



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

***5th Sunday of
Easter***

***May 15, 2022
9:30 AM***



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Welcome

The Resurrection of Our Lord initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone and everything in a new light—through the lens of God’s power and love.

Salem is still recommending masks, especially for singing. We know that some are only comfortable coming into a place where people are masked, and we want to provide an environment where everyone feels safe. Case numbers are rising and the latest variant is even more contagious than Omicron and its successor. While the current variants may cause only mild symptoms in most people, those who are older and who have underlying conditions remain at risk for more serious illness, including long covid. We will continue to re-evaluate based on what happens with the pandemic and what the latest advice is concerning singing protocols.

The Color of Compromise: Sacred Conversations on Race and the American Church. The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport’s Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist) team invites you into sacred conversations in a safe space to talk about the history of race and the American Church. Though the series will span 11 weeks, each session covers a distinct topic, so you’re welcome to attend as many as you wish. Guided by the book *The Color of Compromise*, a video series by its author, Jemar Tisby, and the CCGB’s capable and dedicated team of facilitators, the series moves chronologically from America’s colonial past to today’s Black Lives Matter movement. The Color of Compromise is not about shaming or blaming but rather opens our eyes to a history hidden, unknown, or ignored by White Christians and calls us to take seriously what the Bible teaches about human dignity and equality. As members of the whitest denomination in the US, this is an opportunity for those of us at Salem to learn and grow. The next two sessions will cover “Institutionalizing Race in the Antebellum Era” (May 19th) and “Defending Slavery at the Onset of the Civil War” (May 26th). For more information or questions about Raising the BAR programming, please contact Paula Coccozza at Paulacoccozza@ccgb.org or online at <https://ccgb.org/rtb> or speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Bill Winter, or Tom Larson.

Welcome to WONDROUS WEDNESDAYS! On Wednesday we have 3 wonderful opportunities to live into our mission of Encountering God, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives. The links are all on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

*** First, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month through June, we begin with a Morning Bible Study 9:30-11:00 on zoom, led by Grace Dukenski.** There is time for sharing before we launch into our study of the book of Romans, and time for prayer at the end.

*** Every Wednesday at 12:00 noon we meet on zoom for prayer.** You can pray out loud if you want, or you can simply ask others to pray for you or for the concerns on your mind or heart.

*** And finally, every Wednesday at 6:30 pm we conclude with an Evening Bible Study 6:30-7:30 on zoom, led by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris.** Join this diverse and interesting group of people for a study that is not simply informational but transformational. We continue our study of the book of Acts, concluding at 7:15 with a brief service of Holy Communion. This past week we looked at the rest of chapter 3 so will begin with chapter 4 this week.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

Awake, O Sleeper

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Once you were darkness, once you were lost in the shadows.
Once you were darkness, now you are children of light.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Live as God's people, live as God's justice and mercy,
filled with compassion, filled with the power of love.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

Shine out with the splendor of love, shine with justice and righteousness.
Sing the music your spirit has heard, the songs of glory and light.

Awake, O sleeper, arise from death, abandon the shadows of night;
the wind of the spirit shall be your breath, and Christ will fill you with light.

OneLicense Song # #03165

Text: based on Ephesians 5 by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;

Music: AWAKE, O SLEEPER by Marty Haugen, b. 1950;

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Performance # 1 by artist Marty Haugen

as found on the album "Shepherd Me, O God"

& licensed to YouTube by NaxosofAmerica (on behalf of GIA Publications, Inc.),

is found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X-ApQ289Fc> [3:30]

Performance # 2 by Mark's Lutheran Church in Winnipeg

is found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvAUSL5gxAE> [3:30]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Lutheran Book of Worship #143)*

*As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.
You may stand if you so desire.*

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Eternal is the gift he brings,
therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say:
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Text: based on Colossians 3:1-2, Revelation 5:11-14 by Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.;
Meter 8 8 8 8 8 8 and alleluias*

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesange, Köln, 1623

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Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat’. But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth’. But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane’.

This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved’. And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life”.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 148, selected verses

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;	praise God in the heights.
Praise the LORD, all you angels;	sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
Praise the LORD, sun and moon;	sing praise, all you shining stars.
Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,	and you waters above the heavens....
mountains and all hills,	fruit trees and all cedars;
wild beasts and all cattle,	creeping things and flying birds;
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,	princes and all rulers of the world;
young men and maidens,	old and young together....
The LORD has raised up strength for the people	and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel,	a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN: Revelation 21:1-6

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. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

God will dwell with them; they will be God’s peoples, and God’s own self will be with them;

God 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.”

And 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”. Then 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.”

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 13:31-35

You may stand if you so desire.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe in God who created us and all that is,
who loves us and desires our love in return.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
& every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God our Creator.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who calls us into relationship with God,
who gathers us in relationship with the whole human family,
who enlightens our minds, enlarges our hearts, and enables our bodies,
and who sanctifies us by helping us to grow in faith and hope and obedience to God's will.**

**It is this Triune God – the three in one and one in three – whom we worship and adore
and to whom we offer all that we have and all that we are. Amen**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

**We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.
In response to God's transforming love, we share our joy through praise and service.**

May it be so!

Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

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

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another.

Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for

Kids Empowered with Your Support, and the New Paradigm Theatre.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:

Andy Andrews, and Maria Caragol.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us.

Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor.

Direct them to the people who need their attention most,

and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress, especially Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Henry, Iris, Jocelyn, Jonathan, Kristin, Linda, Moses, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities.

By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us.

Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities.

Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints.

Teach us the value of each person's identity,

and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

OFFERING INVITATION

Please be seated.

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



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

OFFERTORY SONG

In Jesus Name (God Of Possible)

Verse 1

**I speak the name of Jesus over you In your hurting in your sorrow
I will ask my God to move I speak the name 'cause it's all that I can do
In desperation I'll seek heaven And pray this for you**

Chorus

**I pray for your healing That circumstances would change
I pray that the fear inside would flee In Jesus name
I pray that a breakthrough would happen today
I pray miracles over your life in Jesus name In Jesus name**

Verse 2

**I speak the name of all authority Declaring blessings every promise
He is faithful to keep I speak the name no grave could ever hold
He is greater He is stronger He's the God of possible**

Bridge

**Oh come believe it come receive it Oh the power of His Spirit is now forever yours
Come believe it come receive it In the mighty name of Jesus all things are possible**

Ending

**I pray for revival For restoration of faith I pray that the dead will come to life
In Jesus name In Jesus name**

CCLI Song # 7186326

David Spencer | Ethan Hulse | Jeff Pardo | Katy Nichole

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Performance by Cornerstone Church Choir & Orchestra, 03/20/22

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIdynGmhl9M> [4:24]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU AND BLESSING

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.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known & from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for all people,
and for Christ's sake God forgives all who truly repent of their sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!

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

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!**

CLOSING SONG Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 389)*

***As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.
You may stand if you so desire.***

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.**
- 3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**
- 4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**
- 5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

Text: based on Matthew 28:18-20, by Brian A. Wren, b. 1936; Meter L M

Music: TRURO by T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, knowing that God is making all things new!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

ELW # 535

ORIGINAL TEXT: Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona, Di thabile kaofela.

Refrain: Hallelujah! We sing your praises! All our hearts are filled with gladness!
Hallelujah! We sing your praises! All our hearts are filled with gladness!
Hallelujah! We sing your praises! All our hearts are filled with gladness!
Hallelujah! We sing your praises! All our hearts are filled with gladness!

1. Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger.
Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger. (*Refrain*)
2. Now Christ sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel.
Now Christ sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel. (*Refrain*)

*Text: South African traditional based on John 6 and transcribed Freedom Is Coming, 1984;
Meter 6 6 6 8 and refrain; © 1984 Peace of Music Publishing AB,
admin. Walton Music Corp., a div. of GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.*

Music: South African traditional HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA

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Performance by Fjedur, Swedish Christian singing group

with roots in Dalarna and Swedish folk music, released on 01/01/83.

The group emerged in the early 1970s from a small youth choir in Malung .

In 1978 , they traveled to South Africa and met the blacks' music,

which was the start of a broadening of the folk music tradition

to be supplemented over the years with songs, jazz, world music & traditional choral music.

During the 80's, Fjedur worked full time and toured in several European countries

as well as in the USA and Canada.

It was this Swedish group that introduced the South African Freedom songs to this country.

After ten years of silence, the group re-emerged in 1996 at the Choir Meeting

in Skinnskatteberg and Music by Lake Siljan. 06/25/20

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftZ4TKqfR5s> [3:45]

Announcements

CT CityFest is a region-wide movement focused on serving the region and proclaiming the Good News. It came about as a result of years of prayer and planning by dozens of leaders in Fairfield and New Haven Counties and the surrounding Southwestern Connecticut area. The vision is to see the Christian community come together in greater unity, service, and proclamation – showing the community at-large the joy, peace, and love of Jesus Christ. Over 130 churches and ministries have already committed to share hope and love through this movement which is focused on encouraging unity and collaboration across all communities, denominations, and ethnicities. Together, as the Body of Christ, we want to celebrate and accelerate the work of the Church, helping further influence culture, change lives, and inspire other cities. It has already begun with the launch this past Thursday of CityServe, a massive effort to mobilize churches to serve our region's greatest needs. It will culminate with a series of outreach events strategically designed to share the love of Jesus with key groups of people in our community, including university students, business/civic leaders, women, and those who are incarcerated. CityFest scheduled for August 27-28, 2022, is an outdoor, family festival to celebrate this amazing effort & share the Gospel with thousands through the ministry of the local churches brought together by the Luis Palau Association. For more info, speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Bill Winter, or Cindy Roberts, or go to:

<https://www.cityfest.org/whatiscityfest>

Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, Saturday May 21st at 11:00 am. Details forthcoming.

The next breakfast and faith discussion will be held on June 11th at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford, at 8:00 (7:00 to help cook).

Let's stay connected! Much of Pastor Marjo's and Salem's Office Manager, Karl's work can be done from their homes, but generally Karl is here on Thursdays to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely, and Pastor Marjo is happy to meet with you in-person here should you so desire. If we can help in any way, please know that you can call Salem's church office at 203-330-3300 and leave a message and your message will be picked up remotely and your call returned. **Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441. She would be MORE THAN HAPPY to hear from you!**

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden.

As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region,
and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia.

He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws
and to protect those who were poor or sick.

Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith.
She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine,
building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

CREDITS

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GOOD NEWS IN YOUR CITY

LUIS PALAU ASSOCIATION

WHAT IS CITYFEST?

You care about your city. You want to see the Good News proclaimed and lived out to every individual. And you're working hard to make that happen every day. We want to join with you to cast an even bigger vision for long-term unity and collaboration in the Body of Christ . . . serving the city and sharing the clear message of Jesus Christ on a grand scale.

VISION

- **Growing unity** in the Body of Christ
- **Increased collaboration** among the churches to love and serve their community
- **Christians mobilized** to pray for the lost and invite their friends to know Jesus
- **Gospel proclaimed** on a grand scale

UNITY

- Set aside denominational differences to focus on evangelism
- Build bridges with other churches in the neighborhood to serve the community
- Grow relationships among church, civic, and corporate communities

MOBILIZATION

- **Prayer** – God's people mobilized to pray for their unbelieving friends
- **CityServe** – God's people mobilized to serve
- **Training** – God's people trained to share the Good News with family and friends
- **Invite** – God's people challenged to invite their unbelieving friends to hear the Good News

Get ready for CITYFEST, as the Luis Palau Association arrives in Bridgeport to work for long-term unity and collaboration within the Body of Christ so that together we can more effectively transform individual lives with the good news of God's power and love made known in Jesus Christ through the power of the Spirit, and also transform the entire city of Bridgeport and beyond by serving the needs of our neighbors.

Have you ever wished that the Christian Church could be more united? While the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport has worked to unite primarily white mainline Protestant congregations and while the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport has worked to unite primarily black Evangelical and Pentecostal congregations, the Luis Palau Association comes equipped to unite all congregations across racial and denominational barriers. Just think what an impact we can have if we all work together! Stay tuned to hear more about CITYFEST!

In a time when the church is declining in membership, revenue, respect, and impact, the Luis Palau Association offers each congregation the opportunity to be part of a massive effort called CITYFEST to carry out our baptismal call not only "to proclaim the good news of God in Christ", but "to serve all people, following the example of Jesus". And as we work together, Christ will enable us to set aside denominational differences, build bridges between congregations, and develop relationships among church, civic and corporate communities. Stay tuned to hear how YOU can be involved in this exciting work of God.

Wondering how you can be involved in CITYFEST? If you are interested in action, CityServe will offer many opportunities, some new, some old. If you worry about your kids and grandkids falling away from faith, there will be training available to teach you how to share the Good News with family and friends. If inviting someone to a grand and exciting worship event is easier than individual conversations, you will have the opportunity to do just that. Or if you would simply like to help in a quiet way, you can join the hundreds of people who will provide the foundation of prayer on which this whole event will happen. In fact, begin praying now to see how God is calling YOU to be involved in CITYFEST!

CITYFEST WEEK

• Outreaches:

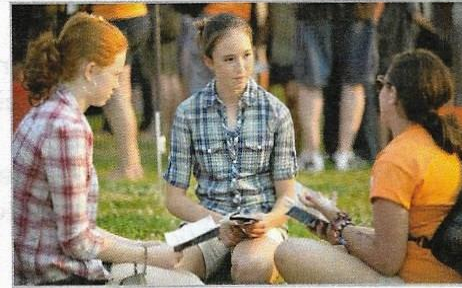
- Affinity events for women
- Special gatherings for business and civic leaders
- Prison outreaches

• Culminating Events:

- 2-day CityFest in the heart of the city
- Andrew Palau presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Well-known Christian musical groups
- Action sports
- Family Fun Zone

ONGOING IMPACT

- **Follow-up** – Collaborative effort between local churches and the Palau Association
- **Discipleship** – Face to face efforts as well as an email discipleship course managed by the Palau Association
- **CityServe** – Ongoing effort to continue building unity, collaboration, and good will throughout the region, focused on serving the city and sharing the Good News



Get ready because CITYFEST is coming! In addition to all the service opportunities we will have through CITYSERVE, we will also have the opportunity to participate in CITYFEST a week of outreach through gatherings for women, for business and civic leaders, and for those in prison. The week will culminate with a 2-day event in the heart of the city with worship that includes top-notch Christian musical groups and evangelist Andrew Palau preaching. And in addition to worship, there will be fellowship opportunities including Action Sports and a Family Fun Zone! Through our participation in this event God gives us 2 exciting opportunities – to build bridges which strengthen the work of all of our congregations in the Grater Bridgeport area and to invite family and friends to join us in a worship event unlike any we have seen in the area for years.

While serving people – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, welcoming the stranger, etc. – is a vital part of our Christian faith, it is only half of our call. You don't have to be a Christian to help those in need. And if all we Christians do is serve in silence, then those we serve will never hear about the amazing God we know and love.



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That's why the Luis Palau Association brings congregations to do both – to serve God through both Word and Deed. While bringing friends to CityFest could change their lives, such an experience is often just the first step in the journey. Following up to help people grow in their discipleship is the crucial next step. And of course the work of CityServe will continue for weeks, months, and years after CityFest. We invite you to start praying now that God would help all of the congregations in our city and its surrounding towns to realize that we are all part of the ONE holy Christian and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ.

GOOD NEWS IN YOUR CITY

LUIS PALAU ASSOCIATION

STEPS OF INVOLVEMENT

PRAYER

Concerted prayer effort for our city and for those who have yet to trust Jesus

SERVE

Joining with other churches, organizations, businesses, and the civic community to meet the needs of the region

EQUIP

Receive tools and encouragement to reach out and speak with others about Jesus Christ

PROMOTE

Help publicize CityFest with a massive grassroots and marketing campaign that will reach a high level of visibility and awareness in the region

GIVE

Consider giving as an individual, as a business, organization, or church

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Help proclaim the Gospel through affinity events and gatherings leading up to CityFest

FOLLOWING UP

Follow up with new believers referred to your church, helping them grow strong in their relationship with Jesus Christ

CONTINUE

Continue the Gospel Movement in the region through unity, word, and deed

www.palaufestivals.org/greater-bridgeport

God has been working through many organizations larger than local congregations to nurture people's bodies and souls. The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (primarily white mainline Protestant congregations) and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Bridgeport (black Evangelical and Pentecostal congregations) are 2 such organizations. Some congregations have set up their own non-profit organizations like nOURish BRIDGEPORT (United Church of Christ), FaithActs (Pastor William McCullough of Russell Temple) and the Mount Aery Development Corporation (Mount Aery Baptist Church). And there are other organizations having a big impact as well, such as the NAACP of Greater Bridgeport which received an award for being the most active chapter in the state. But imagine what can happen if all of these organizations, all of the congregations affiliated with them, and all of the other unaffiliated congregations were to work together! That's why the Luis Palau Association is coming to our city – so that we can do together what none of our congregations or organizations can do separately. Look over the many ways to get involved and pray to see how God is calling YOU!



GOOD NEWS IN YOUR CITY

LUIS PALAU ASSOCIATION

TIMELINE 2021-2022

2021 CURRENT - NOVEMBER: INVITATION PHASE

- Formation of a steering committee
- Accomplishment of invitation checklist provided by LPA
- Conduct an official invitation event (November 16)

2021/2022 DECEMBER 2021 - MARCH 2022: FOUNDATION PHASE

- Completion of the CityFest Executive Team
- Pastoral/Church recruitment
- Opening of local office and development of local staff
- CityServe foundation

2022 MARCH-AUGUST: MOBILIZATION PHASE

- Church mobilization/equipping events
- CityServe
- Evangelism orientation/equipping
- Publicity launch

2022 SEPTEMBER: PROCLAMATION PHASE

- Massive targeted evangelism through affinity events
- Two-day CityFest
- Media blitz

2022 SEPTEMBER + BEYOND: CONTINUATION PHASE

- Follow-up with those who respond
- Strategic Gospel Movement planning

CITYFEST is coming in September of 2022!

Prior to that, CITYSERVE will begin in the spring, ramp up in the summer, and will continue long after CITYFEST is over.

If ever there was a time when our city – our world – needed the hope we have in Christ Jesus, it is now.

Please pray and ask God how you can be involved through the Luis Palau Association in living out your baptismal call – “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ” and “to serve all people, following the example of Jesus”.

For more information, speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Cindy Roberts or Bill Winter.