

The Lutheran Church - International and World Lutheran Parish

BULLETIN

Late Summer, 2021



“Therefore watch carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore don’t be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Don’t be drunken with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always concerning all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to God, even the Father.”

Ephesians 5:15-20 (World English Bible)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ in the LC-I Family,

My thoughts and prayers are with you as we journey through these Sundays after Pentecost toward Advent. We are still facing challenges from COVID and many other trials, but by God's grace we continue in hope. Many of us are experiencing difficulties that seem unprecedented. In these times, we have the examples of the Christian martyrs of other generations to help us acknowledge the light of Christ in our lives.

The theme of the Scripture readings for the last few Sundays in this season after Pentecost centers on the spiritual nourishment that we have as the Christian Church, the Body of Christ. We are fed in the Spirit, nourished with the Bread of Heaven by the Word of God coming to us in the Bible and in the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. As Christ promised, He is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians, St. Paul reminds us that this free gift of Christian faith, imparted by the Holy Spirit, is giving us the strength to live daily in lives that reflect Christ. We must "walk the walk" and "talk the talk" as Christ's followers.

In these final weeks of the Time after Pentecost in the Church year, we can be grateful for God's special and redeeming care for us. Recently, I was blessed with the opportunity to baptize a new young member into Christ's church. Baptism is one of the two Sacraments recognized by the Lutheran churches as a sign of life and growth in the Church and a reminder of hope for the life to come in God's grace. Baptism, as Martin Luther himself taught, is commanded as the Biblical sign of God's grace and entrance into membership in the Christian community through which we are joined together as one Church.

The other Sacrament identified in Scripture is Holy Communion, or the Lord's Supper. Through this Sacrament we are nourished in the Spirit as part of the Body of Christ, His Church. These two Sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion, fulfill Christ's promise that He will be with us always, giving us hope, drawing us together as we work for God's Kingdom, nourishing us with His Word and Sacraments.

As we come to the end of this Summer, looking forward to a new school year and the Advent season, we can be confident of God's grace that feeds us. even in this time of trial. We have the blessed assurance that God cares for us and knows our spiritual needs. We hold firmly to the faith brought through God's gift of our Baptism, shared as a community of faith united intentionally and internationally by the Word of God and the Sacrament of the Altar.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless (+) you richly during all these coming weeks.

++ Robert Archbishop, Lutheran Church - International



WE LIFT UP IN OUR PRAYERS:

- ❖ We pray God’s mercy and strength for all those suffering from COVID throughout the world who have contracted any of the variants of COVID, that they may be spared of complications and death. We pray for the distribution of life-saving vaccines and medical personnel and equipment. We pray for the families who care for family members and friends. We pray God’s comfort for those millions who have lost loved ones to this dreaded pandemic.
- ❖ We pray for comfort for the families now mourning our servicemen and the civilians killed in an attack at the Kabul airport in these closing days of US presence.
- ❖ We pray for the people of Afghanistan. After years of civil wars and foreign oversight, the fears of murder, abduction and brutality especially against women and children have again become very real and immanent under Taliban rule. We pray for safety for those fleeing to other nations. We pray for those of all nations who worked toward peace and reconciliation and those who continue this work despite the dangers.
- ❖ We pray for all those who are suffering in chaos and oppression, violence, disorder and prejudice.
- ❖ We pray for the victims of natural disasters, more frequent and severe than in the past. We pray for those who have lost loved ones, properties and possessions to the ravages of earthquakes, fires, floods and the unbearable extremes of heat and cold.
- ❖ We especially pray for the people of Haiti in their time of political turmoil and crisis; they have lost more than 2,000 people in an earthquake followed by a hurricane.
- ❖ We pray for the mission opportunities for ministry in California during the wildfires, and especially pray for Pastor James Townsend and Pastor Bruce Hackman.
- ❖ We pray for the deacons, congregation and leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ in Rosedale (Queens) NY during their search to fulfill their Pastoral Call; and we pray for their Interim Pastor, the Rev. Thomas Robson, as he faithfully serves them at this time.
- ❖ We pray for the people of India and especially for the ministry of Pastor Rajendra Tanuku Prasad, for the pastors and leaders assisting him, and for the many members of the Church reached by their faithful ministries of Word, Sacraments and service.
- ❖ We pray for Deacon Anna Haye as she continues the ministries of St. Paul’s, Coney Island NY.
- ❖ We pray for the ministries of Deaconess Christine Stephenson and all those in the Lutheran Deaconess Association (LDA).
- ❖ We pray in thanksgiving to God for the ministries of our ordained deacons, pastors and bishops.
- ❖ We pray for cooperation in the proclamation of the Gospel among Lutherans and all Christians.
- ❖ We pray in thanksgiving to God for the faithful ministry of The Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, retiring LCMS New Jersey District President, and for the ministry of Rev. Stephen Gewecke as his successor.
- ❖ We pray for guidance so that we can support and assist with immigration and refugee resettlement, housing and employment.
- ❖ We pray for health, strength and mercy for those known to you and to God.

NEWS in the LC-I:

There is a very urgent need for **prayer and support for our LC-I ministries in India** through the ministry of Missionary Dean Prasad. If you are able to be part of an effort to help by providing funds for **needed medical equipment**, contact LC-I Treasurer Pastor William Wigmore at pastorwigmore@gmail.com or Archbishop Hotes at Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org or at dbldoc@sbcglobal.net.

The Executive Board of the LC-I will meet on Thursday, September 9. LC-I members are invited to contact Board members or the Archbishop with matters of interest or concern prior to the Board meeting. Members of the Board are Archbishop Robert W. Hotes (presiding officer), Vice-President Alice Smith, Secretary Richard W. Horn, Treasurer William H. Wigmore, Lay Representative Ute Kattner-Horn, Clergy Representative Pastor Arthur Sziemeister and the Bishops of the LC-I.

Many thanks are given to **Pastor Arthur Hebbeler** for his work curating the public **Facebook page** of the Lutheran Church – International. Almost 1,500 Facebook members have joined the page and are able to post to it! This has become an important way to ensure that the name of the Lutheran Church - International is presented around the world. While the focus of the page is on the presence of the LC-I and its apostolic mission, the LC-I is willing to have postings from members of other Lutheran bodies; this expands our desire for cooperation in ministry with other Lutheran individuals, groups and church bodies as long as they do not violate the mission and principles of the LC-I.

LC-I Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=120687811346672&ref=br_rs/

Your \$ Contributions to the LC-I:

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – INTERNATIONAL ARE BOTH NEEDED AND APPRECIATED.

Did you know that your contributions and bequests to the Lutheran Church – International can be designated for specific purposes and needs? 100 % of your contribution goes where you designate! (Compare that to other charitable giving where only a percentage goes where designated because of administrative and fund-raising expenses. Some “charities” get only 10% after expenses!)

The Executive Board of the LC-I provides financial oversight so that funds designated are used precisely as designated. For example, your unspecified and general contributions go to the General Fund, and special intentions are fully funded as designated by your gifts. These fund intentions include:

- General Fund**
- India Assistance**
- Disaster Relief Fund**
- Mission Activity Fund**
- Bishops’ Fund**
- World Lutheran Parish**
- Endowment (for future growth in ministries)**
- Memorial Fund (for Pastoral Education and future designations)**

Please send all funds, payable to “**The Lutheran Church – International**” to
Treasurer, LC-I % Pastor William Wigmore
15 High Street, Lyons NY 14489

Treasurer@LutheranChurchInternational.org

“WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE?”

These are basics of information-sharing about life’s intricacies. Back in seminary, even 60 years ago (!), we as students were told that an important part of seminary education is the knowledge of current local, state, national and international news. If you don’t know the basics of what is going on in the world, even the bad news, how do you expect to bring the GOOD news of the Gospel to God’s People? We were required to subscribe to, and daily read, the major national/international newspaper at that time simply because its comprehensive coverage of news gave a perspective and insight into the lives of the very real people with whom we intended to minister and serve.

But this only gave context, set the stage. Like a place-setting at the dinner table is a precursor to a meal, there is much more to come. Without food, there is no meal – place-setting or not.

The response to “Who, What, When, Where” must also include “**WHY** and **HOW**.”

As I write this article, the news on the TV carries the banner of “*KABUL FALLS TO THE TALIBAN*”. It has pushed aside the climbing death toll from an *EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI*, which had earlier pushed aside the news of *SPREADING WILDFIRES* and the *FLASH FLOODS*, along with growing concerns of *RAPID GLOBAL WARMING*, which had already pushed aside the immense number of deaths and infections from the *COVID-19 PANDEMIC*, which had



Sadly, the nature of mankind described in Genesis 2 still applies as much today. Humanity is captive to sin, death and the power of the devil. Unchanged, yet constantly changing.



The true nature of sin is the selfish concentration on oneself, not on others, and certainly not on God who is usually unseen, seldom heard and easily ignored. We are more inclined to ask “how does this affect me?” or “what’s in it for me?” That’s what we see happening in Afghanistan and everywhere else! We often want to change the facts or the stories so that we look good or get to tell “our” side of the stories. We don’t ask, except perhaps as a last resort, “what does God want as my response to His overwhelming love?” And, frankly, how do we see God’s love playing out in the headlines of executions, rapes and abductions in Afghanistan? So much of the news is about what is contrary to and in opposition to the love of God!

Think back to the execution of our Savior, Jesus Christ. “*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.*” That’s not what I would say! But Jesus said it for me! Now I am left to ask how I can bring about a loving and caring response to a humanitarian tragedy in the making. Jesus knew the plight of refugees, Himself a refugee with Joseph and Mary; but I only know from hearing the stories of others. One of the reasons Jesus became a “wanted man” was His opposition to injustice in the highest places of government, especially after the beheading of His cousin and friend and forerunner, John the Baptizer. Jesus, in His earthly ministry of preaching, teaching and healing, ignored the “normal” parameters (he reached out to tax collectors, sinners, Samaritans, women, Romans, etc.) and responded to the needs of those around Him. If you or I were with Jesus then, would we hear, learn and be healed too?

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Why would we think that Jesus isn't with us, right now? Like the disciples who heard, saw and experienced the forgiving love of Jesus (yes, even Judas!), we can let that transforming love change us, or we can reject it. When others may curse or damn us, when we are slandered and maligned, when we are fearful and tearful – Jesus IS with us! By the power of His Resurrection, Jesus makes whole what we have broken, brings about miracles of love in unexpected and often unseen ways.

Our response to Jesus, even when hesitant, is needed. Have you ever heard of the “Butterfly Effect”? Edward Lorenz, a mathematician and meteorologist, theorized and demonstrated that a minute effect can, as a result of the “domino effect”, create an unexpected and unpredictable change over time (like a butterfly’s wing movement resulting in a tornado miles away and weeks later). How many times have you been told (much later) that something you did or said made a difference in someone else’s life? Or cry while watching Jimmy Stewart in “It’s A Wonderful Life” (1946)? You don’t have to do something that makes a difference to the world – by the Grace and with the Help of God, just make a difference in one life!

I hate the news! I hate the inhumanity that is always talked about in the news. **May God help you and me to hate the sin behind the events reported in the news and allow Him to bring a change, perhaps through our response. That’s GOOD news!**

+Richard W. Horn, editor

Where help is needed:

If you feel called to help with the **INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH of the LC-I**, the Archbishop would like to talk with you. We especially need “workers in the vineyard” of **Hispanic / Latino/Latina / Latinx, Asian and African ministries**.

We are planning a new **ON-LINE JOURNAL for the World Lutheran Parish**. If you are interested in helping, please contact Archbishop Hotes at 217-691-3090 or write to Bulletin.LCI@gmail.com.

The position of **LC-I SECRETARY** (a four-year elected term) expires in 2022 and a new Secretary will be elected. If you are interested in serving, please contact Archbishop Robert Hotes at Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org or at Secretary@LutheranChurchInternational.org.

Help is always needed in establishing **NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITIES at home and abroad** and in **reinforcing EXISTING MISSIONS AND CONGREGATIONS**. If you live in the Sacramento or Los Angeles areas of California, please contact Bishop Horn at Bp.RWHorn@gmail.com. **ORDAINED PASTORS or DEACONS or NON-ORDAINED PASTORAL ASSISTANTS** are also needed in other places where ministries can begin.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CHRIST in Rosedale (Queens), NY is seeking to issue a Call to a full-time Pastor. This unique multi-ethnic congregation, presently served by an Interim Pastor, has a parochial school, diaconal staff and an active liturgical and music ministry.

Contact Christ Church at ChristChurchRosedale@gmail.com

or Archbishop Hotes at Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org



Other Thoughts to Ponder:

FOR THOSE WHO ARE OLDER TODAY THAN THEY WERE YESTERDAY (that's YOU!) :

This is for you! May God bless us all as we live to be a blessing to others, especially to our children.

For you, at any age:

- ❖ Always keep love alive. Love your partner, love life, love your family, love your neighbor and remember the good times. No one is old as long as there is intelligence and affection; they keep you young!
- ❖ Always buy the best, most beautiful items for your significant other. The key goal is to enjoy your money with your partner. One day one of you will miss the other, and the money will not provide any comfort then; enjoy it together.
- ❖ Keep a healthy life, without great physical effort. Do moderate exercise (like walking every day), eat well, and get your sleep. It's so easy to become sick, and it gets harder to remain healthy. That is why you need to keep yourself in good shape and be aware of your medical and physical needs. Keep in touch with your doctor, do tests even when you're feeling well. Stay informed.
- ❖ Don't stress over little things. You've already overcome so much in your life. You have good memories and bad ones, but the important thing is the present. Don't let the past drag you down and don't let the future frighten you. Feel good in the now. Small issues will soon be forgotten.
- ❖ Be proud, both inside and out. Don't stop going to your hair salon or barber, do your nails, go to the dermatologist and the dentist, keep your perfumes and creams well stocked. When you are well-maintained on the outside, it seeps in, making you feel proud and strong.
- ❖ Don't lose sight of fashion trends for your age, but keep your own sense of style. You've developed your own sense of what looks good on you – keep it and be proud of it. It's part of who you are.
- ❖ ALWAYS stay up-to-date. Read the Bible, newspapers, watch the news. Don't be afraid of technology. Go online and read what people are saying. Make sure you have an active email account and try to use social networks. You'll be surprised at what old friends you'll meet.
- ❖ Take advice from reliable and trusted sources, but do it with logic and reason. If it sounds crazy to you, it probably is.
- ❖ Respect the younger generations and their opinions. They may not have the same ideas as you, but they are the future and will take the world in their direction. Give advice, not criticism, and try to remind them that yesterday's wisdom still applies today.
- ❖ Don't abandon your hobbies. If you don't have any, make new ones. You can travel, hike, cook, read, dance. You can adopt a cat or a dog, grow a kitchen garden, play cards, checkers, chess, dominoes, golf.
- ❖ Try to go. Get out of the house, meet people you haven't seen in a while, experience something new (or something old). The important thing is to leave the house from time to time. Go to museums, go walk through a park, go window-shopping or sightseeing. Go with someone else, or go alone. Get out there!.
- ❖ Speak in courteous tones and try not to complain or criticize too much unless you really need to. Even when you are the expert, try to accept situations as they are.
- ❖ Pains and discomfort go hand in hand with getting older. Try not to panic or dwell on them but accept them as a part of life, a new adventure.
- ❖ It doesn't matter who was right! If you've been offended by someone – forgive them. If you've offended someone - apologize. Resentment only makes you sad and bitter. It is said: "holding a grudge is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die." Don't take that poison. Forgive, forget, and move on with your own life.
- ❖ Laugh. Laugh away your worries.
- ❖ Enjoy the life God has given you. Be at peace with yourself and with others. God bless (+) us all as we live to be a blessing to others, especially to our children and future generations.

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Other (and Older) Thoughts to Ponder:

Special advice for those between 60 and death:

- ❖ It's time to make use of the money you saved up. Give it, use it, enjoy it! Don't just keep it for those who may have no notion of the sacrifices you made to get it. Remember there is nothing more dangerous than a son/daughter or in-law with big ideas for your hard-earned capital.
- ❖ Warning: This is also a bad time for investments, even if it seems wonderful or fool-proof. They only bring problems and worries. This is a time for you to enjoy some peace and quiet.
- ❖ Stop worrying about the financial situation of your children and grandchildren, and don't feel guilty spending your money on yourself. You've taken care of them for many years, and you've taught them what you could. You gave them an education, food, shelter, and support. The responsibility is now theirs to earn their own money.
- ❖ Some people embrace their golden years, while others become bitter and surly. Spend your time with positive, cheerful people, it'll rub off on you and your days will seem that much better. (Spending your time with bitter people will make you feel older and harder to be around. Life is too short to waste your days with bitter people.) Smiles and laughter are just as contagious, and far more enjoyable!
- ❖ Do not surrender to the temptation of living with your children or grandchildren (if you have a financial choice, that is). Sure, being surrounded by family sounds great, but we all need our privacy. They need theirs and you need yours. There are other options if you really need the help or do not want to live by yourself; find these other options first, then choose what is best for you.
- ❖ Never use the phrase: "In my time." Your time is now. As long as you're alive, you are part of this time.
- ❖ Remember, you are one of the lucky ones. You managed to have a life, a long one. Many never get to your age, never get to experience a full life.
- ❖ More than ever before, enjoy the life God has given you. Be at peace with yourself and with others. God bless (+) you as you live to be a blessing to others!

Adapted and edited, +RWH

For *EVERY* clergy member and community of faith:

DON'T FORGET 2021 DUES!

It is the personal responsibility of **EVERY** clergy member and community of faith to support the LC-I through *at least* the payment of annual dues. These funds are necessary to support our LC-I ministries which endorse, support and roster **you!** The dues are split with 90% to the General Fund and 10% to the Endowment Fund. If you are a clergy member or the treasurer of one of the LC-I parishes and have still not paid the 2021 dues, please do so as soon as possible:

for Bishops, Pastors, Deacons: \$75; for Congregations: \$150.

Please send by check or electronic transfer, payable to "**The Lutheran Church – International**" at:
Treasurer, LC-I % Pastor William Wigmore
15 High Street, Lyons NY 14489

Treasurer@LutheranChurchInternational.org

If you are a clergy member or community of faith of the LC-I and are *financially unable* to contribute at least the nominal dues, please ask your diocesan bishop for a waiver for the current year. This is out of pastoral concern for you as an individual or community of faith, and assistance for you can be considered.

LC-I ONLINE:

The *official website of the LC-I* has a lot of interesting features, including the current and past issues of the **BULLETIN**, the LC-I Constitution, Clergy and Congregational applications, photos of various ministries and people, and lots more. The home page has a photo of First Lutheran Church, Lyons NY. Pastor William H. Wigmore is the webmaster:

<https://lutheranchurchinternational.org/>



In addition to the official webpage, the **LC-I has a presence on Facebook** with a similar photo of First Church on its heading. While this Facebook page is the official page of the LC-I, the postings from around the world show a cooperative presence within Lutheranism but not necessarily the positions of the LC-I. Pastor Arthur Hebbeler curates this page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LutheranChurchInternational>

The **World Lutheran Parish / Lutheran World Parish** is a unique ministry within the LC-I. It functions under the Office of the Archbishop as a gathering place or parish without borders. Lay members, deacons, pastors and bishops (LC-I or others) who are not members of a local LC-I parish or ministry may join the World Lutheran Parish as their congregational ministry even while maintaining membership in another (non-LC-I) congregation. Because membership is scattered throughout the world, this non-geographic ministry uses Facebook to serve as the “leaven” to bring the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the lives of people everywhere. It certainly exemplifies the meaning of “evangelical catholic” as it shares the Gospel in Word and presence within the Church for all times and all places. Pastoral leadership is provided by the Archbishop of the LC-I, The Most Rev. Dr. Robert W. Hotes:

<https://www.facebook.com/Lutheran-World-Parish-348944365237640/>

If you want to *write an article or share news within the LC-I, share information or photos of interest*, there is a new email address just for that! All submissions will be reviewed for accuracy and appropriateness, and the submissions used will be properly credited to the source.

Bulletin.LCI@gmail.com

Editor of the **BULLETIN** is Bishop Richard W. Horn

May God continue to bless (+) all of you and your ministries.

++Robert W. Hotes

Archbishop, Lutheran Church - International

Do you know of individuals interested in receiving this **BULLETIN** ?

Please forward a copy AND send the names and email addresses to the Archbishop:

Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org

