FROM PASTOR SUSAN

Last month, I wrote to you about loneliness and fear, suggesting that we should take this time to appreciate the gifts of quiet and solitude. One month later, I can share with you that this is easier said than done! The first time we held a church meeting via Zoom, I was tempted to kiss the screen that showed the faces of our church members. And this past week, after many such meetings, I was still thrilled to see the faces and hear the voices of those who attended our virtual prayer meeting. We human beings are social animals, and this time of sheltering at home and quarantine comes hard.

In this difficult time, what are the gifts we receive? I would say the central gift is that we do not take for granted what it means to be together, and to remain connected in these tough times. Closely related to that gift is our mission to reach out to our members, neighbors, and friends. We have set up calling networks, and many of us call one another regularly on our own. We have teamed up to provide groceries or other help to members in need. Some of us are at home sewing masks to distribute. We are using the gifts and skills we have, and we are also building new technological skills that help us connect now and likely in the future, too – maybe even growing our church by expanding our internet presence. Our commitment to one another will bear fruit, of that I am sure.

What about fear? Certainly, fear is among us, whether we like to discuss it or not. Yet here we are in the Easter season, when we celebrate Christ’s resurrection, his victory over death on our behalf. What greater reassurance can we have? We learn in 1 John 18 that “perfect love casts out fear,” as we seek to entrust our fears to God’s love.

In this past Sunday’s gospel, the risen Christ gives to the apostles the Holy Spirit. With this, although we do not yet have trinitarian theology, we have the Trinity: Father, Son, Spirit. Numerous times in John’s gospel, Jesus refers to his Father, and he also participates in the divine parent’s creative energy and will. For example, in John 9, Jesus mixes dirt with his own saliva to heal the eyes of the blind man. In the completion of his earthly life and his death by crucifixion, Jesus identifies himself as the Christ of God. Now, as he gives the Holy Spirit, the Trinity is completed.

What are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, or with what do we associate the Spirit?
Interestingly, the first thing Jesus says as he gives the Spirit, is that the disciples now have divine authority to forgive sins. Forgiveness is associated with the Holy Spirit. In the Apostles’ Creed, we also associate the Holy Spirit with the unity of the church and the communion of saints. Now we have forgiveness, unity, and community.

Backing it up a little, we learn that the Spirit is associated with the breath. We learn that when Christ gave the Holy Spirit to the apostles, he “breathed on them” (John 20:22). The Greek for spirit is *pneuma*, which also means “breath.”

Forgiveness, community, unity, and the breath of life. Aren’t these all connected? Doesn’t forgiveness knit up wounds in the community? Doesn’t a healthy local community, or congregation, or denomination, open the way to greater unity in the whole church? The breath of life needs to move freely, passing (like the risen Christ) through walls, unlocking the doors of our hearts.

Take a deep breath. Then think about all those times you don’t: when you’re angry, when you’re hurt, when you feel alone.

In this era of pandemic, facing an enemy that separates us from one another and robs us of breath, we have these things through the Holy Spirit: forgiveness, community, unity, and the breath of life. We commit our fears to the love of God, who creates us, redeems us, and sustains us in this life as we look toward our own resurrection and the life everlasting.

*Pastor Susan Feurzeig*

*πνεῦμα pneûma*, pnyoo'-mah; a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze; by analogy or figuratively, a spirit, i.e. (human) the rational soul, (by implication) vital principle, mental disposition, etc., or (superhuman) an angel, demon, or (divine) God, Christ's spirit, the Holy Spirit:—ghost, life, spirit(-ual, -ually), mind.

https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?t=kjv&strongs=g4151

The New York Times bestselling author of *Flight Behavior*, *The Lacuna*, and *The Poisonwood Bible* and recipient of numerous literary awards—including the National Humanities Medal, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and the Orange Prize—returns with a timely novel that interweaves past and present to explore the human capacity for resiliency and compassion in times of great upheaval.

Sounds timely, no? Get a copy and join the BookBinders with “on line” discussion together starting Sunday, April 26th. Anyone interested in reading and joining the on line ‘discussion’ t please contact Nan Bader (catznan3@live.com) or Donna Parks (donnaparks114@gmail.com) so that we can include them in the e-mailing of discussion points.
FROM YOU COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I want to begin by thanking you for taking care of each other. Thank you for calling each other, dropping off food, asking questions about each other, sending cards, praying for each other, watching out for your neighbor, being patient with inconveniences, shopping for each other, emailing each other, helping our pastor put together worship, helping make Holy Week visible, doing online school, helping your parents around the house, or keeping in touch with your own family according to Onondaga County guidelines. For all of these ways and all the many other small ways you are loving your neighbor I say thank you. You are the church and your faith continues to be made visible in the large and small things you do.

If at any time, you find yourself in need of help, please let the church office know by emailing or calling 315-458-1481. There are members asking if anyone needs help.

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, 2-3 pm, and Friday, 8:30-9:30 am. They do deliver.

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.

Our building is empty. But we can console ourselves by remembering the hymn the children have sung to us many times.

"I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the church together! The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people! I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the church together!"

I stand with you, hoping for that wonderful day when we are again together in body. Until then, I am filled with joy that we are never apart from the love of God through our faith in Christ our Savior. May God’s peace fill your hearts with strength and courage.

Lynn Kauffman, Congregational Council President

Updates on What is Being Done

Even though Luther Memorial is temporarily closed work is ongoing. Work is being done in new ways but much continues to be done. Your church council continues to meet by ZOOM. Reports are received and gone over. Bills are being paid. All staff are being paid. Anne and Donna continue to work most days from home. Maryna records music to add to the recorded services. Our custodian, Robert, is continuing to clean the building. Mail is collected. Checks are being cashed. Correspondence is being sent.

Messages are being checked. The sign is being updated. Calls are being made to members. Your support in all this work continues to be appreciated. Thank you for your commitment to keeping Luther Memorial going strong!
Stay home, stay safe! Please continue to give while we are apart! In Christ we are alive! Together we are stronger than the virus.

**Create**

- Create Account
  - Grace Community Church
- First Name
- Last Name
- Email
- New Password
- Confirm Password
- Submit

**Manage**

- Tap menu icon to manage personal information, change password, review donations or update/add payment methods

**Schedule**

- Next time you donate, tap Select Frequency to create a recurring weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or annual donation to the fund(s) of your choice
- Note: Your church determines frequency options

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**GIVE+**

- Enter church name or tap Find Churches Near Me to start your search
- Select your church
- Your selected church will be displayed as your default church
- Tap Donate Now

- Choose a fund and a preset amount or enter another amount
- Select Add to add another fund or move forward to the payment information
- Scan or enter your card or banking account information

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**Contact**

Vanco | 800-675-7430

Download on the App Store | Get it on Google Play | Search for "GIVE+"
The Virtual Spring Festival and Fundraiser of Lutheran Campus Ministry Syracuse
Sunday, April 26, 2020, from 3:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Featuring Dean Brian Konkol, SU students, Auction, Campus Report, Song, and more.

All on Zoom through the zoom link below “Join Zoom Meeting”. To donate securely to Lutheran Campus Ministry through SU, go to: Give to the Lutheran Campus Ministry or https://lcmsyracuse.org/ and find the Donate link in the upper right corner.

During this time when we are challenged to be separated and distanced from each other, it is especially important for us to come together to meet the needs of our students and the challenges to our community.

Learn more about what LCM is doing within the Syracuse campus community and the community at-large. You will hear, the Rev. Brian Konkol, Dean of Hendricks Chapel, speak about the spiritual hunger of our students; learn about the programs that are flourishing here at LCM; see and hear musicians, including the future music teachers of America, active in our Music and Mentoring Program; learn about the programs that are flourishing here at LCM; and meet some of LCM's student leaders - all while having the opportunity to support LCM's ministry through this unique Online Auction.

We are hopeful that you will also donate to help us continue our ministry with our student population as they navigate their futures during this pandemic, and literally take home some fabulous auction items we know you will treasure.

See you through the ZOOM link below. And please share this email with others.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/j/95586192629?pwd=bjZ1RlVqTFBLamZaakxyODcvRmk2Zz09

Meeting ID: 955 8619 2629
Password: 1517

One tap mobile
+16468769923,,95586192629#,,#,1517# US (New York)
+13126266799,,95586192629#,,#,1517# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 301 715 8592 US
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 955 8619 2629
Password: 1517
Find your local number: https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/u/adC8loLL2n
It may surprise you to know there are many students still in residence in Syracuse University dorms. Although classes are all on-line, the University is providing housing and basic services to students who applied to stay in Syracuse. They were all moved to apartment style dorms to better self-isolate. Many students applied if they had a family member working in a hospital, if they are were from a “hot spot”, or, as an international student, they were afraid they would not be able to return when classes resume. These students are especially in need of support, separated from and worried about their families and their futures. I have been praying over the phone with those who call me to help them fight their anxiety and depression.

We are connecting with these students and those who did go home. We hold our regular Thursday night dinner meetings via zoom – at 10 pm so that our student president who is in Taiwan can join us as well as students living in Midwestern states and California. Alums as well as present students join for conversation and support. We can’t share a meal but we do share food for the soul! We are also offering a late night guided meditation at 10 pm on Instagram at #cusecampusconnect as well as “Sunday Snippets” short reflections each week, which we post on Instagram and Face Book.

The other group of students that need special support are the seniors who were scheduled to graduate this year. Many had “capstone” projects that involved group work that would showcase that they are ready to enter their professions. Alternative requirements have many struggling academically and grieving over the loss of key experiences to prepare them to start working. They are also even more anxious about their job prospects, or even finding internship opportunities. Confidence in themselves and patience is the counsel I try to impart to these students. I am also running a Zoom Bible Study on life choices entitled – “Hope for the Future,” using Luther’s work on vocation, spiritual gift inventories, and call stories. (If you would be interested in joining in such a study – email me at griina@syr.edu – and I will set up a group for “friends of campus ministry.” I believe that the pandemic has forced us all to slow down, giving us an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and our Lord’s presence to us).

Please continue to pray for the students who need to hear of God’s Love more than ever. In this time of trouble they are looking for spiritual support, and we are reaching out with the digital tools that they use. Thank you for your ongoing support of our domestic mission! (Please help by donating on line at this link: Give to the Lutheran Campus Ministry. We are planning to hold our annual Spring Music Festival and Auction virtually on April 26, 3-4pm with giant Choc Basket thanks to Thrivent, a Syracuse University Basket, and more. Invitation soon to arrive with details. Hope you will join us for this virtual community building event!

Prayers for your safety and spiritual sustenance in this time.

Peace & Joy,
Pastor Gail

Lutheran Chaplain

Syracuse University/SUNY-ESF
Hendricks Chapel
STEP Center Director
Luther Memorial Nursery School

We are full steam ahead with our new STEAM Curriculum

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

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

We rejoice with Jessica (DeJohn) and Shawn Rice on the birth of their son, Shawn Jr, December 14th.

Congratulations!

Bea missies everyone and would enjoy getting cards! Her new address is:

Biruta Baum  
114 Milano Drive  
Islamorado FL 33036

Thinking positive that soon we will be together again!  
You can always reach me by email at ahanks@twcny.rr.com or text or call 315-382-9116
The CNY Ministry Roundtable is a group of local congregations that meet monthly. The mission statement for CNY Ministry Roundtable is: ‘To provide mutual support for individual congregations, explore ways to work together, and create opportunities to partner in ministry.”

Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 3:00 PM. Meetings last about one hour.

Participating Congregations include: Campus Ministry, Faith, Immanuel, King of Kings, Luther Memorial, Prince of Peace, St. Mark’s, St. Michael’s, St. Paul’s and St. Stephen’s.

Your current representatives are Pastor Susan and Lynn Kauffman.

Lynn Kauffman will be resigning on August 1, 2020. If you are a voting member of this congregation and interested in this cooperative and collaborative ministry please contact Pastor Susan or Lynn Kauffman. The next meeting is scheduled by ZOOM on May 17th at 3 PM.

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St. Paul's Food Pantry

I am announcing my retirement as coordinator of St. Paul’s Food Pantry effective June 30th 2020. If anyone is interested in the position we would like to hear from you. If more information becomes available we will let you know. Thank you for your support. Judy Eyer

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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.
May Birthday’s

Aiden DePasquale 05/01
Thomas Haynes 05/01
Doris Bittel 05/04
Robert Brown Jr. 05/04
Thomas Balas 05/05
Beverly Caruso 05/05
Christina Hahn 05/05
Jerry Exline 05/06
Brianna Kurgiewski 05/06
Robyn Winstanley 05/07
Christin Chase 05/10
Justin Olney 05/11
Steven Zogg 05/12
Joshua DePasquale 05/12
Alice Gridley 05/15
Jennifer Fetterman 05/15
Diane Chase 05/17
Paige Fear 05/17
Jean Zogg Elliott 05/18
Todd Parks 05/18
Rebecca Randall 05/18
Jessica Finger 05/20
Susan Winstanley 05/20
George Downing 05/20
Barbara Harrison 05/20
Kelly Fernandez 05/20
Mackenzie Shostack 05/21
Betty Swinehart 05/22
Eric Emmert 05/24
William Knapp 05/25
Shaun Hyde 05/25
James Lewandowski 05/28
Maisie Jane Meadows-Greco 05/28
Brian Izzo 05/29
Tom Schopfer 05/29
Nathan Francis 05/29
Caroline Gosson 05/29
Clare Haynes 05/30
James Murray 05/30

Donations to support St. Paul’s Food Pantry in May is canned vegetables

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**
Allison—Pastor Susans friend
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
Jon nephew of Joan Miller

**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,

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**IN SYMPATHY**
Our prayers and condolences are with the Families of

**Anne Artini**
Grandmother & Great-Grandmother of Dave, Libby, Emilia Buselli & David Bianchi and

**William Anthony Nencetti**
Nephew & Cousin to Lynn Kauffman, Libby Bushelli and Jenny Hogan and

**Jean Fuller**
Sister of Joan Tourot and Diane Chase

May the blessed hope of the resurrection in God comfort all who mourn.
And Suddenly . . . We Are Back in the U.S.A.

A month ago, we announced that we were leaving our position in Zambia at the end of April and returning to the U.S. Two weeks later, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America requested that all mission personnel return immediately to the United States. It took a few days to pack and get plane tickets, but we finally left Lusaka on March 23 with three suitcases apiece (the same number we arrived in Africa with, back in 2006). After two days, three flights, four airports, and a long layover, we arrived in St. Louis and spent a night in a hotel. The next day we rented a car and drove to Carbondale, Illinois, where Deborah’s parents live. We are now spending two weeks self-isolation, just to be on the safe side.

*Deborah, Joe, and Christa Troester in front of Victoria Falls last Christmas. The Zambezi River discharge was very low due to the area experiencing the largest drought in about 25 years.*

We had several trips planned this summer, but all have been canceled or put on indefinite hold. We had hoped to visit some of our supporting congregations, but due to the pandemic, those plans have been cancelled. We are sorry, because we would have enjoyed the chance to visit with you all again. Deborah is hoping to find a call, and Joe is starting to look for a water-resources position dealing with the developing world. Like everything else, those job searches have also been disrupted, but we will continue reaching out by e-mail and other digital means.

We are very grateful to all of you who have supported us and accompanied us on this journey of faith throughout these past 14 years. Thank you for your prayers and continued support. We pray for all of you that you, your families, churches, and communities may stay safe and healthy. When Joe was advisor for the water project in the Central African Republic, in addition to providing clean drinking water, he emphasized the importance of handwashing to prevent disease. What we taught in Africa is just as true in the U.S.—washing your hands is one of the best things you can do to stay healthy in any situation.

You are all in our prayers.

“May the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”—Philippians 4:7

Joe and Deborah Troester
CHURCH DURING A PANDEMIC

You might wonder what our churches can do during this time when we can’t even meet. How can missions function when we can’t get within six feet of each other? Well, because of your mission support, the ELCA Advocacy network is staying busy. They have been present in policy discussions, voicing faith-informed priorities as response packages take shape. Such as:

- Working with African American clergy partners to mitigate the economic impact on their congregations.
- Immigrant issues continue as the virus doesn’t discriminate between the documented and undocumented, and the need is great to protect the farmworkers and others.
- Protecting voting rights in this Presidential election year, by advocating for more widespread absentee voting.
- Being attentive to the most vulnerable in our society.
- Advocating for increased food assistance.
- Concern for the homeless population and their increased risk to contracting the virus, advocating for funding for housing, and a broader freeze on evictions.

So, even though we are all cooped up at home and haven’t seen the inside of our beloved congregations in many weeks, the larger church body is staying focused and working hard.

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
E-mails:  Office: info@luthermemorialns.org

Nursery School: nurserieschool@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 May

Sunday, May 3, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Easter
Psalm 23 •
1 Peter 2:19-25 •
John 10:1-10
Acts 2:42-47

Sunday, May 10, 2020: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 •
1 Peter 2:2-10 •
John 14:1-14
Acts 7:55-60

Sunday, May 17, 2020: Sixth Sunday of Easter
Psalm 66:8-20 •
1 Peter 3:13-22 •
Acts 17:22-31 •
John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 24, 2020: Seventh Sunday of Easter
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 •
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
Acts 1:6-14 •
John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 31, 2020: Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 •
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b •
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  John 20:19-23
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
Luther Letter

MAY
2020