



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*8th Sunday
After
Pentecost*

*July 31, 2022
9:30 AM*



Life does not consist in
an abundance of
possessions.

Luke 12:15, NIV

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 – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

Salem is still recommending masks indoors, 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. The latest variants are still more contagious than the last and seem to evade current vaccines, but thankfully seem to cause only mild symptoms in most people, although those who are older and who have underlying conditions remain at risk for more serious illness. There is also a 20% chance of even a mild case of Covid developing into more serious long Covid. We will continue to re-evaluate based on what happens with the pandemic and what the latest advice is concerning singing protocols.

Sundays from now through at least Labor Day weekend we will be worshipping outdoors in the picnic grove, weather permitting. You may bring your own chair or sit at one of the picnic tables.

Pastor Marjo will be serving as the chaplain of family camp at Camp Calumet Lutheran in New Hampshire Saturday 8/6 through Friday 8/12. The Sunday that she is away, August 7th, , Salem will be joining Golden Hill United Methodist Church for worship at 9:45, by invitation of Pastor Rhonda Taylor. This is a chance for us to build upon the relationship that we've had with Golden Hill for the many years (decades!) we've volunteered at their Community Suppers as well as upon the work we share through the Council of Churches. Golden Hill has two parking lots - the upper lot is located on Golden Hill Street and the lower lot is located at the main office entrance on Elm Street. Parking is also available on the street in front of the church.

We had such a good time at Grace Lutheran and at Our Saviour's that we've decided to invite both Grace and Our Saviour's to worship and fellowship with us at Salem. The tentative date is **August 14**, and we're looking for people to help us plan the morning. If you can help with food or getting-to-know-you activities, please speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, the Lansings, or the Tomaskos.

On Wednesdays we have 2 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.

*** 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 every Wednesday at 6:30 pm we gather on zoom for Bible Study, led by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris**, that is not simply informational but transformational, in that we seek not simply to learn about God, but to hear God speak to our own hearts and minds. as we continue our study of the book of Acts, continuing with chapter 10. At 7:25 we conclude with a brief service of Holy Communion.

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

The Heart of Worship

Verse 1

When the music fades all is stripped away And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

Pre-Chorus

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You all about You Jesus

Verse 2

King of endless worth no one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath

CCLI Song # 2296522

Matt Redman

© 1999 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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

CCLI License # 11092038

Sep 13, 2013

Performance by Capital Life Church, 09/13/13

with Lead Vox: Cassandra Walker, Vox/AGT: Jeff Abyad, Vox: Vivian Stephen,

AGT: Jakub Szewczulak, Vox/Percussion: Josh Beverly, Drums: Brian Quinn

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSGuwFf7NGg> [5:13]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Praise and Thanksgiving

(as found in the ELCA worship book Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 689)

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.
- 3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

*Text: Deuteronomy 8:7-10, Psalm 65:9-13, 90:17, 2 Corinthians 9:8-12,
by Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.; Meter 5 5 5 4 D*

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

The Tune is in the Public Domain.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

Performance by the Sing for Joy Festival Choir, Chet Valley Churches, 11/26/21

*The tune is 'Bunessan', a Gaelic tune that was first published (melody only)
in Lachlan Macbean's Songs and Hymns of the Gael (1888)*

as a setting for Mary Macdonald's carol "Child in the Manger."

The tune is named after Macdonald's birthplace on the Isle of Mull, Scotland.

Video background by Chet Valley Churches;

a field of sweet corn (maize) in Chedgrave, South Norfolk.

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef1as5GTl5k> [2:18]

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Genesis 18:20-32

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me — and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 49:1-12

Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
you of high degree and low,
rich and poor together.
My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,
and boast of their great riches?

One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;
for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,
in order to live forever and ever
and never see the grave.

For we see that the wise die also;
like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.
Their graves shall be their homes forever,
their dwelling places from generation to generation,
though they had named lands after themselves.

Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.

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

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Colossians 3:1-11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 12:13-21 *You may stand if you so desire.*

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me”. But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions”. Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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

*(We thank the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
for introducing us to this affirmation at its annual meeting last month.
It is from The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa & from Indonesia
and speaks especially to the ideals to which this country has always aspired:
the freedom, equality, and truth that lead to a new earth where justice and peace prevail.)*

And now, 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,
and to free us from all forms of oppression.**

We believe in the Spirit of God, who works in & 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 and 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 and transfigure,
fulfilling the promise of a new heaven & a new earth where justice & 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.

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

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

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

O God, you are wholeness.

Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing.

Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors,
and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church.

We pray for our mission partners, especially for the Ephraim French 7th Day Adventist Church, Christ Presbyterian Church, and Christ's House of Unity, Restoration, Charity and Hope.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Josephine Anderson, and Janice Lansing.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are the source of all life.

Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal.

Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, and all who provide our food.

Nourish the land and all its habitants.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are wisdom.

Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice, truth and reconciliation..

Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others,
especially military personnel, police, first responders, and activists.

Give government officials, scientists, and medical personnel
wisdom and courage to bring an end to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are life.

Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement.

Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress,
especially Barbara, Bernedette, Bill, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Iris, Jocelyn, Jonathan, Linda, Maria,
Marija, Moses, Ruth, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

Renew us at your table of mercy.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are our treasure.

Where paradigms of scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, show your abundance & vitality.

Guide the work of church councils and committees
and help them to act not out of human knowledge and good intentions
but out of obedience to your specific call.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints. Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love;
through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **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 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

(as found in the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's* worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 678)

(sung to the tune “BEACH SPRING” Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 445, 712, 777)

You may stand if you so desire.

- 1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.
- 2 Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.
- 3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

*Text: based on Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27,
2 Corinthians 8:8-14, Ephesians 4:11-13
by Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006; Meter 8 7 8 7 D*

*Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society,
admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

SUNG TO Tune: BEACH SPRING,

*The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985
Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372*

Performance by First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE, 05/14/17

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om3IU7Z02gk> [2:40]

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU AND BLESSING

Please be seated.

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 steadfast love endures forever. **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.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way.

Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table.

When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side.

We live unaware of the hurt and pain we have caused by personal and societal actions.

Set us back on the path of life, save us from our sin, & free us to love our neighbors. 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!

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

Take My Life, That I May Be

Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 583)*

**Refrain Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**1 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain**

**2 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. Refrain**

**3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. Refrain**

**4 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain**

*Text: Matthew 10:39, Mark 8:35, 12:38-44, Luke 7:36-50, 14:26, John 12:1-8,
Romans 12:1, Galatians 2:20, by Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879,
adapt.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875–1955; Meter 7 7 7 7 D*

*Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, by William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956;
arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954*

Text is in the Public Domain.

Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

Performance by Halifax Lutheran Church, 02/25/21

(492/655 in our hymn series)

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4dTuoMimRM> [2:57]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, grow in God, and get to know neighbors not like you!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE SONG

Shout to the Lord

Darlene Zschech

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 821)*

**My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.**

**My Comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.**

**I sing for joy at the work of your hands; forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

**My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.**

**My Comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.**

**I sing for joy at the work of your hands; forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

Song # 1406918

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

*Text © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in the USA & Canada by Integrity's
Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.*

Reprinted/Streamed with permission under CCLI License # 11092038

Performance by COS Treehouse, 07/26/13

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhW6lygfyLA> [3:34]

Announcements

The New Paradigm Theatre Company is most GRATEFUL to Salem for supplying so many costumes for its upcoming presentation of “The Little Mermaid”, produced in partnership with The Maritime Aquarium with its theme of “Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse”. Our partnership with NPT in the donation of costumes was a great example of this theme! for “The Little Mermaid”, **Friday August 19 at 7pm or Saturday August 20 at 2pm and 7pm** at Black Rock Church, 3685 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield. All tickets (except VIP) are General Seating: Adults – \$35.00, Seniors – \$30.00, Students 12 and over with ID – \$20.00, Children 12 and under – \$10.00. VIP tickets get reserved seating and a backstage tour- up-close and personal – of sets, costumes and props and cost \$50.00. For tickets go to NPT’s website: <https://nptheatre.org/thelittlemermaid/> ***If we can get a group to go, we can get a group rate!***

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 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. Most impressively, this collaborative effort spans both the racial divide as well as the divides between Evangelicals & Mainline Protestants & Roman Catholics. Together, as the Body of Christ, we want to celebrate & accelerate the work of the Church, helping further influence culture, change lives, & inspire other cities.

CityFest has already begun with the launch of **CityServe**, a massive effort to mobilize churches to serve our region's greatest needs, providing support for those needing Adoption & Foster Care, better Education, and freedom from Food Insecurity. 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.

Aug 27-28 CityFest, Family Fun Day at Seaside Park, Bridgeport (see Pr Marjo for tickets)
an outdoor, family festival to celebrate and share the Gospel with thousands through the ministry of local churches brought together by the Luis Palau Assoc.
For more info, go to <https://www.cityfest.org/whatiscityfest>, or speak with Pastor Marjo, Sandra Brown, Nancy Headford, Bill Winter, or Cindy Roberts.

Salem’s Food Assistance Fund - While we may not have our own food pantry anymore, some of those people are still in need of food and Pastor distributes \$25 stop and shop cards as needed from that fund which only has \$45 in it at present. Also a number of Salem members support the food pantry at PT Barnum with their time, and we’d also like to support it financially. 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 marked “food assistance.” In addition, you may send check to office or drop it in church mailbox or give it or cash to Pastor. You can also give to the fund online by **clicking on this link**.

It's not too late to join the illustrious Salem Bridgeport Team for Calumet's Walk the Walk 2022 which continues thru 8/31.

So far our team consists of Captain Pastor Marjo, Cindy Roberts, Dave and Judith Albers, Jean and Tom Larson, Susan, Wes, Fritz and Gustav Murphy, and Astrid and Buttons Colello, **and in the first half of July we walked a total of.... [drumroll, please!]....518 miles!**

To join us, all you have to do is go to this link to register:

<https://www.vancoevents.com/us/events/landing?eid=21571&>

and join the Congregation Team "Salem Bridgeport"

The registration fee is a \$25 donation to Calumet.

Then all you have to do is report your miles walked to Pastor Marjo from 7/16-31, 8/ 1-15 & 16-31.

Calumet will share the growing mileage total all summer long.

The goal: 350,000 miles by the end of the day on August 31!

Calumet has a special Walk the Walk FB page which participants all over the place are invited to join. Though out the summer, there will be daily devotions, fun contests, photo sharing, and more. This Facebook group has been a fantastic way for people to get to know one another. We have a specific group of people led by Pat Mahoney with the job of managing the page and encouraging awesome connections – a la Calumet Nation!

FaithActs for Education says, "If you don't vote, they don't listen!" FaithActs is a campaign to get the faith community in Bridgeport involved in voter education and voter turnout in order get all children the education they deserve. Believing that every child deserves the opportunity to graduate from college, take care of their family, and fulfill their God-given potential, FaithActs builds relationships, builds leaders, and builds power through community organizing and civic engagement across Connecticut. In 2019 Bridgeport Public Schools met FaithActs' demand to publish how much it spends per child, per school – information that has never been made public before. Last year, in the middle of a pandemic, FaithActs secured an additional \$160 million in education for Black, Brown, and low income students of all races, and activated over 5,000 voters across the state. Guided by faith, FaithActs continues to Serve the Children, Build Bridges, Take Ownership, and Drive toward Impact. If you want to change the life of a child, become a part of FaithActs by going to www.faithacts.org , emailing hello@faithacts.org, or calling 203-868-0443. If you have questions about voting, contact Civic Engagement Manager, Toni, at 203-7 51-7256 or Toni@Faithacts.org

New England Women of the ELCA will host its Biennial Convention and Gathering – "We love because he first loved us [1 John 4:19]" – October 27-29 at Camp Calumet. Come with your stories, or come to listen to the stories of others. Come share the Love and/or come to be loved, give love or Just Love, and leave to share the love and tell the stories. For more info, contact Ade Monareh at 603-866-6556 or ade234@msn.com .

CREDITS

From sundaysandseasons.com. © 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 USA

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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



Used by permission.

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:

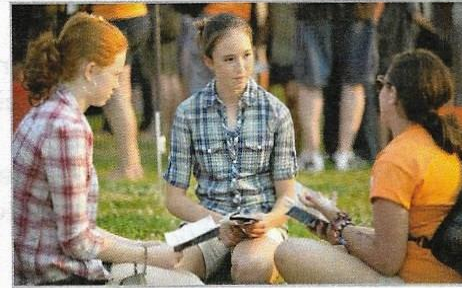
- Affinity events for women
- Special gatherings for business and civic leaders
- Prison outreaches

• 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.



PO Box 50 | Portland OR 97207 | www.palau.org

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.

CITYFEST

ANDREW PALAU

CITYSERVE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT

We believe that everyone in Southwestern Connecticut should hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and His followers should serve in their communities to bring Shalom.

CityServe is a movement focused on encouraging, equipping, and empowering the Body of Christ to love and serve our region through united, long-term efforts focused on the area's greatest needs.

For months, we'll provide opportunities for the Church in Southwestern Connecticut to set aside differences and come together with the goal of producing a pattern of love and care modeled by Jesus Christ. Our serving together will lead to long-lasting impact and our community seeing Jesus more clearly.

FOOD INSECURITY



- 500,000 people in Connecticut struggle with hunger
- 140,000 children struggle with food insecurity every day

EDUCATION



- 76% of third graders in Bridgeport are not reading at grade level and are not able to pass a third grade literacy test
- Nearly 60% of those graduating from Bridgeport public schools are functionally illiterate

ADOPTION + FOSTER CARE



- New Haven County alone has over 1,200 children in need of foster families, and over 200 are sent to other counties to be cared for

For more information on how you and your church can engage with CityServe to meet the needs of your community, please visit www.CTCityServe.org.

Did you know that the prisons are built based on the reading scores of third graders? And that 76% of third graders in Bridgeport cannot pass their third grade literacy test? That was the impetus for Pastor Gabrielle Beam to found Rise to Read, in order to eradicate childhood illiteracy in Bridgeport and throughout the United States, thereby breaking generational curses and stopping the school-to-prison pipeline. Using the Bible as a primer, Rise to Read-trained volunteers provide free reading literacy education to primary school children in afterschool and Sunday School programs, and vacation bible camps. To volunteer or to donate, go to www.risetoread.n