



March 2024

the  
SPIRIT

# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

*A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation*

## Journey to Jerusalem

Each year, during the 40 days of Lent, we reflect on what it means to join Jesus in his journey to Jerusalem. What did that journey mean for Jesus? And what does it mean for you and for me?

While some Christians assume Jesus knew from the get-go what his destination was, what route he was to take, and how long it would take him, I don't think that was the case, because if we believe what we confess, that Jesus was not only 100% divine but at the same time 100% human, then there is no way Jesus knew those things. There is no way, because the one essential task for us as human beings is to learn to live by faith. That means that while we believe that God has a destination determined for us, we have no clue as to what route we will follow, what experiences we will encounter along the way, or when we will get to the goal.

All Abraham knew, for example, was that God was going to lead him to a promised land flowing with milk and honey, that he would be the father of many nations, and that he would be blessed to be a blessing.

All Jesus knew at the beginning of his ministry was that he was God's beloved child with whom God was well-pleased, and that he was empowered by the Spirit of God. As his ministry matured, he realized that as he was drawn deeper into relationship with God, he was called to invite others into that same deepening relationship. He trusted that he, too, like Abraham, was headed towards a promised land, and that through him, all the world would be blessed.

As for me, all I know at this point is that the God who designed and made me has a plan and a purpose for my life. That same God has given me my own "starry night" promise, a promise as unlikely as the one God gave to Abraham and Sarah. If I were younger, it would seem so much more possible, but then its fulfillment would be all the less likely to be looked at as a miracle, right? And aside from that particular personal promise, there are all the other tasks to which God continues to call me along the way.

When we take our first steps along the path to the promised land, we, like Abraham and Jesus, are probably filled with anticipation and enthusiasm and excitement, but at one point or another, we will realize that along the journey to Jerusalem, there there are no testimony without a test, no triumph without a trial, and no crown without a cross. And as we undergo these tests and trials, as we take up our cross, we know that the devil will do all he can to deliver doubt and depression and despair. In those times we need to hang onto the

plan and purpose promised to us by God. And the best way to hang onto God's promises is through prayer and praise. The best way to wend our way through the wilderness is through worship and word.

To what "promised land" has God called you? What "starry night" promise has God made to you? What are the tasks which God has assigned to you? Where along your journey to Jerusalem are you? Are you in the middle of tests or testimonies? Trials or triumphs?

Whether, like Abraham, your patience has been tested for 25 years, or you have been overcome with joy at the fulfillment of the promised child's arrival, or you have been filled with fear and foreboding at God's call to give up that promised child, always remember the end of the story. No matter how long it took and no matter how impossible it seemed, God's promise WAS fulfilled for Abraham.

Whether, like Jesus, you have experienced meaning in your life and work, or you have felt the thrill of having your work celebrated, or you have been filled with fear over what awaits you, always remember the end of the story. No matter how many people Jesus reached or didn't reach, no matter what trials and temptations with which he was tested, God's promise WAS fulfilled for Jesus.

As you join Jesus in his journey to Jerusalem, let me remind you of three things:

1. Jesus said the most important commandments are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor - EVERY child of God - as yourself.
2. This kind of agape love is not something we can feel or give on our own; we can only access it through the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. The Spirit of God is the Breath of God, and we inhale that breath through word (Bible study) and worship, and we exhale that breath through prayer and praise.

So during this time of Lent, breathe in word and worship and breathe out prayer and praise, that you might be filled with the Spirit, which will make your love strong enough to hold on to God's promises as you join Jesus in his journey to Jerusalem - and JOY!

Abundant Blessings Be Yours!  
Pastor Marjo

## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3160 Park Avenue  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604  
Phone (203) 336-3300 ▪ Fax (203) 336-8813

Website - [www.salembridgeport.org](http://www.salembridgeport.org)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport/](http://www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport/)

### Church Office Hours

Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### Worship Services

Sunday 9:30am In Person Worship

### Salem's Staff

The Rev. Marjo Anderson, Pastor  
Cell Phone (203) 982-3441  
[marjoanderson@aol.com](mailto:marjoanderson@aol.com)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager  
Office Phone (203) 336-3300  
[salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net)

The following people have asked for  
healing, help, guidance or comfort.

Barbara  
Bernedette  
Dolores  
Jonathan  
Linda  
Steve

and all we name in  
our hearts.



## LEADERSHIP AT SALEM

### COUNCIL

Marjo Anderson, Pastor  
Cindy Roberts, President  
Sandra Brown, Vice-President  
Nancy Headford, Secretary  
Rich Kenyon, Treasurer  
Ray Anderson  
Cake Elie  
Steve Kuczo  
Carol Lansing  
Rich Lansing  
Tom Larson  
Bill Winter

### 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.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 6**. Our first collection will be at the Stop&Shop at 4531 Main Street, Bridgeport, for the Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry.

Volunteer time slots are available 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, and 3-5:00.

You can sign up at <https://volunteersignup.org/YXRFK> or by contacting Rich Lansing at (203) 520-3751 or [rlansing@optonline.com](mailto:rlansing@optonline.com).

**Newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month unless otherwise noted in the monthly calendar.**

**Next deadline date is **March 15th** for the April issue!**

**Email submissions to  
[salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net)**

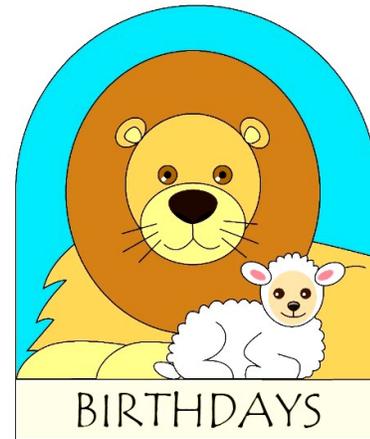
# March 2024 Salem Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI Mar 1	SAT 2
3 Lent 3 ● 9:30am Worship	4 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 4pm Anti-Racism Accountability Group ● 7:15pm Synod Anti-Racism Prayer Gathering	5 ● 9:30am Rostered Leaders' Tuesday Talk and ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In	6 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 12pm Wednesday Weekly Prayer ● 7pm Bible Study on Romans	7 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In	8 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 5pm Rostered Leaders - God at the Center	9 ● 9am The BREAKFAST Gathering!
10 Lent 4 ● 9:30am Worship	11 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 4pm Anti-Racism Accountability Group ● 6:30pm Social Ministry Committee Meeting	12 ● 9:30am Rostered Leaders' Tuesday Talk and ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 6pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	13 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 12pm Wednesday Weekly Prayer ● 7pm Bible Study on Romans	14 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In	15 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 5pm Rostered Leaders - God at the Center ● 6pm Pray CT Summit planning meeting	16
17 Lent 5 ● 9:30am Worship	18 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 4pm Anti-Racism Accountability Group ● 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting ● 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting ● 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	19 ● 9:30am Rostered Leaders' Tuesday Talk and ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In	20 Golden Hill Community Supper ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 12pm Wednesday Weekly Prayer ● 7pm Bible Study on Romans	21 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 7:15pm Synod Anti-Racism Prayer Gathering	22 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 5pm Rostered Leaders - God at the Center	23
24 Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday ● 9:30am Worship	25 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 4pm Anti-Racism Accountability Group ● 7pm Council Meeting ● 7pm Council Meeting	26 ● 9:30am Rostered Leaders' Tuesday Talk and ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In	27 ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 12pm Wednesday Weekly Prayer ● 7pm Bible Study on Romans	28 Maundy Thursday ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In	29 Good Friday ● 12pm Noon Prayer Call In ● 5pm Rostered Leaders - God at the Center	30
31 Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day ● 9:30am Worship						

Call in to our prayer line at 681-999-0232, using access code 673980#, at noon Mon-Fri for a brief time of prayer. You can remain silent and anonymous, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers.

Carlee Claus .....	2
Bonnie Baronavski.....	3
Lowell Claus .....	3
Bryana Johnson.....	6
Dennis Pittu .....	7
Timothy Cotter .....	9
Tracy Hintz .....	10
Josephine Hahn.....	12
Todd DeWalt.....	14
David Lazarini.....	14
Noah Lansing.....	16
Elizabeth Watts.....	16

Laila Hietala.....	18
Jonathon Rosa .....	19
Stephan Dow.....	23
John Bryk .....	29



All Church delegates, representatives, and community  
 leaders are strongly encouraged to attend our  
**March Delegates Meeting**

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**5:00 to 6:30 PM**

*(Light supper right at 5 PM)*

**St. John’s Episcopal Church  
 768 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT**

Topics for Meeting

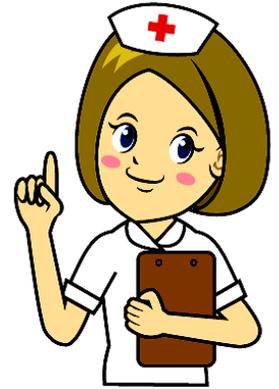
- Major CCGB programming and operation updates
- Next steps

If you can’t come, please make sure to  
 send someone from your congregation in your place!!

R.S.V.P. to [coleenlane@ccgb.org](mailto:coleenlane@ccgb.org) or 203-334-1121  
**R.S.V.P BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024**

# Wheel It Forward

A Bridgeport branch of Wheel It Forward is now open. They are inside the Bridgeport Innovation Center at 955 Connecticut Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06607. The main office has been in Stamford since 2020.



Wheel It Forward is like a lending library, but they lend out durable medical equipment (DME) instead of books. This includes wheelchairs, shower seats, crutches, walkers, knee scooters, canes, commodes, Hoyer lifts, and hospital beds.

The DME is lent out at no cost. People can make a donation if desired. Borrow the equipment when you need it; return it when you don't. You can also make a donation of your own equipment when you are done with it. Wheel It Forward cleans and sanitizes all equipment.

The Bridgeport branch is open from 10:00 to 3:00 Monday through Thursday. Fridays

LAUNCHING..

# THE RIVER

## PRAYER SERVICE

SATURDAY NIGHTS STARTING:  
MARCH 23rd at 7PM! (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM!)

•LOCATION: CATHEDRAL OF FAITH  
2319 FAIRFIELD AVENUE  
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06605

PASTOR GABRIELLE BEAM [gbeam@the-rivers.org](mailto:gbeam@the-rivers.org)

**Encountering God: Moving Forward with a Changing Church**  
**An online Lenten Study in the New England Synod**

Every Monday in Lent a brief new video will be shared engaging us in scripture and reflection. You can use the videos on your own or include them in your congregation's Lenten practice. Either way you are invited to join us Thursday evenings in Lent from 7-8 p.m. on Zoom for conversation with the presenter from the video and others across the synod. (The videos will be available in Spanish. / Los videos estarán disponibles en Español.) [Register for Zoom link here.](#)

[Videos may be found here](#) and will be linked in the Monday Medley each week starting on Monday, February 19. The video link will also be sent directly to all those who've registered using the registration link above. Please encourage your congregation members to register so they'll receive the links directly.

Each Thursday evening beginning February 22, there will be a Zoom conversation with that week's facilitator. A summary, accompanying Bible verse and discussion questions for each week may be found [here](#).

**ENCOUNTERING GOD:**  
**Moving Forward with a Changing Church**  
**A Lenten Collaborative Bible Study**  
**Five weeks starting Feb. 19th through March 21st**

**Week 1 - Genesis 8: The Flood Subsides**

*Rafaela Radcke, LLM Santuario/ Nuevo Amanecer, Synod Council*

**Week 2 - Ezekiel 37:1-14: The Valley of Dry Bones**

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

**Week 3 - Matthew 15: 21-27: The Canaanite Woman's Faith**

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

*Rev. Jennifer Gregg, Missioner for Servant Leadership*

**Week 4 - John 3: Nicodemus Visits Jesus**

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

**Week 5 - Luke 24: The Walk to Emmaus**

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

**Inquiries and Zoom registration: [mwhyte@nesynod.org](mailto:mwhyte@nesynod.org)**

# WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

**Welcome to WONDROUS WEDNESDAYS!** On Wednesday 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. The more we talk with God and the more we listen to God, the more God is able to work through us. And the more we pray TOGETHER the more the power of prayer is multiplied.

\* **Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study continues at 7:00 on zoom as we study Paul's letter to the Romans. Why Romans, you ask? Well, according to Martin Luther...** "This Epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is so worthy that not only should every Christian know it word for word, by heart, but feast on it every day as bread for the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes." While you may not be ready to memorize it or read it every day, we do invite you to study it weekly with us! The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org .

**The next breakfast and faith discussion will be held on March 8th at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford, at 9:00 (8:00 to help cook).**

**Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, Saturday March 16th at 11:00 am. Details forthcoming.**

**There are many ways to find the zoom link for worship and all other Salem events.** The most reliable way is to go to our website - [www.salembridgeport.org](http://www.salembridgeport.org), choose the Resource tab, and click on Calendar. Then on the calendar, go to the day, the event, and when you click on it, it will open up the zoom invitation. You can click on the link, or copy and paste it into your browser. **To see how to do this, [click here](#):**

We also include the zoom links in our weekly email blasts, and in this announcement section of our Sunday bulletin. You can find links to Sunday worship materials like the bulletin, sermon, and donate page at [www.salembridgeport.org/live](http://www.salembridgeport.org/live). **Or to see how to get there, [click here](#):**