PASTOR SUSAN’S MESSAGE

Today I can say that I feel truly blessed to be here (at last) among you. It’s been a long journey geographically and emotionally. The week Luther Memorial voted to call me, my mother entered hospice. I returned via Atlanta to Massachusetts to be with my family. After my mother’s passing on December 9 and service on December 19, I returned to Atlanta for my ordination on January 5 (what a welcome surprise it was to see Donna Parks there!) and to prepare for my move. I am immensely thankful for your gracious support—the cards you sent me, your gracious hospitality to me and my cats for visits and in this January transition time (special thanks go to the Eyer and Parks families and to Karen June), the patience of Anne Hanks and Donna Gilbert carrying the church office, and the thoughtfulness of the Search Committee, Council, and transition team working with me. Thank you all!

I am excited to begin ministry with you. We are in a time of rich opportunity. No big changes at the start—my focus now is to get acclimated and to experience the church in worship and work. Please let me know what you are doing and what is important to you, and feel free to invite me to visit the missions with which you are engaged.

My office hours for January and February will be Wednesday 1-3 p.m. and by appointment. Please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Susan
The Train of Life

At birth, we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even grandchildren.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey for 2020 on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey.

Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train.

Submitted by Ruth & Donna

A huge **THANKYOU** to all who brought in their empty pill bottles for reuse/recycling for the Matthew 25 Ministries!

We were able to fill 3 large boxes of bottles (about 450) that were sent to Cincinnati, Ohio for medical use/money. (Pictures are on our website!) The bottles that were still “sticky” were also sent. They CAN be recycled for money in Ohio, but unfortunately not here in Onondaga County. The clean bottles with caps were separated by size and bagged in zip lock bags and labeled “CLEAN BOTTLES” and will be used for medical use.

Our collection has officially ended, but if you would like to continue this project on your own, you can follow these directions:

* Bottles for medical use must have an all plastic lid.
* Sort bottles by color and type.*Remove labels-no glue or residue.
* Wash bottles in hot soapy water; *Rinse and dry thoroughly; *Replace lids.
* Place clean, recapped bottles in large zip lock bags marked “CLEAN BOTTLES”

**Send bottles to:** Matthew 25: Ministries, 11060 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

PS-At a later date, we may try a letter writing campaign to encourage OCRRA to start recycling pill bottles both prescription and OTC bottles! We will keep you updated on that! Thank you again, The Mission Team
Members of our church family who need prayer
Linda Curtis, Fred Ensworth, Peggy Mayer, Pastor Johnson, Jerry Exline, Evelyn Ashley, David Eyer, Alexis Kratz, Nancy Wright, Gerry Blair, Diane Chase, Dolores VanDeWalker and Bruce Clark

Members in Healthcare facilities this month
Tom Balas @ Birchwood
Doris Bittel @ Syracuse Home
Bev Collins @ Syracuse Home
Joan Paschka @ VanDyne
Hazel Carrick @ Syracuse Home

Family and Friends who need prayer
Beth Putnam sister of Larry & Sharon Putman
Laila Davis cousin of Donna Gilbert
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
Virginia Brown & Micki Fengler
May the blessed hope of the resurrection in God comfort all who mourn.

ASH WEDNESDAY
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return...
Feb. 26th Worship Services at
9:30 am & 7:00 pm
Thank you to all who gave to the Christmas trees!! Thanks for the Good Gifts, hats, mittens, sweaters and gift cards! Special thanks to Karen Fear who made over 100 hats. Thanks to Gary Hafner for cutting down and delivering our good gift tree!

We want to thank everyone at the church office, for all the help! It made our day lighter with all their help!

Love, The Paschka Family

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**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.

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**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.
Central Crossroads Conference
Learning at the Crossroads
Come Learn and Grow with Friends

Election 2020:
Where we are, how we got here and can we talk about it civilly?

Facilitated by Tom Henry

Saturday, February 29, 2020
9:00 am – noon

Registration - 8:45a.m.
The workshop will be held at
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church,
435 S. Main St., N. Syracuse, NY 13212
Tel.(315) 458-1481.

Registration:  You may register by mail or by calling Luther Memorial at 315-458-1481
Name(s) ____________________________________________________________
Mailing Address ____________________________________________________
Telephone _________________________________
E-mail address ______________________________
Write check to “Central Crossroads Conference” ($20.00) and mail to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 435 S. Main St., North Syracuse, NY 13212. Registration must be received by the Wed., Feb. 26 at the latest.
Happy Birthday!

Michael McGuire          02/01
Patrick Hynes            02/02
Sandra Knapp             02/03
William Jensen           02/05
Jonathan O’Connell      02/05
Belinda Mantor           02/06
Anita Bombard            02/08
Peter Hocking            02/08
Susan Kocik              02/09
David Eyer,              02/10
Karen Nightingale        02/10
Aaron & Emilia Zuercher  02/10
Richard Parks            02/11
Barbara Appleton         02/13
Nicki Jensen             02/16
Ron Niedzwiecki          02/16
Caleb Kurpiewski         02/16
Linda Bielat             02/17
Carson Pagan             02/18
Lorrie Bunnell           02/21
Jonathan June            02/21
Zaquary Potocki-         02/21
Delores VanDeWalker      02/22
Robert Randall III       02/24
Kelly Hynes              02/26
Bailey O’Connor          02/27
Gavin Newman             02/27
Michael McAllister       02/28
Lenora Pepe              02/28

Donations to support St. Paul’s Food Pantry Jan is Canned Meats & Stews
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! The food pantry is collecting reusable bags

Have you visited our web site
www.luthermemorialns.org

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

Approximately 450 pill bottles were recently collected and processed (washed, dried, packaged by size) to be sent to Matthew 25 Ministries-thanks to everyone for your support  Collection is now over.
Good Gifts: Blessed to Be Blessing

The average goat (Nanny or Doe) and (Billy or Buck), have an average of 2-4 kids per year. That means the gifts of 8 pair of goats (that's 16 goats), the people of Luther Memorial gave in honor of or in memory of someone dear to them in Advent 2019 through Good Gifts will have potentially grown to a gift of 32-64 goats by Advent 2021! Amazing!

And the gifts to 8 families will have been paid forward by these 8 families to 8 to 32 more families. Original goat herders keep one kid and share the others with people in their village or with villagers down the road. I'll leave it to some of our math skilled children to figure out how our gifts will have grown in 2 years or even 5 years. (My math skills are a bit rusty!)

And goats are just part of the treasure we gave away. Somewhere in the world, perhaps right here in the United States, 6 families will have new piglets, 5 families 10 new chicks each (imagine the eggs!!!), 4 families 4 chickens, 4 roasters. 4 families plus all their neighbors will benefit from 4 new beehives (Honey but also better food crops).

Water filters for 6 families and 2 new beautiful latrines will mean much healthier years ahead for whole villages.
A single fruit tree seedling can be producing 10-12 bushels of fruit in 3-10 years. If it's a banana tree it can produce fruit in 10-18 months.

Someone will be able to start a small business with a microloan which means they will be able to better care for their family as well as pay forward the loan to someone else.

5 girls will have school uniforms, a requirement in much of the world and 3 students will have school supplies, items that are typically beyond the reach of families living in poverty. 4 children will have a backpack stocked with food at their school to take home for the weekend, a time that families who live in poverty often do not have enough food.

3 refugee families will be fed nutritious meals for a week. That could be 9-30 (average) people receiving food that sustains life in so many ways.

Long story-short: The very generous people of Luther Memorial gave $2,030 to people in need around the world. Gifts that will grow and grow—goats, fruit (with the help of bees), piglets, chicks, roosters, businesses, healthy, well fed and thinking (educated) people.

Luther Memorial has indeed been blessed to be a blessing!!
WHERE DOES CHOCOLATE COME FROM?

Do you think of chocolate when you think of Valentine’s Day? When you’re buying (or eating!) chocolate do you ever wonder where it comes from or how it’s made?

More than 2000 farmers in the Philippines are being trained in cacao growing, in part with funding from ELCA World Hunger. Many of them used to grow only corn, leaving them susceptible to seasons of unfavorable climate. But cacao returns a much higher profit at market, and also can be grown on land not suitable for corn, can be harvested year round, and is less vulnerable to severe weather. Besides learning how to grow cacao, the farmers and their families are taught business practices, budgeting, and household management. Where income used to be unpredictable, now families enjoy a more reliable income, which in turn stabilizes many more aspects of their lives.

So, when you’re eating you Valentine’s chocolate, thank ELCA World Hunger. AND thank you for your mission support!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God’s Work. Our Hands.
| Ministry of Friendship | Liturgical Assistant | Coffee Hour | Collection

**February 2020**
|       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| FEB   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 9     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 28    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 29    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

**February 2020**
Lectionary Texts for February

Forth Sunday after the Epiphany - February 2, 2020
- Malachi 3:1-4
- Psalm 15
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- Matthew 5:1-12

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany - February 9, 2020
- Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
- Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
- Matthew 5:13-20

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany - February 16, 2020
- Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20
- Psalm 119:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
  - Matthew 5:21-37
  - Matthew 5:21

Transfiguration Sunday - February 23, 2020
- Exodus 24:12-18
- Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
- 2 Peter 1:16-21
- Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday - February 26, 2020
- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
- Psalm 51:1-17
- 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
Luther Letter

God is Love

February
2020