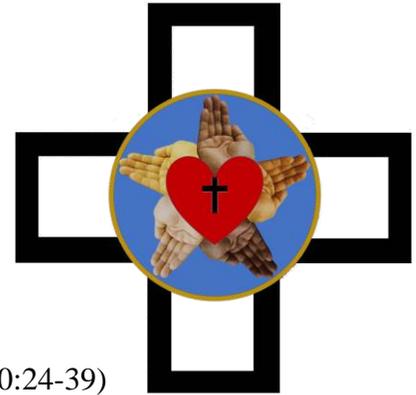




The Lutheran Church - International *and* World Lutheran Parish BULLETIN - Summer, 2020



A Message from the Archbishop



The cost of discipleship (Matthew 10:24-39)

Dear LC-I Family, this season of Sundays after Pentecost reminds us that we are sent out, as were the apostles, to do God's work using our hands. This does not necessarily mean physical travel or heroic activities. Personal prayer is one essential form of ministry that each of us can do. The various gifts of the Spirit empower us for different ministries. We have a constant variety of opportunities for ministry through service in the LC-I. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the work before us may not be easy.

We read that Jesus sent the twelve to do the same kind of work that He himself had done in His ministry on earth. Fortified by the power of the Holy Spirit the disciples are sent out to teach, preach and heal. They are given the grace to perform great deeds in Jesus' name. They are commissioned to be workers of miracles, just as Jesus had done in His earthly ministry.

Jesus points out to His disciples, however, that there is much hard work to be done. Although the harvest is plentiful, there are not enough workers to bring it in. Jesus uses a farm analogy that the people of that time and place would have understood very well.

On the farms in North Dakota, where my mother was raised, gathering the harvest was a community and cooperative effort. The harvest must be done quickly if a family is going to survive. Winds start to blow cold and hard in late August. No one farm had enough laborers, mainly the growing children, to do all the jobs needed to gather in the harvest. Neighbors, and everyone else in the vicinity, took turns helping each other, bringing in the wheat crop as quickly and efficiently as possible. This was a matter of survival. Only with these crops could the families survive the long and cold North Dakota winter. The harvest was plentiful, but the laborers few. They had to come together, to work together in community.

The workers for Christ's harvest in the LC-I are few. But we few workers can accomplish miracles in the name of Jesus Christ. Empowered by Christ's Word and His Sacraments, we faithfully use the apostolic teachings and traditions entrusted to us. As a community of dedicated workers in Christ's vineyard, the LC-I is given the purpose and task to preach the Gospel and care for Christ's flock, our religious ministry. However, faithful to this ministry, no one should ever use his or her membership in the LC-I for any other purpose, including supporting or opposing political causes or other religious or social organizations.

In these troubled times let us remember that we are a family called to do the work of Christ's kingdom on earth. Working together we can and will make a difference in this broken world. May God continue to bless (+++) you and your ministries in these difficult times. Keep the Faith, and please keep in contact!

++*Robert*



Our Ministry of Prayer

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

- ✝ In thanksgiving to God for the love between Cherie Gerwin and Bishop Jeffrey Bischoff as they were joined in holy matrimony on July 18, 2020 at Saint Augustine's House in Oxford MI. May the blessings of their love strengthen them in their marriage, their lives and their ministries.
- ✝ in thanksgiving to God for the life and ministry of Pastor William Coleman.
- ✝ in thanksgiving to God for the life and ministry of Deacon Eileen Smith.
- ✝ in thanksgiving to God for the life and public service of US Rep. John Lewis, a leader for civil and social rights.
- ✝ for Deacon Christine Stephenson and her ministries.
- ✝ for Pastor Tanuku Prasad and all the pastors and members of the LC-I family in India, especially as they face poverty and disease, yet with hope and faith.
- ✝ for Pastor Bruce Hackman as he works diligently to serve God's people in need.
- ✝ for the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ, Rosedale NY as they continue their call process for a new pastor.
- ✝ for the people of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Wayne NJ as they begin their pastoral call process.
- ✝ in celebration with congratulations for those graduating with diplomas and degrees.
- ✝ for Pastor Robert (Robin) Mountenay as he transitions to retirement in York, PA.
- ✝ for Pastor James Townsend and the people of Holy Cross Mission and St. Paul's, Sacramento CA.
- ✝ for all those suffering from COVID-19, including those who have lost employment, and especially those who lost family members and friends to the virus.
- ✝ for the pastors and people of First Church, Lyons NY as they carefully open for weekly services. May the Lord keep them and all congregations safe in His care.
- ✝ for all the congregations, brothers and sisters, both lay members and clergy, of the LC-I.
- ✝ for our LC-I partners in ministry around the world.
- ✝ for our partners in ministry in the Lutheran Deaconess Association (LDA).
- ✝ in thanksgiving for the Lord's protection in ways and places known only to Him.
- ✝ for Pastor Art and Debbie Hebbeler in gratitude for the work done on the LC-I Facebook page.
- ✝ for the people of St. John's and St. Paul's in Myersville, MD.
- ✝ for the people of St. Paul's, Coney Island, NY, Pastor Harvey Von Harten and Deacon Anna Haye.
- ✝ for Bishop and Carmen Cepero and their Caribbean ministries. We have now been in touch with Bishop Juan via text messaging. What a great blessing as we keep them in prayer!
- ✝ for Bishop Troy Harris, our brother in Christ in Australia.
- ✝ for World Parish member and partner in ministry Fr. Richard Sorfleet as he contemplates changes in location.
- ✝ for world peace with racial and social justice and equity in Christ's name and through His Church..
- ✝ for Pastor William Babbitt and his ministries in Florida.
- ✝ for Ute and Bishop Richard Horn as they celebrate thirty years of marriage.
- ✝ 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.**





CONGRATULATIONS to the BISCHOFFs!

“Covid can't stop a wedding, love, family, friends, food, flowers, and dancing in the road. Thanks to all our loved ones who fed us, gave gifts, and celebrated from Napoleon, to Bowling Green, to Pemberville, to Toledo. We couldn't have planned it any better, and you know we tried for 5 months. We are grateful and blessed beyond words.”

Cherie and +Jeffrey Bischoff

Married on July 18, 2020

Saint Augustine's House, Oxford MI

Discipline will set you free

“Discipline will set you free.” At first thought this is a contradiction in terms. I am always surprised when I am on the subway in Hamburg that two chaperones can lead a group of young children safely on their subway trip. Why are these kids following the directions? Apparently even rambunctious five-year olds know when one of them gets hurt none of them will get to the fancy playground. Discipline will set you free to get you were you want or need to go.

Northern New Jersey and the City of New York have gone through a brutal time since the coronavirus struck. People were quarantined, laid off from their jobs and those that had to work were never sure if or when they would get sick. The virus hit a blow to the economy that none of us had experienced before. Though COVID-19 is still around and will strike anyone it can reach, our area has contained it to the point where scientists tell us that we can **slowly and carefully** open, outside. We will follow the recommendations of our Governor. If you are not comfortable with these guidelines, you may not want to come. Everyone's discipline will get us to a safe re-opening. We do not want our area to become a hot spot that has to close again.



Ute Kattner-Horn (originally written for Germania Park Newsletter)



In the midst of LIFE we are in DEATH.

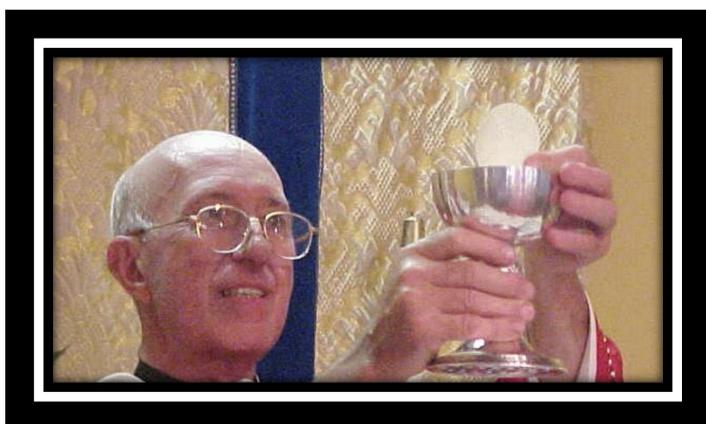
We mourn the illnesses of those who continue to suffer and the deaths of those called home in Christ.

In the midst of DEATH we are in LIFE.

We celebrate together with those joined in marriage and with those sharing new events and victories.



THE REVEREND WILLIAM ALBERT COLEMAN 1940-2020



The Reverend William Albert Coleman, 80, a pastor of the Lutheran Church – International, died in Virginia on June 20th, 2020.

Pastor Coleman was born in New York City in 1940, was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richmond Hill. Educated in the New York City public school system, he received the B.A. degree in 1961 from Wagner College, and the B.D. degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1964.

He was ordained a pastor of the Lutheran Church in America by the Rev. Dr. Alfred L. Beck, President (bishop) of the New York Synod of the LCA, at First Lutheran Church of Jamestown, NY, on June 3rd, 1964. Called to develop a Lutheran mission congregation in Cortland, NY, he also served as Lutheran chaplain at Cortland State University. During this period, he was assisted by now-LC-I Pastor Arthur C. Sziemeister, in Lyons, NY, who contributed equipment to the mission. While serving in Cortland, Pastor Coleman identified with the evangelical catholic movement in Lutheranism and became active in ecumenical and liturgical renewal. He also supported New York City's developing Lutheran schools, preaching and participating in special liturgies with The Rev. Dr. William H. Schiemann (d. 1999), pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church and School in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, who became a pastoral mentor, and with the Rev. Norman S. Dinkel, pastor and founding headmaster at Christ Lutheran Church and School in Rosedale, Queens. He became known as an advocate and proponent of Lutheran parochial schools, which was not a popular position in the LCA

In 1966, Pr. Coleman accepted an ecumenical position in a community ministry in Huntington Station, Long Island, and as an associate pastor at Gloria Dei Church there. While there, he met and married Jeanette D. Stadelmann. They are the parents of Nicolaus Anselm Coleman, now a resident of Virginia.

In 1971, he accepted a call to become pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Greenport, Long Island. Serving 14 years, he turned the parish into a liturgical oasis of Lutheran practice, which involved pastors of the LCA, Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and American Lutheran Church. A nearby retirement community of LC-MS clergy brought many retired clergy to the staff, deacons were introduced, and pastors often taken on staff until they received calls.



While at Greenport, Pr. Coleman led his parish to expand its property and to purchase and administer San Simeon by the Sound, a 150-bed skilled nursing home and health related facility. The same name applied to a senior housing project on the parish property under plans throughout his ministry. Through energetic ministry, he tripled the membership of the congregation, established a mission entitled St. Lawrence on Shelter Island (a ferry boat ride from Greenport), campground ministries, and masses at the nursing home. Before deacons were recognized by the LCA, he established consecrated parish deacons. With his leadership, visitation at the local community hospital had a different deacon or pastor visiting each day and renewing the work of the hospital on whose board he served for seven years. An annual German Festival on the parish grounds drew thousands of supporters from all over Long Island and raised funds for the planned housing project and other parish ministries.

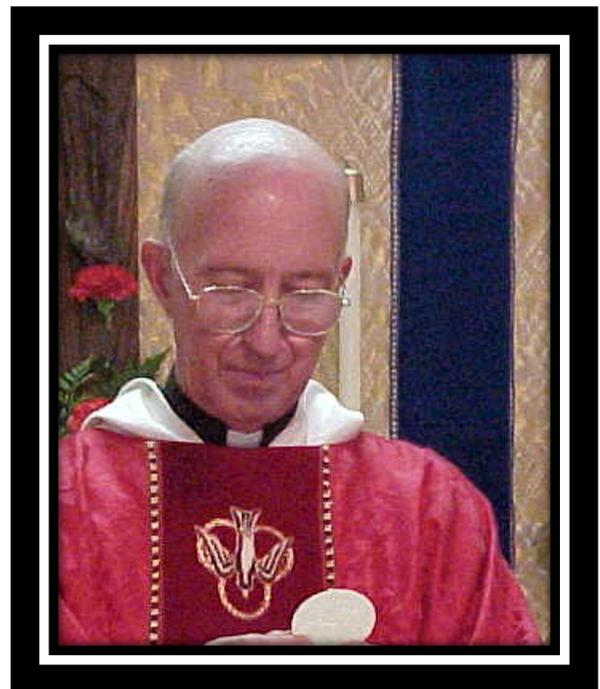
In 1985, Pr. Coleman received and accepted a call to become pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL and executive director of Orlando Lutheran Towers. During that pastorate he acquired his Florida Nursing Home Administrators license and added a large addition to the Towers Nursing Home. He was active in ecumenical work in Orlando during his ministry there.

Pr. Coleman had acquired a vacation home on Water Island, an area near St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands. After leaving Orlando, he spent most of his time at Water Island and, in 1991, became interim pastor at the historic Frederick Church (founded in 1666) on St. Thomas, and was installed as their pastor in 1992.

After leaving St. Thomas in the mid-1990's, he resigned as a pastor of the LCA and served in various lay capacities in the Roman Catholic Church, eventually settling in Maryland and Virginia, where he supported the ministry of his wife as a parochial school teacher and principal. He was received as a retired pastor of the International Lutheran Fellowship in 2006 and established the LC-I mission of St. Mary Star of the Sea Lutheran Mission at his home on Water Island.

In later years he moved to Petersburg, VA, where he ministered to his wife after she needed nursing home care. Pr. Coleman entered hospice care earlier this year and died on June 20, 2020.

The Lutheran Church – International commends our brother, **THE REV. WILLIAM A. COLEMAN**, to the rest and Resurrection Christ has promised to the faithful.



The Rt. Rev. Aubrey N. Bougher, a close personal friend of Pastor Coleman, provided the biographical data and photos.



The Executive Board of the Lutheran Church – International will meet via a Zoom conference on Saturday, August 1. If you have items of concern that you want included for discussion, please contact Archbishop Hotes at Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org.



THE REVEREND DEACON EILEEN SMITH

The Rev. Deacon Eileen Smith of Wayne, NJ died on July 18, 2020 after a difficult and courageous fight against cancer. An ELCA deacon and lifelong Lutheran, Eileen was born in the Bronx and attended Grace Lutheran parochial school. She earned an Associates in Applied Science degree from New York University, then earned both a Bachelor and a Master of Business Administration from Pace University; she worked many years in New York City for ING Group.

In 1972, she married Joseph Smith and moved to Woodside Queens. After 31 years in Woodside they moved to Wayne to be closer to their families.

Deacon Eileen was diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumors (NET), a very rare form of cancer, nearly ten years ago. She immediately researched and learned everything she could about her disease and treatment. She soon learned there was only limited treatment and few doctors with experience treating the disease. She actively advocated for more research, funding and greater awareness to help in the fight against this disease and was even awarded by then NJ Governor Chris Christie for her efforts.



Eileen remained active in the church throughout her life. As an adult she entered the Lutheran diaconate and was set apart as a deacon by the Metro New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on June 17, 1998. She served faithfully in the Metro Synod, often planning synod-wide educational and administrative events. She was a gifted preacher and often substituted for vacationing pastors. When she and Joseph moved to New Jersey, Deacon Eileen joined St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Wayne and quickly became a faithful worker and congregational leader. She served on the Mutual Ministry Committee, chaired the Worship and Outreach Committees, was a faithful sacristan and liturgical assistant, preached and led worship several times a year when the senior pastor vacationed. She served as a mentor for several generations of catechism students and coordinated the mentoring program. Deacon Eileen introduced St. Timothy to “Stew Sunday,” which operates in conjunction with Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, providing nourishing meals for the clients of Eva’s Kitchen in Paterson several times a year, and founded St. Timothy’s very successful seniors’ program, Prime Timers, planning monthly luncheons and securing speakers for each gathering.

Eileen was a prolific writer, contributing articles to ELCA synodical and parish newsletters, as well as several nationally circulated publications, including The Lutheran Magazine and Lutheran Forum. She was the editor of the Metro New York Synod’s monthly newsletter, conversant in Lutheran theology and an avid reader of theological writings.

Joseph Smith died early in 2020, and Eileen always remained close to her sister Racquel White who was with her when she died at home. Although Deacon Eileen was not a member of the LC-I, she anticipated news from the BULLETIN and was supportive of our ministries in her prayers and encouragement.

We commend to Almighty God and His love and care THE REV. DEACON EILEEN SMITH in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life.



2020 - A YEAR TO ~~REMEMBER~~ ~~FORGET~~

REMEMBER !

In the midst of life we are in death.
To whom may we look for help,
but from you, Lord,
who for our sins
are justly displeased?

Yet, Lord God most holy,
Lord most mighty,
holy and most merciful Savior,
deliver us from the bitter pains of eternal death.
A Book of Common Prayer

How tragically often these same words have been spoken this year. Already, after little more than half of the year 2020, more than 15 million people have contracted this new/novel virus causing the COVID-19 pandemic. The disease has now killed over 145,000 Americans and over 625,000 people world-wide. Frightening projections for the rest of 2020 and into 2021 are a very real concern for the life and health of people everywhere.

Churches have been challenged in the same way as families, businesses, all of society. The stresses of staying “in place” (at home) has been more than some people have tolerated. Added to that are the many social pressures in communities bursting into violence and more deaths.

But the life of the church changes and adapts as the circumstances require. Slowly and where appropriate, small groups have been able to gather for worship, larger groups have gathered from home through Zoom, Skype, Facebook Live and YouTube. Many congregations have found their income increasing; some members have fewer ongoing expenses and many members have shown appreciation by increasing their support of the ministry of the church as it reaches out to them and to others in need. Many things have changed, and we are all trying to keep up with them; for example, connection is not the same as Communion, watching is not the same as conversing. What has your experience been?

When family members and friends have died, many places have required new procedures and protocols. Limits on the number of attendees at funerals and burials have not allowed us to express our grief and loss together. Similarly, births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries and other significant life changes are impacted by restrictions because of health and wellness concerns.

Social upheavals tear individuals with conflicting loyalties and personal experiences. Societal injustices are condemned in words and slogans often taken literally or exclusively, whether intended or not. Everyone, not just an individual here or there, is important and deserving of the respect God intends us to show! The faith of the entire Church, including the LC-I, proclaims and seeks to provide justice and dignity without regard to skin color or ethnic origin, committing us to racial and social justice for all people. Our words, positions, and actions must follow the demands of our faith in unconditional love for all people, not just for those who are like us or agree with us. We must learn from the past, not repeat it.

Forgetting, and **remembering**: we need to rise above the many crises in the world today, to proclaim God's purposes and unconditional love in Jesus Christ. We are all imperfect, we fail daily in our lives; the Scriptures and the Confessions acknowledge our separation. But, with forgiveness and discernment of our redirection by God, we all stand corrected and can faithfully serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Richard W. Horn, Editor



Stay SAFE, Stay HEALTHY

COVID-19 has created an unprecedented upheaval throughout the world. But though some countries have greatly reduced the outbreaks and resulting deaths, that has not been true in much of the United States. Nearly all international travel to and from the US is stopped, even to Mexico and Canada. States in the Northeast now require a mandatory 14-day quarantine for travelers from more than half of the other states!

The good news? Public health officials, immunologists and researchers across the globe are working desperately to find a safe and effective vaccine as well as therapeutic medications to treat the symptoms. Although progress is being made in record time, it is not going to be available overnight. Perhaps by the end of 2020 (only 5 months away!) one or more vaccines may initially be available.

In the meantime, the first wave has not yet slowed down and a second and possibly more severe wave is expected. Deaths by the end of the year may be doubled or even quadrupled the present totals.



What can you do both personally and with your congregation? Listen to the scientific guidance from the public health officials! They have the latest evidence as this novel virus changes and adapts. Follow the guidance of your Governor and your state and local public health officials. Even if COVID-19 seems to be less prevalent, it has not yet been brought under control until a safe and effective vaccine is readily and reliably available. Wear a mask when out with others; it protects them from anything you may be carrying – and their mask protects you.

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 begin to reopen with social distancing, many people have been keeping these alternate means of ministry because of their mostly positive results! Have you found other means of communicating and keep in touch together? Let us all know. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

MEMORIAL GIFTS in honor or in memory of others can be sent to the LC-I Treasurer:
Pastor William Wigmore, 15 High Street, Lyons NY 14489

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

‡ Pastor Ken Keenan publishes a “Visual Storyteller” post on the LC-I Facebook page with photographs, Scripture and prayers for personal and congregational devotions.

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

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

Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org