



BULLETIN for CHRIST THE KING, 2021

a ministry of The Lutheran Church – International and of the World Lutheran Parish

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the LC-I Family,

I pray with the confidence and assurance of God's abundant and abiding grace that God will richly bless each and every one of us as this Church Year ends and we enter the last calendar month of 2021. We have a wonderful opportunity to reflect on God's goodness to us during the past year despite the difficulties we faced as a church and as individuals. With confidence in God's love and grace, we now look forward to a new year of service to the Lord's catholic/universal church in the Lutheran understanding. I wish you a Happy New Year in the Church Calendar!

The Lutheran Church-International has a special mission in service to Christ's kingdom. Along with Christians of other church bodies around the globe we have the charge to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to this suffering world. The LC-I brings a specifically evangelical catholic perspective to this work of God through human hands.

We have many new opportunities for service through the LC-I, and it is important that we work together. As the year ends, it is appropriate that we reflect on where we have been and where we need to go in the Lord's service. With our unique opportunities and challenges as a church body, we can consider together this passage from the Gospel according to St. Mark:

²⁴ But in those days, after that oppression, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. [Isaiah 13:10; 34:4] ²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out his angels, and will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky.

²⁸ "Now from the fig tree, learn this parable. When the branch has now become tender, and produces its leaves, you know that the summer is near; ²⁹ even so you also, when you see these things coming to pass, know that it is near, at the doors. ³⁰ Most certainly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things happen. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Watch, keep alert, and pray; for you don't know when the time is.

³⁴ "It is like a man, traveling to another country, having left his house, and given authority to his servants, and to each one his work, and also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵ Watch therefore, for you don't know when the lord of the house is coming, whether at evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning; ³⁶ lest coming suddenly he might find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I tell you, I tell all: Watch." *Mark 13:24-37 - World English Bible*

This passage seems to be a strange Gospel reading for the beginning of Advent. For most of us, Advent is a time of joyful anticipation, a very busy time (though many activities were hindered or cancelled in these last two years due to safety precautions related to the COVID pandemic). Despite inflation, shopping and commercialism, we try to be faithful to the true meaning of Advent, the season of anticipating the birth of Jesus. While the reading from Mark does not seem very joyful, it does lead us into a season of **watchful waiting for the birth of Christ**.

During Advent, the altar paraments and vestments are usually either blue or purple. Blue is the color of hope, faithfulness and anticipation, while purple symbolizes reflection, mindfulness and royalty. Both help us to reflect on the coming of the Messiah as a humble child and to acknowledge Christ as the King of Kings. Be attentive to the coming of the Son of God as the Savior of all humanity and, as the Gospel parable warns, be watchful! We are preparing to celebrate more than the first coming of Our Lord at the Nativity in Bethlehem; we also watch and wait prayerfully for the second coming of the King of Kings as well.

As we begin the Advent season with all its joyous activity, spend some time to reflect on what it means to watch and wait for the Second Coming of Christ. In particular, what does our membership in the LC-I as clergy and laity mean to us? Have we kept up with our obligations in the Gospel and to aid the ministry of the LC-I? Do we actively seek opportunities to minister and work for God's kingdom on earth as in heaven?

These are questions for now - and for the year ahead. By God's grace, we are planning to have an in-person Synod in 2022, if the COVID situation permits. The LC-I as a church body is organizationally stable, but we all need to work together. May we continue together to love and serve the Lord throughout this new church year!

May God bless you and keep you! ++*Robert*





Prayers for one another -



- ❖ Vice-President Alice Smith and her family
- ❖ Pastor Arthur Sziemeister (at home following surgery)
- ❖ Pastor Kenneth Keenan
- ❖ Archbishop Robert Hotes
- ❖ Bishop Richard Horn
- ❖ Missionary Dean Prasad and our brothers and sisters in India
- ❖ our brothers and sisters in South America
- ❖ Sister Joanne Reuter
- ❖ Pastor James Townsend, Holy Cross Mission and St. Paul's, Sacramento
- ❖ Father Les Martin, a partner in ministry in Nigeria
- ❖ the deaconess and deacons serving in LC-I ministries
- ❖ Lutheran Deaconess Association members and students
- ❖ COVID-19 patients recovering, especially in India and Africa
- ❖ those affected by extreme weather changes, fires and floods
- ❖ the victims of prejudice and injustice
- ❖ for peace in a time of increasing domestic and international tensions

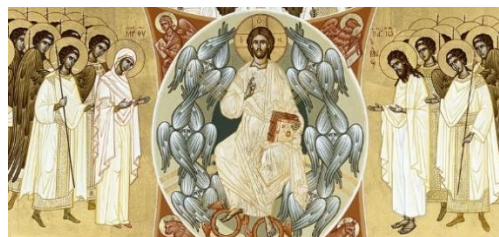
Prayers with Action -

Through the generosity of members in **First Lutheran Church, Lyons NY** and of all our **LC-I contributors**, the request from Dean Rajendra Tanuku Prasad to help COVID patients in our ministries in India has resulted in their purchase of two oxygen concentrators. These ventilators are in regular use and have now helped to save lives there on your behalf. Pastor Prasad wrote to convey thanks to both First Church and the LC-I for the prayers, financial support and especially for the two concentrators. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

Remembering All the Saints -

Members in ministries of the Lutheran Church – International, saints held in the arms of God's merciful love:

- ❖ Deaconess Anthonia E. Ataudo, past Vice-President
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. Phillip E. Barber, III
- ❖ Pastor and Mrs. Charles, Balaji Nagar, India
- ❖ The Rev. Scott A. Christensen
- ❖ The Rev. William A. Coleman
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. Herbert H. Michel
- ❖ Pastor Topiaz, Nidadavole, India
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. E. Edward Tornow, founder and past President
- ❖ The Rev. Harvey W. Von Harten
- ❖ our brothers and sisters in India and in the USA who have died in this pandemic



Friends of the Lutheran Church – International, and all saints held in the arms of God's merciful love:

- ❖ The Rev. John Cocheran
- ❖ The Rev. James R. Corgee, Jr.
- ❖ The Rev. William Derryberry
- ❖ Ademar Terumassa Fudimori
- ❖ The Rev. Walton R. Horn
- ❖ Eton David Jaffe
- ❖ Jasodra Latchman
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. Ruth Mohring
- ❖ The Rev. Faustin Muzigura
- ❖ Deacon Eileen Smith
- ❖ those who died over the past two years from COVID-19
- ❖ Law Enforcement and Military personnel who died in their line of duty
- ❖ those who died of disasters, war, violence, prejudice and injustice





Lutheran Church – International News:

As our nations and people throughout the world adapt to a “new normal” while COVID-19 continues to ravage many people in many areas, the work of the church goes on. The Constitution of the Lutheran Church – International establishes Annual Synods, but circumstances of the ongoing pandemic have made it unwise to schedule an Annual Synod in 2020 and in 2021. For that reason, the Executive Board has begun planning for the Annual Synod XXIII in 2022.

One of the actions to be taken at the 2022 Annual Synod will be the elections of officers and representatives to the Executive Board, including the election of a new Secretary for a four-year term. In addition, some changes to the Constitution will be presented for ratification.

Your input is important during the time of preparation for the Synod. Ideas for consideration and the names of candidates for offices can be submitted to the Archbishop's office or to any member of the Executive Board.

Welcome to Pastor Rodney Eberhardt!



The Rev. Rodney Eberhardt, known to many in the LC-I, has become a pastor on the roster of the LC-I by action of the Executive Board. He will be formally received at the 2022 Annual Synod of the LC-I in Lyons NY.

Pastor Eberhardt and his wife Mitzi have retired and are living in Cummings GA (Southern Diocese). Prior to his retirement, Pastor Eberhardt served for 19 years as Senior Pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Farmingdale LI, NY (ELCA). Many have met him when he was the Theological Presenter at the 2013 LC-I Synod; his theme was “The Pastor as ‘*In Persona Christi*.’”

A well-known Lutheran theologian, liturgical scholar and lecturer, Pastor Eberhardt was born in Deshler, NE, is a graduate of Concordia Seminary in Exile (Seminex) and The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, was ordained in 1979 in Rochester NY, and first served at Trinity Lutheran Church, East Amherst NY for 18 years before moving to St. Luke's, Farmingdale. In addition to his pastoral ministries, he is a member of the Society of the Holy Trinity (STS) and former Dean of the Metro New York Chapter of STS for 16 years. He also served on the Board of the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau (ALPB) for 18 years and served on the board of the Farmingdale Adult Day Care Center.

Congratulations to Pastor Arthur Sziemeister!

Our "elder statesman" and oldest active pastor in the Lutheran Church - International, The Rev. Arthur Sziemeister, has turned 90 years of age on November 10. [Same birthdate as Dr. Martin Luther; very different year! 😊].



A card or email greeting, personal contact and (always) prayers would be appropriate. Your greetings can be addressed to him at his home:

2 Sunset Drive, Lyons NY 14489

Phone: 1-315-946-4985





Pastor Muzigura Faustin

We have learned of the death of a longtime friend of the LC-I, The Rev. Muzigura Faustin at the age of 58. Pastor Muzigura served as pastor of the Lutheran parish in Nyamata, about 30 km (19 miles) outside of the Capitol city of Kigali, Rwanda and was Head of the Department of Mission and Evangelism for the Lutheran Church of Rwanda, a church body formed in 1995.



Nyamata, about 30 km (19 miles) outside of the Capitol city of Kigali, is the location of one of the massacres during the Rwandan Civil War that began on the day after the assassination of the Rwandan President on April 6, 1994. Over five days in April, 1994, about 10,000 people, mostly Tutsis but also moderate Hutus and Twa, were slaughtered after seeking refuge inside Nyamata's churches and schools. More than 50,000 people are buried in Nyamata alone, today the site of one of Rwanda's Genocide Memorials. The genocidal death toll from April 7 to July 15, 1994 is believed to be 800,000 to as many as 1,000,000 people dead in Rwanda.

Because of new laws in 2018, Rwanda now requires the theological training of pastors. The Lutheran Church of Rwanda, under the leadership of Bishop Evalister Mugabo, has established cooperation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania to provide theological education and certification. Other church bodies in the Lutheran World Federation also provide care and support for the growing ministry in Rwanda.

The family, church and local television station in Kigali have recorded the funeral and burial of Pastor Muzigura. This inspiring tribute by the family with Bishop Mugabo and others of the Lutheran Church in Rwanda can be seen at <https://youtu.be/bnl1-mvKgVI>.



Where your 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.

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

The **LC-I Executive Board** will meet by Zoom in January, 2022. Contact the Archbishop for items to be considered.





In appreciation of our Clergy

Many churches and organizations try to recognize members of the clergy during the month of October. As a resident in Cedar Crest (Erickson Senior Living Community) in Pompton Plains NJ, I was asked to participate in a special service to honor the clergy staff and other resident clergy. Here are my remarks.

Bishop Richard W. Horn

Ministry and Religious Professions

People who want to dedicate their lives to being of help and support to others enter into one of the “helping” professions, especially into the ministry or religious life or into one of the other helping professions like nursing and medical care, teaching, being on the staff of Cedar Crest or similar facility, police and fire and other forms of public service.

This desire to help and support others takes priority over the goals and standards of so many other professions: like making money or having power and authority. For those in ministry, the “goal” is not to make people “be good” but simply to serve God, aided by our ministry to people, as God’s personal representatives in service to others.

Ministry includes, but is far more than, faith, piety and prayer. Scriptures remind us (especially we who are in Christian ministry) through the words of St. Paul in the second chapter of Ephesians that:

⁸ By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

In other words, our faith requires action. Faith needs to be lived. There is a danger here, however; and the danger is in making numbers or statistics a measurement of reaching our goals of ministry. The danger is in trying to measure faithfulness in ministry sometimes by equating size of congregation or amount of money raised! “How many souls did you save today?” “Did you build a new church?”

A contemporary response to this danger can be illustrated by a beautiful story called “Star Thrower” written by Loren Eiseley:

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, “What are you doing?”

The youth replied, “Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don’t throw them back, they’ll die.”

“Son,” the man said, “don’t you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can’t make a difference!”

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf.

Then, smiling at the man, he said..... “I made a difference for that one.”

Here again we must look at and listen to our own scriptures as well as to those writings of other faiths. I have been blessed in ministry and in life by the great privilege of meeting and learning from victims of the Holocaust, and specifically persons saved from death because of the work of Raoul Wallenberg or Oscar Schindler.

Anyone who has gone to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, or the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, or who has watched, or lived because of, the story of Oscar Schindler has heard the echo of these words from the Talmud:

“Whoever saves one life saves the world entire.”



The same words are also repeated in the Q’ran; and we hear the words of Jesus written in the Gospel of St. Matthew (25:37-40):

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Just ONE!

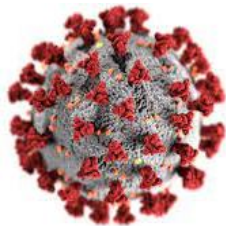
To you who have served in ordained and consecrated ministries to God, and you who have followed other pathways of service and ministries: reflect on your ministry, your life of help and care, of service to God.

You have made a world of difference, and a difference in the world!





“Are We There Yet?”



Who could have expected nearly two full years ago, December 2019, that a new and “novel” SARS virus would suddenly spread across the globe – and that COVID19 would still hold so much power over our lives? Except for a few rare virologists, epidemiologists and nanobiologists warning of the potential of the present reality, most people thought that a repeat of anything like an ancient or medieval plague or a flu pandemic like that in the early 20th century was improbable, or even impossible due to our advanced 21st century medical knowledge. Well, it is amazing how much we learned -- about what we still don’t know!

We aren’t there yet. Masks, vaccines and distancing have become both tools and weapons, helping to control or mitigate the disease while also being misused for political reasons of opposition. We have learned that the disease with all its variants is as much a social disease as a medical problem. Even before the outbreak of SARS in early 2003, scientists have been warning the world about new and virulent diseases which could spread uncontrollably through modern rapid transportation methods across the globe. A true pandemic. Now, in November of 2021, new infections are again rising in many parts of the US and the world. Christmas markets in Germany and Austria are being cancelled; travel is curtailed or restricted. We hope for another plateau in infections, learn about innovations in viral cures, while discovering more disease mutations and strains.

Much has already been learned about this COVID disease and its medical and social effects. Medically, for example, we now know that effective vaccines can be and have been created and used, leading to a significant reduction in the rates of infections and deaths, while other medical interventions and potential cures are being tested. Socially, churches have found ways to minister to members and converts over unlimited distances through technological means not possible in earlier generations. Financial changes in society have caused both a redistribution of wealth and a reevaluation of personal priorities; churches have both suffered and benefitted by these changes, especially when people see the needs and opportunities for meaningful contributions. Travel and in-person gatherings go hand-in-hand, breaking down the social isolation of the past two years. In the liturgies of the Church, some practices have changed to include less touching and more personal distance, or more instrumental but less choral music; in a reevaluation of Communion distribution, we find a renewed emphasis on both the meaning and availability of Holy Communion and of the Holy Scriptures as God’s Means of Grace.

After any change that impacts our lives and ministries, it is important that we stop, review, then reevaluate our ongoing lives and practices.

- In your life and in the ministry of the Church in congregational life, what have been the meaningful changes and/or obstacles as a result of the COVID pandemic?
- Has the ministry of the Church, both congregationally and in the wider church through the local diocese or in the LC-I, been more available in support of your faith and life? Where failures have occurred, how can positive changes be implemented?
- Have your contributions (in efforts, time and finances) to various aspects of the Church increased, remained the same “as always,” or decreased during this time of pandemic?
- As a result of these changes, how can your relationship with the Church, and specifically the LC-I, become stronger and more productive?

While your thoughts are fresh in your mind, I would suggest taking these steps:

1. write down your responses (writing forces clarity of thought and reinforces ideas);
2. contact some church-related person outside of your immediate family and share this newsletter or at least this article, then
3. dialogue in-person or by phone, email, video conferencing, etc. about the responses of each of you.

As a result of this personal and individual dialogue, some thoughts, ideas or concepts could benefit others (local congregation, LC-I, individuals, etc.). If so, and without violating any private conversations, pass them along. After all, we aren’t there yet; but we pray the COVID journey may soon be coming to an end! Let’s make the most of it.

+Richard W. Horn, Editor

Editor’s PS: ideas sent to the **BULLETIN** may be shared in a forthcoming issue but only if permission is granted. Any personal information will be recast as generic. Use this email address: Bulletin.LCI@gmail.com.





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

For **EVERY** clergy member and community of faith:

DON'T FORGET 2022 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. Dues for **2022** should be paid by January 1:

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

NOTE:

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!

(Simply ignoring the dues could be misunderstood as disinterest in the LC-I.)

✚ If you know of anyone who is not current for 2021, please gently remind them.

DUES are DUE for 2022!





A Litany of Thanksgiving

Fr. Les Martin, a friend of the LC-I and missionary serving the (Anglican) Church of Nigeria, has shared this litany from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. The words in bold italics can be said by a group or family, and you can adapt it as you wish:

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.



Looking ahead -

We are honored to have an update on world mission outreach in our next issue of the BULLETIN.

Our LC-I Website:

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, photos of various ministries and people, and lots more. Pastor William Wigmore is the webmaster:

<http://www.lutheranchurchinternational.org/our-church-1.html>

LC-I on Facebook:

LC-I Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LutheranChurchInternational>

This is an open public Facebook page for the LC-I. However, postings, links and opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent official positions of the LC-I.

LC-I Leadership Team Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Williewig3>

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

***May God continue to bless + all of you and your ministries
as we enter a new year in Christ.***

++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

