sara, Sasha & VL

Announcements

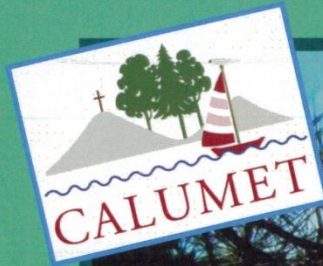
Please remember to put 11:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of the month on your calendar so that you won't miss the opportunity to join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café for their monthly Inner-View Chat and Chew. The next date is April 20. For more info or to RSVP, please contact "Momma J" at 203-366-6778 or jharris524@yahoo.com .

Camp Calumet is hosting the first Fruits & Roots midweek adult retreat. The retreat will be April 22-25, 2024. The focus will be on one of the fruits of the Spirit, JOY, as we meet for theme sessions led by Rev. Maren Tirabassi, a pastor, poet, and mystery writer from Kittery, Maine. Deacon Judy Smith will be coordinating the program, including devotions and retreat activities. Gary Benevides, long time Calumet summer guest in our campground and music director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vernon, CT, will be our retreat guest musician. Opportunities are already scheduled to experience various art media facilitated by guest artists in Calumet's new Pippi Art Space in the Oasis and/or to participate in writing workshops led by Rev. Tirabassi. On Monday evening we will enjoy and participate in a joyful concert by the Funky Divas of Gospel who will get our feet tapping, our hands clapping, and our voices singing with their gospel, soul, and rock music rooted in universal stories. Our Wednesday evening program "Maple, New Hampshire's Medicine of Connection" with Vermont theologian, Dr. Damian Costello, will connect us to the land, our ancestors, and all that surrounds us. We will learn about indigenous wisdom, a communal medicine of connection. We are grateful to the New Hampshire Humanities to Go Program for sponsoring this evening program open to the public.

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 next date is April 27.** If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, bltomasko@yahoo.com.

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!

As Salem continues its ministry through June, expenses continue as well. If we are to give the maximum amount of our assets, we are depending on YOU to continue your giving in 2024. We will be turning off our online giving on April 30, but you may want to also notify your bank to stop automatic payments after that date. You can still mail in your checks.



Fruits & Roots at Calumet

April 22-25

A Midweek Retreat for Adults

Optional
no-cost coach bus for
guests from
southern New
England! We're
giving it a try.

*Reflect by the lake as we explore **JOY** –
a fruit of the Spirit!*

FRUITS & ROOTS

Come join us for a midweek adult retreat at
beautiful Camp Calumet!

Monday afternoon, April 22 – Thursday lunch, April 25, 2024

*Explore the theme of **JOY**, one of the Fruits of the
Spirit, with the Rev. Maren Tirabassi, a pastor, poet,
and a mystery writer.*

What to look forward to:

*Meet new & old friends ... enjoy God's creation & fantastic
food ... experience devotions & worship with Deacon Judy
Smith and music with Gary Benevides (Trinity, Vernon) ...
create in the new Pippi Art Space ... opt to travel to Calumet
on the "no cost" coach bus with stops in CT & MA or travel
here & back on your own ...*

Special evening programs:

- **JOY**-filled Concert with "The Funky Divas of Gospel"
- **ROOTS** of Maple Sugaring with Dr. Damian Costello

To register or learn more:

Alice at 603-539-4773 x220 or alice@calumet.org

*Many thanks to Emanuel Lutheran in Hartford for covering
the coach bus. Guests will travel to/from Calumet for free.*

**Calumet Lutheran
Ministries**

P. O. Box 236
West Ossipee, NH
03890

**NON-PROFIT
PRESORT AUTO
N. CONWAY, NH
03860
PERMIT #160**

Also in April: "Grief, Wonder, Hope" – a retreat for
folks who have experienced loss & challenging life
changes in a safe, beautiful, & hope-filled place.
APR 28-30 – www.calumet.org/griefwonderhope

THANK YOU...

Communion Preparation	Sandra Brown and Christiane Wolff
Pastor, Preacher and Presider	The Rev Marjo Anderson
New England Synod Representative	The Rev Maria Hammons, Associate to the Bishop
Assisting Ministers/Leaders/Readers	Jean Larson and Tom Larson
Communion Assistants	Nancy Headford and Cindy Roberts
Sound & Media Technician	Vladimir Laguerre, Ephraim French SDA
Celebration Task Force Members	Bonnie McWain Nancy D'Andrea Sandra Brown Nancy Headford Laurie Kulakowski Kristin LaDue Christiane Wolff Carol Lansing Rich Lansing
Officers of Salem	Cindy Roberts, President Sandra Brown, Vice-President Nancy Headford, Secretary Rich Kenyon, Treasurer
Non-Officer Council Members	Ray Anderson Cake Elie Steve Kuczo Tom Larson Bill Winter Carol Lansing Rich Lansing