“God comes to you disguised as your life.”
– Paula D’Arcy

How do you get through a pandemic?

I have learned what NOT to do. It’s best not to focus on the past, or the future. I can’t hang my hopes on the day this all turns around. And I can’t go on mourning the life that used to be.

In a recent “confession,” maverick Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber shared wisdom she gleaned from longtime prisoners on how to get through.*

A POW for nearly eight years in North Vietnam, US Navy Admiral James Stockdale shared that optimists struggled the most in the camp; and were the least likely to survive. Optimists! Why? Because they set wishful goals for their liberation. “By Christmas!” “By Easter!” When liberation did not come on any schedule of their own, they were bitterly disappointed, and some died of broken hearts. Admiral Stockdale said: "You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end — which you can never afford to lose — with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.”**

Damien Echols, wrongly sentenced to Death Row for murder, said that focusing on his hopes or fears for the future turned out to be futile: “I had hooked my hope onto something in the future,” but eventually “reality sunk in.” Releasing his future focus, he survived his confinement by building a life for himself in prison.

I have to admit that I have sunk into despair on days when I’ve absorbed just too many of the negative prognoses. Too many losses, too many hopes destroyed: a virus that mutates, questionable immunity, opening delayed, singing in church to be forbidden. I picture my life from here on out as nothing but a series of Zoom meetings, and I sink…

And then there’s the past. On a rainy day in CNY, I think of the blue skies of Georgia. On a lonely day, I think of relationships dead and gone. And I sink…

But then there is today with its gifts. A kind word from a parishioner. An engaging conversation. A Zoom room full of faces that have become familiar. A patch of good weather. An unexpected gift brought to my doorstep, or an offered dinner delivery. Even during COVID-19, today can be good. And I can put my life together as a series of todays.

“All we really have is this day,” says Bolz-Weber. “And it’s enough.”

Continued next page
In monasteries, a bell calls the faithful to work, to worship, and to meals. The bell marks time so that workers can focus on their work. In my unconventional new life, new markers order my days. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings I walk in the park (masked, socially distanced) with my colleague. Mondays at 1 p.m. I attend a Zoom text study with local clergywomen. At 3 p.m. a nonfiction writing class at the Y. Tuesdays at 1 p.m., the Bishop’s office hour, at 2:15 p.m., another text study. So my week goes...and I am beginning to make my way through this strange limbo.

Some of us are still going to work, at small or great risk. Others are furloughed or laid off. Some of us work from home. But wherever we are, we are now building a life for ourselves.

Today we will look reality in the eye – and still, still hold on to our faith that with God’s help we shall prevail.

_Pastor Susan Feurzeig_


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**IMPORTANT WE NEED YOUR OPINION**

In response to Governor Cuomo’s extension of the window for the phased reopening of New York State, Bishop Macholz also extended the target date for our initial phase of reopening to July 1. While this extension is disappointing, it reflects an appropriate concern for public health and for the long-term safety of our congregations and communities. Pastor Susan called together a task force for re-visioning gathered worship. This task force is researching various options and will present them to the Church Council for consideration. Please be aware that our re-gathering will be phased in slowly. Opportunities to participate in worship online will continue. The task force would like YOUR OPINION on how you feel. **Example:** We received an email that said they would not be back until there is a vaccine. **Do you feel that way?** Below are a few thoughts the task force is looking in to…. Please read them and email Anne @ ahanks@twcny.rr.com your thoughts or call any of the task force to talk.

**Phase 1:** Recording online worship in the sanctuary with a skeleton crew of pastor, liturgist, and musician.

**Phase 2:** is parking lot worship either by car radio or loudspeaker. No Communion, mask wearing required.

**Phase 3:** Worship in the Social Hall using distancing and masks

**Phase 4:** Worship in Sanctuary using distancing.

_All phases will come with rules and regulations 😊 Any thoughts_

Task force: Pastor, Karen June, Karen Hynes, Donna Parks, Donna Gilbert, Cathy Niedziewiecki, Maryna and Anne If you need any phone numbers call 315-382-9116 and Anne will help you.
From the Council President

I recently had the pleasure of sitting in on a Sunday School ZOOM meeting sponsored by Suzie Francis and Pastor Susan. It was wonderful to see the faces of our children again. Pastor explained how important masks were to wear and how social distancing is important. Pastor explained how doing these things is just what Jesus would have done because he loved people.

Each of the children had time to share what they have learned during this time of sheltering in place. I want to share some of their thoughts with you.

Don’t take things for granted.
Never complain about going to school.
This is time to learn about ourselves and who we really are.
Family is important.

What have you learned?

Some of the children also shared what they were doing that they liked. (I have added their initials next to what they said).

Learning to ride a bike without training wheels. SF and BA
Doing crafts. KH Playing basketball. TA
Planting a garden. A and LF Playing with playdough CS
Riding my bike. BA Playing Yahtzee B O’
Playing baseball BO’ Baking CO’

What are you doing that is joyful?

These are challenging times we are in right now. We all experience frustration. I think these children are teaching us valuable lessons on how to be the church. We don’t need to see this as the darkest time but instead look for pockets of joy each day. We don’t need to stagnate by just sitting still and waiting for everything to go backwards. We can still live, find happiness and move ahead even though we are being challenged. We need to remember what is important. Spending time with these children helped me to remember all of this. I will confess to being humbled. Hearing their words opened my eyes and made me see just exactly what Jesus would want me to focus on.

Luke 18:15-17: 15 People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it.

16 But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

17 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Help me O Lord to see this time as these children do and open my eyes to the new ways you are directing me to go.

Lynn Kauffman, Council President
LUTHER MEMORIAL SENIORS
Congratulations to the class of 2020.

DANIEL SWEENEY

Daniel will be attending Penn State in the fall. Daniel was awarded a four year ROTC Army Scholarship where he will join the Nittany Lion Battalion Cadets this fall. He will pursue the profession of nurse anesthetist. Daniel is a varsity wrestler where he served as captain and wrestled for 6 years. He took second in AA classes and third in sectionals, his career record was 99-35. He also ran cross country for 6 years qualifying for Manhattan. He serves on the National Honor Society and is a scholar athlete. Daniel works at our local YMCA’s lifeguarding.

JONATHON O’CONNELL

For those that have the privilege of knowing Jonathon, then you know the sensitive, caring and highly intelligent young man that he is. A review of his resume, reveals a well rounded and accomplished individual. Jonathon achieved a 94 average in his Honor and AP classes. As a testament to his level of intelligence, Jonathon will graduate in the top 10 percentile of his class of 700. Jonathon’s selection for a CNS award, that honors a former CNS student, who lost his life too young, is reflective of his profound sense of humanity.

His accomplishments are not limited to academics. He was a five year member of the CNS Bowling Team and a starter for every match in his last three years on the team. Jonathon was also selected as a first team all league bowler in his Junior year. As a senior, Jonathon was a co-captain and he was awarded the Mike Radley Award for Leadership.

Continued next page
CHASE SALMONS

Chase Salmons is a 2020 Graduate of the West Genesee Central School District. He has enjoyed not only his time at West Genesee, but also at OCM BOCES where he learned Facilities Management and Independent Living. Chase is a member of the Unified Bowling and Unified Basketball teams. He has volunteered at the Onondaga County Library. Chase would like to thank his Teachers, Coaches and numerous adults both in and out of school who have helped him along the way. Chase enjoys spending time with his family and his mentors from Advocates. Chase’s faith has helped him to thrive along with the prayers and support from the entire congregation of Lutheran Memorial. Chase plans to continue to volunteer and investigate possible employment opportunities.

JAMES MURRAY

Throughout my high school journey, I have played 3 years of volleyball and made great friends with friendships that will last throughout college. I have worked for Borio’s Restaurant for the last two years. For college I plan on attending SUNY Morrisville for automotive mechanics for my associate degree through a Subaru specialty program. After this I have not decided whether I want to get my master’s degree in teaching or go straight to the job.

JACK KNAPP

Jack Knapp was born and baptized in Hudson Falls, New York. His family moved to Syracuse when he was about 18 months old. He attended school at Westhill and will graduate with a Regents diploma with all the shiny badges. (Honors diploma with Mastery in Math and Science.)

Jack has played travel baseball since he was 8, and has recently discovered a new love for volleyball.

Jack plans to attend OCC in the fall, he is still determining what major he will choose to pursue. While he studies, he will be a pitcher on the baseball team.
Companion Synod Sunday
Pentecost Sunday

The Upstate NY Synod is in a Companion Synod relationship with two international Lutheran bodies:

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ)
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa)

**Answers to FAQs**

All synods within the ELCA have one or more international partners. Relationships focus on accompaniment or walking together.

The values of accompaniment are: Mutuality, Inclusivity, Vulnerability, Empowerment, and Sustainability

Some congregations have a twin congregation in Zimbabwe with whom they communicate. Pastors and lay people participate in exchanges between the UNYS and Zimbabwe.

For more information about our Companion Synod relationship, contact Beth Walker, UNYS Global Mission Chair, at rbowsend@rochester.rr.com

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St. Pauls Food Pantry Closing

St. Pauls Lutheran Food Pantry originated in the St. Pauls Lutheran Church on Grace Street on the near west side of Syracuse. It remained there until the church was closed and then it moved with the House of Prayer ministry to the Delaware Baptist Church a few blocks away. The House of Prayer ministry closed, but the pantry continued to operate, at the Baptist Church, until the Church moved from the neighborhood to a suburban location. At that time Brown Memorial UMC offered space for the pantry in their building a few blocks away on S. Geddes St. Luther Memorial funded renovation of their meeting space into the space that is now occupied by the Pantry. I have been coordinator of the Pantry for the last 29+ years, but will be retiring on June 30, 2020. We have asked if anyone is interested in continuing the work but have not received any interest from the Lutheran Community. Brown Memorial will open a pantry in our location on July 1, 2020 that will be a Methodist Program. They will assume the equipment, food, some volunteers and continue to serve the families we have served. I thank you for your support all these years and hope you will continue to support this ministry that is so vital to the families of Syracuse’s near Westside, one of the poorest communities in the USA. Blessings, Judy Eyer
DO YOU NEED HELP OR ANYTHING?

If at any time, you find yourself in need of help, please let the church office know by emailing ahanks@twcny.rr.com or pastor@sfeurzei@gmail.com or calling 315-458-1481. There are members asking if anyone needs help. Your church family is waiting to help if they can and they know if is hard to deal with life sometimes.

If you need immediate help with food, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rte. 31, in Clay, has a food pantry open on Tuesday, 6-7 pm; Wednesday, 2-3pm, and Friday, 8:30-9:30 am. Call 315-699-7268 or email ImmanuelLutheranClay@gmail.com

If you are feeling depressed and are finding it hard to cope, please call the New York State Hotline, 1-844-863-9314. They have people ready to listen and help.

Phone calls are being made to members and there are people ready to make more calls. Please call the church office if you need more phone calls during the week.

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.

We would like to thank everyone for all the thoughtful prayers, phone calls, lovely cards and notes regarding our sister Jean Fuller death.

Diane Chase and Joan Tourot

I would like to thank everyone for their care and concern. The beautiful quilt from our talented ladies, the cards and phone calls have been wonderful and so appreciated during this time. Both Steve and I are doing well. I am back at work and Steve is finish up Cornell via zoom. God bless and again thank you so much.

Steve and Linda Curtis

Thanks to all who have fed us, checked in on us and prayed for us. Dick is much improved.

Dee and Dick Granville

We would like to extend our thanks for all the cards, the meal, the cookies and support we have received from Our congregation. It has really meant a lot to our family at this time!

Love, The Andrews family
WHERE DO CASHEWS COME FROM?

Can you point out Gambia on a map? It is a small West-African country and the Lutheran Church there is supported by ELCA World Hunger. Marie Mendy grows cashews there, but found the income from her farm unreliable. The Gambian Church works for gender equality, and encourages women to be self-reliant, economically independent, and confident when facing difficult situations. It got a land donation where the women could expand their crops, and as they sold their cashews, they bought more land to expand further. This ensures a sustainable cash flow source for the women year ‘round, as the harvest includes more than the nuts themselves: the women also make juice, jam, soap and fertilizer. So now Marie Mendy can feed her family and pay her grandchildren’s school fees, clothing, and medical care. This program also helped six more communities in 2019, and has provided the women with consistent livelihoods, and business and marketing skills. Their future is much brighter, and the benefits from their work will be felt for generations to come.

Your congregation’s Mission Support to the synod makes growing cashews in Gambia possible! Thank you!

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

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
June Birthday’s

Lillian Andrews 06/01
Gary Hafner 06/02
Cole Parks 06/02
Sandra Strider 06/03
Kathy Hafner 06/05
Thomas Schopfer 06/05
Joan Foley 06/06
David Chase 06/07
Michael Francis 06/08
Mikensie Fernandez 06/08
Donald Paul 06/09
Steve Antonson 06/10
Gail Exline 06/10
Nancy Polchlopek 06/12
Mary Ellen Antonson 06/12
Sydney Fetterman 06/12
Dana Ziegler 06/15
Edgar Appleton 06/16
Karen Hynes 06/19
Karen O’Connell 06/19
John Schilling 06/19
Karen June 06/20
Jacob Mayer 06/23
Susan Cole 06/25
Frederic Ensworth 06/25
Leah Knapp 06/25
Nicholas Cole 06/26
Charlee O’Connor 06/26

Donations to support St. Paul’s Food Pantry in June is Box Cereal

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

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
Joan Tourot Linda Curtis, Peggy Mayer, Jerry Exline,
Evelyn Ashley, David Eyer, Alexis Kratz, Nancy Wright, Gerry Blair, Diane Chase, Dolores
VanDeWalker, Belinda Mantor, George and family.

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

Family and Friends who need prayer
Allison—Pastor Susans friend Eleanor - Ruth Fonda’s sister
Beth Putnam sister of Larry & Sharon Putman Jim friend of Donna Gilbert
Laila Davis cousin of Donna Gilbert Pamela friend of Donna Gilbert
Madeleine Steve Zogg’s granddaughter
Olivia Jeanette, (great niece of Sharon & Larry Putman),
Mary Ellen - friend of Dave & Evelyn Blovat
Dick H. - friend of Dave & Evelyn Blovat

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,
Connor Blovat, 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 and Covid-19

Thinking positive that soon we will be together again!

I am not including a calendar or a schedule in this Newsletter. When I find out when we will be together again and what that will look like I will send out by email.

Again you can email me at ahanks@twcny.rr.com or text or call 315-382-9116

Anne
LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
435 South Main Street, North Syracuse, NY 13212
Phone 315-458-1481 Fax 315-218-1599
Website: www.luthermemorialns.org

Nursery School: nurserschool@luthermemorialns.org
Office Hours Monday– Friday 8:30 AM—3:30 PM
Weekly bulletin deadline: Noon on Wednesday
Monthly Newsletter: 3rd Sunday of the month

God’s Work…..Our Hands:….Touching Lives
“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”

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
Anne Hanks……………………………………………………………………………………………………………
Church Administrator/Secretary
Maryna Mazhukhova……………………………………………………………………………………………………
Director of Music/ Organist

Lectionary Texts for June

Sunday, June 7, 2020: Trinity Sunday
Psalm 8 •
Genesis 1:1-2:4
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 14, 2020: Proper 6
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Sunday, June 21, 2020: Proper 7
Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 •
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Sunday, June 28, 2020: Proper 8
Genesis 22:1-14
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
...and hope does not disappoint.

Romans 5:5

Hope for troubled times

JUNE
2020