



The Lutheran Church - International *and* World Lutheran Parish BULLETIN - *Advent, 2020*

Advent Message from the Archbishop

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

I pray that this letter finds you well and secure in the peace of Christ.

I am writing this letter as we journey from the Season after Pentecost into the Advent Season. It is a time of reflection of the great compassion that has been given to us by the grace of God the Father to send His only Son as our Savior and King. For me, and for you, it is a time of hope and thanksgiving.

Jesus and Paul made Salvation by faith alone and grace alone abundantly clear. Yet, in the centuries after the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth, the institutional church in many areas strayed from that truth. By the Grace of God, Luther and other reformers led us back to that understanding.

We need to prepare our minds and hearts for the remembrance of this great goodness of God in sending His only Son, our Lord Jesus. During this time of crisis due to COVID-19 and the stresses that we must all endure, it is important to show special love to one another. As Jesus tells us in [Matthew 25:31-46](#):

“The King will answer them, ‘Most certainly I tell you, because you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

The church calendar, throughout the entire year, provides us with wonderful opportunities to keep in mind the many blessings that we have in our family life in Christ.

Perhaps in our Advent living we can be a little more kind, a little more tolerant, a little more gentle, a little more generous. May we bring Christ's love to the world in a special way this Advent season!

As we progress through Advent may the joy in our expectations be fulfilled in our lives, in the future of Christ's Church, and in the LC-I. We thank God for these blessings that we are sharing with one another. May God bless (+) us all and keep us safe during these Advent and Christmas seasons!

++Robert, Archbishop, LC-I



NEWS/Notes from the Central Office: Advent is a special time of year that gives us many opportunities for new beginnings. I invite you to share in a new **Lutheran Church-International Leadership Team** page: <https://www.facebook.com/Lutheran-Church-International-Leadership-Team-627143728009866/>. Under the curatorship of Pastor Ken Keenan, this Facebook page will feature resources and strategies for outreach in advancing the Kingdom of Christ through our Lutheran understanding of the catholic faith.

We are fortified in our faith by God's grace with great expectations. Together we pray that this new outreach resource with content aimed at aiding the ministries of the LC-I will be a blessing to you and that you will consider sharing your ideas and content and making others aware of this outstanding resource!

++Robert

<http://www.lutheranchurchinternational.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/627143728009866/>





Our Ministry of Prayer

Thanksgivings, Joys and Concerns

(There are many more prayers needed ... please let us know)

- ✝ HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM INDIA to all the saints of the Lutheran Church – International. May God bless you all abundantly and grant his grace, joy and peace during this season.
- ✝ We remember in our thoughts and prayers our **brothers and sisters in India**, especially in this time of remembrance of those departed in the faith. We ask special prayers for the memory of the recently departed pastoral workers who died of COVID-19 while serving God's people under the care of LC-I **Missionary Dean Tanuku Prasad**. May they rest in peace:
 - ❖ **Pastor Topiaz**, Nidadavole; he is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.
 - ❖ **Rev. and Mrs. Charles**, Balaji Nagar; they are survived by two daughters and a son.
 - ❖ we also remember our Brothers and Sisters in India who have died in this pandemic.
- ✝ For all those **suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic** which has infected more than 65 million people and killed more than 1.5 million (about 14 million cases in the U.S. with 275,000 deaths increasing by about 3,000 per day, the same number that died on 9/11!), for those who have lost employment and income, and especially those who lost family members and friends to the virus.
- ✝ For **first responders, nurses, doctors and technicians** providing care even as potential viral vaccines are being developed and distributed.
- ✝ For **families** caring for those recovering from the virus.
- ✝ For all those **suffering from natural disasters** around the world.
- ✝ For **Pastor Bruce Hackman** and those he serves in San Pedro, CA. Through food distribution and all of his efforts with Catholic Social services and with the Lutheran community for which he provides pastoral care, he is doing important work for God's kingdom.
- ✝ For the **hungry** who must rely on the kindness of strangers. It is expected that 1 in 4 children and 1 in 6 adults will experience hunger and food insecurity this year. How and where can you help?
- ✝ For **Archbishop Robert Hotes**, recovering from a recent accident, but doing well by God's Grace.
- ✝ For **St. Paul's and St. John's, Myersville MD** as they search for a new pastor.
- ✝ For **Christ Church, Rosedale NY** as they continue their process of Calling a new pastor.
- ✝ For the intentions of **Dean Emeritus Pastor David Rogers**, living in Indiana.
- ✝ For the **Deaconesses and Deacons** in the LC-I who are rendering important ministry wherever they serve. We name in our prayers: **Deaconess Christine Stephenson, Deacon Anna Haye, Deacon Norbert Mayer, Deacon Helena Morris, Deacon Samnarain Sooppersaud, Deacon Sevika Sooppersaud, and Deacon Christine Watts**.
- ✝ For our sisters and brothers in Christ in the **Lutheran Diaconal Association (LDA)** and especially for **Deaconess Sara Manning**, consecrated on October 17.
- ✝ For **Father Dan Funk** and the members of **Holy Family Anglican Parish**, brothers and sisters in Christ and in fellowship with the LC-I family.
- ✝ For **all the faithful departed** who now rest in peace. We especially remember and name with thanksgiving **Helen Poust** and **Ronald Ballard**.
- ✝ For those who **serve** in positions of leadership and for those **elected** and those **re-elected**; we pray that each will serve faithfully in the opportunities with which God has blessed them.
- ✝ For **peace with racial and social justice and equity**.
- ✝ For all members of the **World Lutheran Parish**, a non-geographic parish outreach of the LC-I for those who do not live near or belong to an LC-I parish and want to share in this ministry.
(for information, contact: Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org - 1-217-691-3090).
- ✝ We ask prayers for those known to you and those known only to God who need our prayers.





DID YOU KNOW? that DUES are DUE!

All LC-I Ministers (Bishops, Pastors, Deacons, Deaconesses and Teachers) **and Communities of Faith** (Congregations, Missions and Other Ministries of the LC-I) are obligated to support the life of the Lutheran Church – International by a minimum payment of annual dues for each calendar year. By Synodical action, the dues for Ministers is \$75 per person and for Communities of Faith is \$150. The **dues are due on January 1**. If the payment of dues is a hardship, especially in this time of pandemic, the diocesan Bishop can waive part or all of the required dues upon request. However, the request should be made prior to the end of January, 2021.

WITH THANKSGIVING FOR SPECIAL MINISTRIES:

Recognizing the special ministries of care during this pandemic, the following Facebook post from the **Lutheran Diaconal Association (LDA)** is particularly meaningful. **Deaconess Paula Mickan** serves as a LifeFlight Critical Care Nurse Practitioner! In ways similar to our own deaconesses and deacons and like so many others in ministry, she brings the skill and care directly to those in need in a time of crisis. We thank all those who serve with care, and with our prayers we care for those who serve.



#GivingTuesday

Giving the Gift of Thankfulness

We give thanks for all those who work tirelessly to keep us safe and well. We share this devotion written by Deaconess Paula Mickan, a LifeFlight nurse practitioner. We hope it is a blessing to you and thank Paula for sharing her thoughts.

In times of crisis, we are told that we will rise to the challenge. However, in those times, we do not rise to the challenge, rather we fall to the level of our education and training. Medical practitioners participate in repetitious training and education to strengthen skills and equip to provide the best care possible. When words like cardiopulmonary arrest, stroke, cancer, heart failure, sudden infant death, paralysis, intracranial hemorrhage leave us reeling, Christians also fall to that which we know and have practiced. The 23rd Psalm might come to mind. We might sing a favorite hymn. If words fail us, we can simply remember "Our Father, who art in heaven".

Christians are strengthened through the repetitious actions of worship. Making the sign of the cross, confessing our sins, listening to Scripture, and feasting at the Lord's table equip us to deal with life's challenges.

I never know what each day will bring, I only know the one who sent me and the one who goes with me. As I face challenges and fears, one of my repetitious prayers is Psalm 46:2, "God is my refuge and strength, and ever-present help in trouble." Gracious God, We thank you for the many blessings and goodness that you bestow on us and for the opportunity we have to worship freely and be strengthened at your table. We especially thank you for all those who work to be your hands of healing, comfort, and support for the sick, the injured and the dying. Strengthen them in their daily work and in the knowledge that you are with them. All this we pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Deaconess Paula E. Mickan

MSN, APRN-CNP, AGACNP-BC, CCRN, NREMT-B

Flight Nurse Practitioner for Cleveland Metro Life Flight

[used with permission]

Our thanks to the Lutheran Diaconal Association for sharing this.



"We are not enemies, but friends"

*by The Rev. Stephen K. Reed, Pastor, St. Paul Church; Police and Fire Chaplain: Fairbanks AK
printed in the Fairbanks Daily News 11/13/2020*

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

The words above were as timely when they were first given as they are today. They are from President Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address given March 4, 1861, just over a month before the American Civil War. Our prayers are likewise needed now as they were then.

Many say that our nation is as divided and polarized today as it was in the civil war. As I write this article, legal challenges are occurring around elections in several states across our great land similar to the election in 2000. At the same time there are calls for unity and transition.

How do we respond to this experience of polarization and division? How do we respond as Christians?

We might begin by acknowledging that we have differences. We do not agree on everything. Sometimes it may seem that we do not agree on anything. It is easy to enter discussions that sometimes become heated and some label as arguments on many, many topics. Yes, that is true.

It is very, very easy to disagree on very nearly anything.

So with the reality of polarization and division on many topics, what are we to do?

Perhaps we begin by not trying to solve discussion of polarizing topics like abortion and gun control. Let us instead focus on safe topics like the PFD, a state income tax, school curriculums, and a balanced state budget. Okay, maybe that will not work either.

What can we talk about that is not somehow, "political?"

It turns out there are many things. We can talk to one another. We can check in with each other.

Through it all we can listen to learn instead of listening to respond. The goal of conversation is communication. Try listening to hear what the speaker is saying and imagining for a moment why a person is saying what they are saying. Ask questions to clarify what is being said and ponder the meaning. Listen to hear and thereby learn.

No, we are not going to solve big differences in a few brief conversations. People have been arguing about abortion and gun control for decades. Similarly, people have been arguing about state (and local) budgets, taxes, and school curriculums for years. Instead we just might get to know one another by listening and learning.

I write today suggesting that we spend time in prayer for our nation and listening, really listening to one another.

"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires." -James 1:19-20

Fr. Steve

[used with permission from The Rev. Stephen K. Reed]



YOUR MINISTRY OF GIVING

There are many **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITHFUL GIVING** in the Lutheran Church – International to continue and to expand the ministries and outreach of the Church. The LC-I Outreach Media Committee is trying to use both available and new technologies to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our members and to those seeking the faithful evangelical catholic ministry we are providing. Through our website <http://www.lutheranchurchinternational.org/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/627143728009866/> and through more effective use of the internet with emails, [Zoom](#), [Skype](#) and [Facebook Live](#), the LC-I is now able to communicate rapidly and clearly with congregations and with individual members. Meanwhile, the ongoing needs for insurance, postage, supplies and routine operations continue while most other expenses of operation are covered by voluntary donations and contributions from many individuals and from the congregation of First Church, Lyons NY.

Congregational and individual giving has often been designated for specific uses in the LC-I, including:

- ENDOWMENT for future growth in ministry (a portion of the ministerial and congregational annual dues is given to this fund)
- DISASTER RELIEF and ASSISTANCE (has been used for India, hurricane relief, etc.)
- MISSIONARY OUTREACH (particularly in the US, in the Caribbean region, and in India)
- WORLD LUTHERAN PARISH, a non-geographical ministry of contact and care
- PASTORAL / THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION
- MEMORIALS and special gifts



How you can Give to the LC-I:

MEMORIAL / SPECIAL GIFTS

in honor or in memory of others

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

for general use or a particular need or purpose where needed

MONTHLY GIVING

by arrangement through the Treasurer of the LC-I, as with a congregation

WILLS / BEQUESTS / ENDOWMENTS

speak to your personal financial advisor



GIFTS and DUES must be sent to the LC-I Treasurer:

Pastor William Wigmore, 15 High Street, Lyons NY 14489

Requests for dues to be reduced or waived should be given to the *diocesan bishop* by January 31, 2021



GREETINGS FROM INDIA:

Greetings to you and all the Saints that are with you in the Church, in the NAME of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks to all of you for your prayers, love, care, concern and financial support.

We do continue to pray for every one of you in our prayer time and the worship time.

As two of our pastors have passed away due to the COVID 19, It is very sad and critical situation to the bereaved families. We prayed with them and helped them with little funds to meet the family situations.

Do continue to remember us in your prayers and the ministry here in India.

Please convey our regards and thanks to all the saints specially from our churches.

Thanking you.

With His love,
Yours in His kingdom building,
Pastor Prasad



IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021 AS CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONS!

Stay SAFE, Stay in TOUCH!

Protect our most vulnerable people: YOU and your family and the rest of the LC-I!

What were your experiences and suggestions with Zoom or Facebook Live or YouTube or Skype? As churches have attempted to reopen with social distancing, many people have been keeping these alternate means of ministry because they have provided mostly positive results! Have you found these or other ways to communicate and keep in touch together? Let us all know. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

Internet Worth Seeing:

Lutheran Church – International on the Internet:

✝ Visit the Facebook pages of the LC-I and the World Lutheran Parish:

<https://www.facebook.com/Lutheran-Church-International-Leadership-Team-627143728009866/>

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

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

Please forward a copy of this **BULLETIN** to your friends

AND send the names and email addresses for inclusion on mailings:

Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org