FROM PASTOR

I was fairly new in my place of ministry when Hurricane Irene hit us in Connecticut, and our community experienced a days-long power failure. Walking down Broad Street at night, I marveled at the thick darkness, broken up only by the gentle glow of the occasional candle or hurricane lamp. In my parsonage, I had a hearth, and I had set candles up all around. Despite the inconvenience (I was showering with a bucket of cold water) I felt a powerful peace surround me. I wondered if this was what people experienced in the old days, when night was night, and constant noise and constant news did not yet exist to trouble or distract. I was actually disappointed one evening when, just as I had settled in for the night with my candles and my cats, my favorite church trustee informed me that his mother's power was back on; and took me to meet a matriarch of the church and receive a hot shower.

As we reel from the news about the spreading coronavirus and adapt our behaviors to the crisis, we should remember that whatever we experience now, things will eventually return to normal. When they do, we will be plenty busy. So rather than fighting with the reality of our new limitations, let us go deeper.

I believe that we face two enemies. Let’s call them loneliness and fear.

Loneliness

These days, we are learning all about “social distancing.” People are social animals, and it doesn’t come easily to us to keep ourselves apart from one another. We are investing in our virtual communication options, of course. Yet let’s also invest in a little-known and little-loved spiritual gift: the gift of solitude. In a world of unceasing noise and chatter and opinion, can we treasure the opportunity to let silence and solitude deepen our connection with God?

We may confuse solitude with loneliness. When we feel lonely, we tend to reach for anyone, anything, to fill the gap. Solitude, unlike loneliness, is not a problem we need to fix. It is an essential ingredient of the spiritual life.

Priest and spiritual writer Henri Nouwen tells us: “Solitude is the furnace of transformation. Without solitude we remain victims of our society and continue to be entangled in the illusions of the false self.” In solitude, we are blessed by “the loving God who offers himself as the substance of the new self.”

Continued next page
Fear

In the coronavirus, we face a very real enemy: death. There’s no way around it. We will all die, but most of us did not expect to die by plague. We hoped for a rich life, a fruitful old age, and a quiet passing. Of course, we have always known that we don’t get to choose. Young people die in car accidents. Health fanatics succumb to cancer. Old people may cling to life despite pain, physical limitation, and social isolation. Yet we believe and hope in a God whose love has conquered death.

This is a good time to delve into scripture. I turn to psalms such as 91, which assures us of God’s protection from “deadly pestilence,” or of course the 23rd. Other psalms, such as 130 or 143, give us the chance to petition God’s help. You may have your own favorites. I appreciate Romans 8 (no earthly power can separate us from Christ’s love) and 14 (we belong to the Lord) and I Corinthians 15 (Christ’s resurrection is our resurrection). And of course, from John 14 we hear Christ’s word: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (27).

Following Luther, we can also make it our practice to pray the Creed, Ten Commandments, and Lord’s Prayer daily.

As a congregation, we will continue to pray the psalms, as we have been doing on Wednesday evenings, sharing our worship virtually and on paper; and receive the word for each Sunday. And we will certainly reach out to the vulnerable among us and strive to meet the community’s needs.

When I first met Christ, I said to myself: “I will never be alone again!” Alas, that didn’t mean that I would never feel lonely again. Or that I would never feel fear. Of course I did. Still, I had understood a real truth of our faith. We are not alone. We are never alone. God is with us. Christ is with us. Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.

* From The Way of the Heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers

Pastor Susan

Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future.
From the President

During this difficult time, I want to assure you that much work is being done. This week a list of places, where you can connect with Lutheran Churches that are streaming church services on Sundays and weekdays, was put together so that you can worship at home.

The bad news is, that until April 1, our church is temporarily not having worship services. Our church office is temporarily closed and we must not drop by the church office. We have to constantly think about keeping each other safe. We have to think about washing our hands and not touching our faces.

The good news, is that we are more attuned to each other than we may have been before. We are thinking about each other and asking about each other. We are being good gossips. Our neighbor is more a part of our life. We are realizing everything we take for granted. Our Lenten journey has been reformed. Are you praying more? Are you finding ways to deepen your relationship with God? The Good News is the good news.

Right now, you help is needed to:

- Call another member. Offer a prayer. Read scripture together. Ask how they are. Listen to them. Tell a joke.
- Remember member birthdays. Send cards, call or email a birthday message. (This information is in the Newsletter each month).
- Let us know if you have a skill that you believe would be useful right now. Call the church and leave a message or email ahanks@twcny.rr.com, to let someone know.
- Use facetime or chat groups to talk to people you know.
- Keep up your pledge amount. Let the church know if this needs to change.
- Make plans for the celebrations we can have when this time is done.
- Practice self-care. Please go to Facebook, to go to the Upstate New York Synod page at 9:00 AM and begin your day with a message from our synod.
- Continue worshipping. Please check out our sister congregation on Facebook, Luther Memorial, Syracuse, Nebraska and see what another congregation is doing.
- Share ways you are worshipping on Facebook.
- Go outside and read a scripture and say a prayer.
- Pray for Pastor Susan, our bishops and our leaders in the world.
- Plan for tomorrow. We can’t schedule dates and times but we can plan.
- Encourage people to count their blessings.
- Let us know if you are in trouble. You can call the church office number and leave a message by phone or you can email ahanks@twcny.rr.com, (Anne’s personal email).

Go to Augsburg Fortress and download for free Luther’s Small Catechism. Share with someone.

We are a people of hope and we will continue to hope that things will be better. That will be the best news to share and we will share it with joy as soon as we can. Think of that celebration!

“O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your power, from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow’r.” Lutheran Book of Worship, Hymn #328 Restore in Us, O God

Lynn Kauffman, Council President
Dear Church,

We live in anxious times. COVID-19 makes these times even more anxious. In a time of crisis, it is our natural instinct to gather together, but this pandemic demands that we distance ourselves from one another for a time. This has led to major disruptions to all aspects of our lives including corporate worship. There is discussion and experimentation with the celebration and distribution of Holy Communion.

This disruption may actually be of benefit to us. The world has hit the pause button and now we have time to reflect more deeply on the evangelical understanding of the Word that was recovered during the Reformation. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate. The proclamation of God’s message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. The question should be turned around from, “How do we receive Holy Communion?” to “How does the Word of God come to us and how do we receive the Word of God?” God comes to us in all these ways and is really present. Holy Communion is not the only way that the Word of God is communicated, not even the preeminent way that the Word of God is communicated.

This disruption also gives us the time and space to examine our understanding of and practices around Holy Communion. I grew up when communion was celebrated once a month. Now we have done such a good job of encouraging our people to receive the sacrament more frequently that many, if not most, of our congregations have weekly communion! Of course, the pandemic-forced physical distancing has interrupted this practice. But it hasn’t separated us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:39) We don’t know how long this pandemic will last, but it won’t last forever. Fasting from Holy Communion for a time might be a good discipline. This absence makes God’s presence more profound. During this limited fast we might become more aware of God’s presence around us and in creation in ways we never noticed before.

We recommend that we do not urge people to employ virtual communion, that deacons, pastors, and bishops use this time as a teaching moment about the Lutheran understanding of the Word of God, that we make use of the Service of the Word and Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Night Prayer and Responsive Prayer, that we spend time in scripture study, that we pray for each other, and that we contact others regularly by phone, email, or social media.

We also recommend that we be gentle with one another. We’ve never been here before. We are all trying to do our best to be faithful and loving in this time of COVID-19.

Bishop Liz Eaton
THIS IS TENTATIVE IF WE HAVE TO CANCEL
WE ARE EXPLORING A SERVICE BY INTERNET

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday - April 5th

Maundy Thursday - April 9th 9:30am and 7 pm

Good Friday - April 10th Noon and 7 pm

Easter Resurrection—April 12th 8:00 & 11:00am

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a
Palm Sunday Brunch again this year!
It will be between the two worship services (roughly from 9:30am to 10:30am).
Please plan to attend!!
Ready, Set, Bake!

For Our Delicious Dessert Auction for World Hunger with the Sauta’s as our distinguished auctioneers. Come for Spectacular Baked Goods from our renowned bakers, for FUN….

And an Opportunity to Make a Difference in the World

Sunday, April 26th, Right after 8:00 Worship

Lutheran Campus Ministry Spring Festival

Sunday, April 26 in the afternoon.

Our Baker’s Basket was so popular last year, we’re doing it again.

Donate something connected to baking to our Luther Memorial Basket !!!

Find the basket in the Social Hall as the 26th approaches:

Ideas to prime the pump:

Silicone spatula, Baking powder
Parchment paper

Whatever your imagination can come up with!
I’d like to thank everyone for the love and support I received after Tom’s passing. It was overwhelming and I couldn’t have gotten through these past months without my church family. Tom would have been humbled to know he was so loved. God bless you all.

Ruth Fonda

The church **has 2 pianos** that they are giving away. Only thing is whoever wants them has to move them. Please contact the office if you know someone who wants one.

Luther Memorial Nursery School

We are full steam ahead with our new **STEAM Curriculum**

- **Science**
- **Technology**
- **Engineering**
- **Arts**
- **Math**

The 2’s do a science project

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year are filling up. If you know anyone that might be interested in our nursery school please have them call 315-458-1481 ex. 2 to set up a tour check us out at www.luthermemorialns.org
April Birthday’s

Brandi Andrews 04/01
Michael O’Connell Jr. 04/01
Sharon Putman 04/03
Ashley Andrews 04/04
Laura Sauta 04/04
Leah Parks 04/04
Ruth Beasley 04/05
Joan Hahn 04/07
Eric Ziegler 04/08
Sara Elizabeth Syrell 04/09
Hannah Mantor 04/10
Aleah Mantor 04/10
Addison Ziegler 04/12
Gavin Rodman 04/12
Marion Fleisch 04/13
Katie Zuercher 04/14
Charles Hogan 04/15
David Bianchi 04/15
Kenneth Schader 04/16
Linda Rodman 04/16
Candace Cramer 04/18
Elias Downing 04/18
Adriana Kurpiewski 04/18
Donald Marquart 04/19
Lillian Francis 04/20
Suzanne Francis 04/25
Nadine Lettieri 04/25
Chase Salmons 04/25
Anne Davis 04/27
Patricia Stach 04/27
Austin Ziegler 04/28
Benjamin McAllister 04/29
Ricardo Fernandez 04/29
Abigail Schultz 04/29

Donations to support St. Paul’s Food Pantry in April is

Monetary donations to St. Paul’s give us the ability to purchase the items that they need to fill out our food packages, at the best prices available.
Thank You to all who have brought in food donations!

Have you visited our web site
www.luthermemorialns.org
There you can find a link to Pastor ‘s blog

Have you found Luther Memorial on Facebook?
Follow us and enjoy.

WE Collect PAPER BACK BOOKS for our Veterans at the VA Hospital.

If you have any paperback books you would like to donate there is a basket in the Social Hall on the table. We ask that you do not donate cookbooks, encyclopedias, or text books as the Vets will not read those.
Thank you so much to all those who have already donated!! Jerome Sauta

OLD PRINTER CARTRIDGES

If you have an old ink cartridge from your printer bring it to the church office. We get $2.00 worth of rewards toward our next purchase from each cartridge we turn in.
Thank you to all who have made the effort and brought in their cartridges
Members of our church family who need prayer
Linda Curtis, Peggy Mayer, Jerry Exline, Steve Zogg
Evelyn Ashley, David Eyer, Alexis Kratz, Nancy Wright, Gerry Blair, Diane Chase, Dolores VanDeWalker.

Members in Healthcare facilities this month
Tom Balas @ Birchwood
Doris Bittel @ Syracuse Home
Hazel Carrick @ Syracuse Home

Family and Friends who need prayer
Beth Putnam sister of Larry & Sharon Putman
Laila Davis cousin of Donna Gilbert
Madeleine Steve Zogg’s granddaughter
Olivia Jeanette, (great niece of Sharon & Larry Putman),

Family and Friends who need prayer
Jim friend of Donna Gilbert
Pamela friend of Donna Gilbert

Other Congregations: Faith Lutheran Church, other local Lutheran churches in the call process and Luther Memorial Church in Syracuse, Nebraska.

Our Nation’s Military: friends and family of Luther Memorial currently in the service,
Cody Marshall, Austin Schilling, Maddie Boyd, Alex Jenkins, Andrew Pagan, David Rogers, Drew Green, Zachary Rumo, Matt Hummel, Jordan Miller, Bill McConnell, and Dylan Winslow.

Prayer from Around the World: Victims of violent weather, People experiencing famine, All suffering from cancer

IN SYMPATHY
Our prayers and condolences are with the Families of
Bruce Clark
and
Brian Hyde
May the blessed hope of the resurrection in God

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE at 458-1481 x1 When
• You or someone else you know needs prayer
• You or a member of your family is sick or in the hospital.
• You are planning a meeting or scheduling an event, so it can be placed on the church calendar and in the Sunday bulletin.
• Your telephone number, email, or address is changed.
RESURRECTION

One of Upstate New York Synod’s mottos in the past was “We are resurrection people who pray first, walk together, and change lives.” As we await Jesus’ resurrection on Easter, let’s look for signs of resurrection in our present world: Beatrice is a widow in Ghana, in Western Africa. She attended a workshop supported by ELCA World Hunger and received seeds so she could farm a half acre of land. “Our life is much better—we are able to eat.”

Melody is an alcoholic in recovery. When her savings ran out, she found the Community Resource Center, a ministry of St Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Minnesota. “They encourage my growth.”

Rebekah is a transgender teen in New Jersey. Marvel Comics has based their “Mighty Rebekah” series on her to encourage empowerment of the LGBTQ+ community, especially teens. “These experiences have affirmed me in being me.”

Narinda is a teen in Nepal, where 25% live in poverty, 36% are illiterate, and 81% live in rural areas. ELCA World Hunger is making a difference with internet radio programs on reproductive health, HIV education, and parent-children connections. “It’s delightful to hear how these episodes have made families truly peaceful and blissful.”

John, a father of two young boys on the US west coast, was terminally ill. On the east coast, his mother and sister were caring for his grandmother, making it impossible for them to leave and visit John. The ELCA Parish Nurse Association stepped in to give respite time for John’s mother so she could be with him in his last days. “The family was held together in God’s care.”

Where is the resurrection experience in your life? Thanks to ELCA ministries near and far, resurrection and new life are daily occurrences if we look for them. Thank you for your mission support!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God’s Work. Our Hands.

Who was Dietrich Bonhoeffer?

Who is he to you? Perhaps you know him as the author of “Life Together” “Cost of Discipleship” or that Luther pastor back in the 1940’s – you know, the one who was in on the plot to execute Adolph Hitler.

“As Adolph Hitler and the Nazis seduced a nation, bullied a continent and attempted to exterminate the Jews of Europe, a small number of dissidents and saboteurs worked to dismantle the Third Reich from the inside.” *One of these was Dietrich Bonhoeffer – a pastor and author known as much for his writings of those spiritual classics, as for his 1945 execution by hanging in a concentration camp April 9, 1945. Two months later, June 6, 1945 D-Day the 2nd World War ended.

We salute you, Pastor Bonhoeffer, martyr, Child of God. We shall never forget you.

Put the date on your calendar, April 9, and say a prayer for Pastor Bonhoeffer.

Submitted by Betty Swinehart

*Part of the above paragraph was taken from, “Bonhoeffer-Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy” by Eric Metaxas, author of Amazing Grace
The Simply Giving Program

Through the Church’s electronic giving program, Simply Giving, your offerings are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency - weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly - and your donation is deposited in the church’s bank account the same day as the withdrawal.

This benefits you...by allowing you to share your donations through planned giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your donation is given consistently, you don’t need to worry about year-end “catch-up” or forgotten checkbooks on Sundays.

This benefits Luther Memorial Church is through steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping and greater confidence in meetings financial commitments.

You can also discontinue the program at any time, or change your amount or frequency of donations. Get a copy of the Enrollment Form from the office.

Global Mission

After much prayerful consideration, we feel that the time has come for us to retire from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America-Global Mission after fourteen years of service in Africa.

Both of us will celebrate our 65th birthdays this year and it’s time to head home. Our plan is to leave Lusaka, Zambia at the end of April 2020 and begin our reintegration into American culture and society. We are grateful to all of you who have supported us and accompanied us on this marvelous journey of faith throughout these years.

Since we moved to Africa in 2006, Christa, Deborah, and I have lived in or visited 20 of the 54 countries in Africa (see the flags above). We have seen lions, rhinoceros, elephants, buffalos, giraffes, hippos, camels, and many different types of monkeys and antelope. We have seen Mount Kilimanjaro, Victoria Falls, Timbuktu, rainforests, and deserts. We have learned French, some Swahili, some Sango, and many phrases in various other local languages. We accompanied Lutheran Churches in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, and Zambia. We enjoyed our work and have had a great time. Sadly, we leave behind many good friends scattered across the continent.

Deborah and I have not lived in the continental United States since 1982. Much has changed in the almost 40 years that we have been gone. So, we are moving to what is practically a foreign country for us. We appreciate your prayers and support as we return and try to reintegrate ourselves into 21st-century America.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

Joe and Deborah Troester
Thinking positive that soon we will be together again!

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Tiny Friends’ Marathon &amp; Warren Association (7pm)</td>
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<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Dona Gilbert</td>
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<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Karen Hynes</td>
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<td>10am</td>
<td>Leesa Weedemer</td>
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No Calendar this Month

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<td>Ministry of Friendship</td>
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<td>Visiting Deacon</td>
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<td>Communion Gifts</td>
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<td>ACC Fundraiser</td>
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April 2019
CONGREGATION COUNCIL & OFFICERS

President  Lynn Kauffman…………………………………………………………………..…..….. Vice President  MaryEllen Antonson
Treasurer  Gordon Eyer……………………………………………………………………… Secretary  Karen June
Bob Brown, Judy Eyer, Jeremy Fetterman, Suzie Francis, Jenny Hogan,
Rich Hummel, Colleen Kires, Kathi Meadows, Linda Paul and Gayle Ross

Sunday School Superintendent
Suzie Lehman Francis.

STAFF:
The Rev. Susan Feurzeig………………………………………………………………………………………………….Pastor
The Rev. Deborah & Joe Troester …………………………………………………………………………………………Missionary Zambia
Anne Hanks………………………………………………………………………………………Church Administrator/Secretary
Maryna Mazhukhova…………………………………………………………………………………………..…Director of Music/ Organist

Lectionary Texts for April

Liturgy of the Passion - April 5, 2020
- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 2:5-11
  Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Resurrection of the Lord - April 12, 2020
- Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
- John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Second Sunday of Easter - April 19, 2020
- Acts 2:14a, 22-32
- Psalm 16
- I Peter 1:3-9
  John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2020
- Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
- I Peter 1:17-23
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
Luther Letter

April
2020