

**ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
***CHURCH MOUSE***  
**April 2021**



**Sunday, April 4, 2021**

**Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday**

Worship in Church or Drive In With Communion 10:00 am  
Vi Davidson

**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

Worship in Church or Drive In With Communion 10:00 am  
Ned Lindstrom

**Sunday, April 18, 2021**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Worship in Church or Drive In With Communion 10:00 am  
Ned Lindstrom

**Sunday, April 25, 2021**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am  
Ned Lindstrom



***Join us for indoor worship or in the church parking lot  
for the Drive In service***

## Something new emerges

### Reflections from a pastor living with disabilities

By [Terrence McCarthy](#) March 9, 2021

Recently, I've been reflecting on grief—not simply the sorrow experienced upon loss of a loved one but any type of loss. We grieve when we lose a job or experience financial difficulties. We grieve when we face challenges to our health and, daily, when we face chronic pain, illness or [disability](#). We grieve when we must change short-term plans unexpectedly or when our long-term expectations aren't realized.

In the moment, I haven't always been aware of these small daily doses of grief. But I believe it's helpful for us to understand that we grieve daily and to name those small or ongoing losses. Otherwise, they can build up over time and impact our physical, social, emotional and spiritual well-being.

The [grief](#) in these losses is unpredictable and can come in waves. You can be fine, even joyful, one moment—then the wave hits, and, suddenly, you're a pile of dust on the floor.

Four years ago, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Four months after that, I experienced a stroke. The MS diagnosis came after many appointments and tests for neurological changes I felt were happening. The stroke occurred suddenly, as I was watching my then-9-year-old son's baseball game.

After five months of inpatient rehabilitation at four separate facilities, I finally arrived home and began trying to adjust to life after the permanent motor paralysis of my left arm and leg. My grief—and my absolute resolve not to be immobilized but to return to my ministry and relationships as fully and independently as I could—caused anxiety in my home. My perseverance (which my spouse called stubbornness), my urgency to move forward as quickly as I could and my lack of awareness of my own impairments were other aggravating factors.

If I were asked how one survives after a life-changing loss, I hope I would have the wisdom and courage to say with compassion that you don't survive—part of you dies. The part that was with this person, or this dream or this financial stability, can die. But when something dies, there are always remains. And out of these remains, something new can emerge.

The apostle Paul tells us that faith, hope and love remain (1 Corinthians 13:13). Earlier in the chapter, he tells us that love endures all things. I have found this to be true.

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The grief in these losses is unpredictable and can come in waves.

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One activity that I've treasured over the years has been collecting dead tree branches and carving them into walking sticks with my son, Luke. When I first had my stroke and discovered that my left arm was severely affected, I was afraid I would never be able to carve sticks again.

Thanks to a wonderful recreational therapist who planted the seed with me in the first weeks after my stroke, I found myself picking up a stick and a knife about two years later and trying to figure out some way I could carve the stick. I do it differently now than I did before. A lot of the time, I hold the stick between my knees, position it against my shoulder or anchor it with the weight of my left upper arm and elbow on one end.

I call this "carving resurrection wood" because the sticks I start with have broken off a tree or been cut down and left to rot. With patience and persistence, I'm able to turn them into items that I hope not only look sharp but can be life-giving to others.

The gift that emerges from the ashes of what we lost doesn't replace what was lost, but it can point us in new directions. My greatest fear after having my stroke and realizing my limitations—to my mobility, my endurance, my concentration and my attention—was that I had lost my profession.

It was a profession I had aspired to my entire life. I had finally entered seminary, graduated and been ordained—then, five years later, bam! My ministry was dead. Or so I thought.

After inpatient rehab, I received home-based, then outpatient, therapy for six more months.

Gradually, my mobility and endurance improved. I began to think about returning to professional ministry in some capacity.

I learned that the Gettysburg, Pa., campus of [United Lutheran Seminary](#) was looking for a chaplain and pastoral presence. The part-time position was a perfect fit. I am blessed that this ministry emerged from the remains of what I had lost.

I find statements that one "gets over" or "moves on" from grief to be harmful platitudes. Grief isn't something you recover from. It may change over time, and people might integrate it into their sense of self.

Now I simply identify myself as living amid grief. I am living after a life-altering stroke and a diagnosis of progressive MS. I'm living with the blessing of being a pastoral presence for students. I am living with my loved ones and treasured friends. I am living. That's who I am.

## **St. Timothy Church Council**

*President- Kristie Bloomquist*  
*Vice President - Marty Hunt*  
*Secretary - Marcy Saar*  
*Kathy Carlson      Tammy Haas*  
*Linda Milks      Pastor Ivy Gauvin*

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*Treasurer - Julie Bihler*  
*Financial Secretary - Kathy Carlson*

*Do you have questions or ideas for Council? Feel free to share them with any council member or write them down and leave in the office.*



5 Kevin Carlson	16 Ann Saar
8 Sandy Carlson	20 Thom Shagla
9 Michael Krott	20 Steve Sellstrom
10 Kathryn Helfrich	23 Marcia Stafford
15 Irene Terreberry	24 Dianne Sloan

### **Online and Smartphone Giving via Give+ App**

**ONLINE GIVING** at St. Timothy for Debit/Credit cards

*Three ways to give:*

- *Go directly to our website at [www.sttimothybemus.com](http://www.sttimothybemus.com).*
- *Use our QR code with the QR reader on your smartphone.*
- *Download the app 'GivePlus Church'. Create an account.*

*For further information, see Kathy Carlson on Sundays or call her at 485-1316.*





5 & 2 Ministry has increased its bin count to 90. Thank you to all who have supported this worthwhile ministry for our Bemus Point School children!

Fighting childhood hunger in our community one child at a time.

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR 5 & 2 MINISTRY!  
The 5 & 2 Ministry Sub Committee



Prayer Requests: Gene Heil, Dave Bentley, Pastor Ivy Gauvin, Karen Johnson, Roy Pihl, George and Janet Balcom, Maj-Britt Traynor, Beverly Klang, Trudy Fetzner, Mabel Trantum, Thom Shagla, Matt Isaacson, Alice Swartz, Dan Burns, Karen Brown, Beth Gardner, Barb Mattern, Joseph Gauvin, Emerson Allaby, Sarah Van Staalduinen and Dick Starks those serving in the military and law enforcement and their families, including Ben Wickerham and Jeffrey Clauson, those caught up in violence and war who have no safe home in which to live. For all children, that the love of Christ may reach them through all of us who have resources to love, protect, pray and provide for them.

## Council Highlights

### March 2021 Council Highlights:

- No Council meeting held in March.

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We will start the next Bible Study on Sunday, April 18th, same time, 10:45 - 11:30 am in the council library room. This 4 week Bible study of Hannah in the book of Samuel will focus on how God uses us in chaos and challenge. It is titled "The Year that Changed the World" by The Potters House.

Contact Sarah Goebel at 716-450-2986 with questions.

## Monthly Readings

### April 4, Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday

#### Readings and Psalm

[Acts 10:34-43](#)

*God raised Jesus on the third day*

[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

[1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)

*Witnesses to the risen Christ*

[Mark 16:1-8](#)

*The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.*

### April 11, Second Sunday of Easter

#### Readings and Psalm

[Acts 4:32-35](#)

*The believers' common life*

[Psalm 133](#)

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

[1 John 1:1--2:2](#)

*Walking in the light*

[John 20:19-31](#)

*Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

### April 18, Third Sunday of Easter

#### Readings and Psalm

[Acts 3:12-19](#)

*Health and forgiveness through the risen Jesus*

[Psalm 4](#)

The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)

[1 John 3:1-7](#)

*The revealing of the children of God*

[Luke 24:36b-48](#)

*Eating with the risen Christ*

### April 25, Fourth Sunday of Easter

#### Readings and Psalm

[Acts 4:5-12](#)

*Salvation in the name of Jesus*

[Psalm 23](#)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

[1 John 3:16-24](#)

*Love in truth and action*

[John 10:11-18](#)

*Christ the shepherd*

# Global Mission

By Marcia Brown, Mission Interpreter

## RESURRECTION PEOPLE

An old motto of our Synod was, “We are resurrection people who pray first, walk together, and change lives.” What are resurrection people? Since Jesus was raised and did not stay in the tomb, so are we resurrected. Our faith is not dead, dormant, or sleeping, but is alive in this world and active to help others. For the past year, some local outreach has had to be curtailed because of the pandemic, but the mission of the Church goes on, with even greater need. Our larger ELCA church body continues to sponsor missionaries, feed the hungry, assist those affected by disasters, open new congregations, and so much more. Through your mission support, resurrection life is experienced all over the world:

- In Peru, Noemi persisted despite many challenges growing up. Then, she discovered an ELCA companion ministry which trains vulnerable people in tolerance, respect, equity, and social justice.
- At Bridge of Peace Community Church in New Jersey, a food pantry has adjusted its routine to account for the pandemic, while drastically increasing the number of people it serves.
- In Serbia, many Roma people are returning from migration. When the Salijevski family returned, they were homeless until they connected with Children on the Move, which aims to reduce the number of people living on the street, and ensures that children have access to education.
- In Milwaukee, the Strong Baby Program raises awareness about safe infant sleeping practices to reduce infant mortality, which is three times higher in African-American babies.
- In Tanzania, Eva got essential support from a palliative care program when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. 25 facilities across the country accompany people facing medical issues.
- In Chile, Maggie shares information about health topics through workshops and community events, and herself learned how to cultivate a vegetable garden in her tiny yard.
- In the US, newcomers like Tamara, who escaped poverty and violence in Haiti, receive shelter, food, help with travel, legal services, and connection to essential lifelines.

When you feel the joy of Jesus’ resurrection this Easter, know that you are also bringing resurrection to so many others through your mission support. ***Thank you!***

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God’s Work. Our Hands.



## Ways to Help this Month:

- 5 & 2 donations. Lists of food items and sizes available on the church website.
- Bemus Point Food Pantry. Items needed are cereal, spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, soups, canned fruit, applesauce, toilet paper, dish soap, shampoo and toothpaste. **Monetary donations are always welcome.** Contact Marty Hunt 720-0460 for donations and questions.
- Can tab collection: The Synod Assembly planning team has decided to DISCONTINUE with the collection of aluminum can tabs for THIS year.
- Honduras Promise Children Project needs new sponsors
- **Mailing in your weekly or monthly offering would be greatly appreciated for April if you haven't already done so.**

In lieu of flowers, donations are still being accepted for St. Susan's Soup Kitchen.

# New Learning Opportunities in Our UNYS Online Learning Platform

Faithful Learning and Teaching Together (FLATT) Current Offerings:

## **My Neighbor is Muslim: Exploring the Muslim Faith**

8 Weeks

Tuesdays at 4:00PM-5:00PM (April 6, 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25) Class is limited to 15 people

Led by Barbara Cox

SIGN UP here: (<https://forms.gle/QtyHPUcamiEomyKpa6>)

About the course: Barbara will lead an 8 week study exploring the Muslim faith. The course will use a guide that was written by a group of interfaith clergy and is published by Lutheran Social Services Minnesota. This resource helps people to understand some of the similarities and distinctions among Abrahamic faiths, focusing on Islam. Dr. Gulsum Gurbuz-Kuchuksari will attend the class on April 27 as a guest so that participants may ask questions to clarify any information in the study, and as time permits, ask broader questions about Islam or interfaith relations.

Required Materials: The study used in this session may be downloaded at no cost from [www.lss.mn.org](http://www.lss.mn.org)

SIGN UP here: (<https://forms.gle/QtyHPUcamiEomyKpa6>)

Once registered you will be sent the Zoom link for the sessions along with the other necessary information from the leaders. There is no cost to participate. Questions? contact Pastor Lori Kochanski ([lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org](mailto:lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org))

More about the leaders: Barbara Cox and her husband moved to the Watertown area at the end of November 2019. Barbara is a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary, completing a MA degree. [Special Guest on April 27: Dr. Gulsum Gurbuz-Kuchuksari teaches "Introduction to Islam" at Wartburg Theological Seminary and serves on the faculty at a number of academic institutions. Dr. Gurbuz-Kuchuksari has been a Chaplain in Arizona and Massachusetts. She holds a Master of Arts in Islamic Studies and Christian Muslim Relations from Hartford Seminary (2008), and her PhD is in Near and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Arizona (2016).]

### More about the sessions:

Session 1 - Five Pillars of Islam

Session 2 - Islam & Jesus

Session 3 - Islam & Jews/Christians

Session 4 - Learning session with Dr. Gulsum Gurbuz-Kuchuksari (ask questions to clarify any information in the study, and as time permits, ask broader questions about Islam or interfaith relations)

Session 5 - Islam & Charity

Session 6 - Islam & Violence

Session 7 - Islam & Finance

Session 8 - Islamic State

**Art and Spirituality: Visual Journaling and Conversation with In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit by the Rev Dr. Yolanda Pierce**

NOTE: This course is offered two times each week. Please sign up for just one session, either Thursday evening or Friday morning.

5 Weeks (choose one, either Thursday **OR** Friday)

**Thursday Evenings**, 7:00-8:15PM April 22, 29 May 13, 20, 27 (NO SESSION ON MAY 6)

**Friday Mornings**, 9:30-10:15AM April 23, 30 May 14, 21, 28 (NO SESSION ON MAY 7)

Classes are **limited to 15 people.**

Led by Pastor Lori Kochanski

SIGN UP here: (<https://forms.gle/QtyHPUcamiEomyKpa6>)

*About the Book:* "What if the most steadfast faith you'll ever encounter comes from a Black grandmother? In the pages of *In My Grandmother's House*, Pierce builds an everyday womanist theology rooted in liberating scriptures, experiences in the Black church, and truths from Black women's lives. Pierce tells stories that center the experiences of those living on the underside of history, teasing out the tensions of race, spirituality, trauma, freedom, resistance, and memory. A grandmother's theology carries wisdom strong enough for future generations. The Divine has been showing up at the kitchen tables of Black women for a long time. It's time to get to know that God."

<https://www.yolandapierce.com/scholarship> (more about the author:

<https://www.yolandapierce.com/about>).

**About the Course:** This course invites you to intentionally practice artful journaling as a way to reflect on the book *In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit* by the Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce. We will work individually through the week and then share our work within the group in order to have conversation with others.

The course requires an intentional commitment to read and reflect.

In between sessions each individual will prayerfully read a section of the book and artfully reflect on the content. You may use a variety of mediums for reflection...drawing, collage with found images, words or a combination of all of these as you receive the book.

In order to get the most out of this course you will need to spend time reading and reflecting creatively on the text during the week.

Required: purchase a copy of the book *In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit*, Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce

Suggested supplies: unlined blank journal, pen, markers or colored pencils, magazines for use in collaging

SIGN UP here: (<https://forms.gle/QtyHPUcamiEomyKpa6>) Once registered you will be sent the Zoom link for the sessions along with the other necessary information from the leaders. There is no cost to participate. Questions? contact Pastor Lori Kochanski ([lkochanski@upstatenynod.org](mailto:lkochanski@upstatenynod.org))

**More about the sessions:**

Session 1 - Introduction to Visual Journaling

Session 2 - Chapters 1-4

Session 3 - Chapters 8-10

Session 4 - Chapters 10-12

Session 5 - Chapters 12-14

**Growing Young: Helping Congregations Authentically Engage Young People**

4 Weeks

**Thursdays** at 7PM on May 6, 13, 20 and 27

Class is **Limited to 50 people**

Led by Abby Mandris, Nick Stroczkowski, Megan Wolling

**SIGN UP** here: (<https://forms.gle/QyHPUcamiEomyKpa6>)

"All churches grow old. Strategic churches grow young." - Growing Young Research

This course will introduce participants to the growing young initiative and lead people through the six essential strategies to help young people discover and love your church. This is not a quick fix approach to filling your congregation with young people. This is a culture change process that can lead to deeper and more meaningful relationships within your entire congregation and larger community.

This course is based on the research conducted by the Fuller Youth Institute with over 250 innovative churches engaging 15- to 29-year-olds that are growing—spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

You will need to **buy the book** *Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin - available from the Fuller Youth Institute (<https://shop.fulleryouthinstitute.org/collections/back-to-school-collection/products/growing-young>) and your favorite online retailers.

**SIGN UP** here: (<https://forms.gle/QyHPUcamiEomyKpa6>) Once registered you will be sent the Zoom link for the sessions along with the other necessary information from the leaders. There is no cost to participate. Questions? contact Pastor Lori Kochanski ([lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org](mailto:lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org))

More about the leaders:

Abby Mandris is the Program Coordinator of Lutheran Youth of Western NY and a trained Growing Young Facilitator.

Nick Stroczkowski is the Director of Lutheran Youth of Western NY, the Water Front Director at LCLC and a trained Growing Young Facilitator.

Megan Wolling is the Central Crossroads Youth Coordinator, Youth Director at St. Mark's, Baldwinsville and a trained Growing Young Facilitator.

**More about the sessions...**

Session 1 (5/6) Introductions & Empowering Leadership

Session 2 (5/13) Empathy & Jesus' Message

Session 3 (5/20) Warm Relationships Across Generations

Session 4 (5/27) Being the Best Neighbors & Planning for the Future



*We have returned to  
worshiping in the  
sanctuary as well as  
worshiping in our cars.*

*Time: 10:00 a.m.*

*Place: 3748 Rt. 430*

*Length: 30 minutes*

**WEAR YOUR MASKS**

**Coming inside? COME EARLY!**

While Pastor Ivy is out, you can contact Pastor Heather Allport-Cohon if there is a need for pastoral care. She can be reached at 716-708-6466.

Synodically Authorized Minister Ned Lindstrom will be leading worship and preaching on Sundays. He can be reached at 716-490-3820.

Katie Castro will be leading worship the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month until Pastor Ivy's return.

**APRIL 2021**  
**WORSHIP AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**  
**AT ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

	APRIL 4	APRIL 11	APRIL 18	APRIL 25	
Assistant Liturgist	Sarah Goebel	Tammy Haas	Sarah Goebel	Sarah Goebel	
Ushers/Greeters	Marty Hunt/ Linda Milks	Marty Hunt/ Linda Milks	Marty Hunt/ Linda Milks	Marty Hunt/ Linda Milks	

St. Timothy Lutheran Church 716-386-7280  
Church Email: [sttimothy2015@gmail.com](mailto:sttimothy2015@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.sttimothybemus.com](http://www.sttimothybemus.com)  
Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/sttimsbemus>

# ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH – APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Good Friday 	3
4 10:00 am Worship w/Communion Vi Davidson <i>Easter Sunday</i>	5 Kevin Carlson	6	7	8 Sandy Carlson	9 Michael Krott	10 Kathryn Helfrich
11 10:00 am Worship w/Communion Bible Study 10:40 am	12	13	14	15 Irene Terreberry	16 Ann Saar	17 Church Council Meeting 10:30 am
18 10:00 am Worship w/Communion Bible Study 10:40 am	19	20 5&2 Packing 7 pm Thom Shagla Steve Sellstrom	21	22	23 Marcia Stafford	24 Dianne Sloan
25 10:00 am Worship Bible Study 10:40 am	26	27	28	29	30	

25 Give thanks that Jesus is the good shepherd who knows us, loves us, unites us, leads us through life and is willing to sacrifice his life for our sake.

26 Give thanks to God for the generosity and commitment across our church as it supports and funds global mission programs and accompanies companions in 45 countries through missionaries, companion church grants, the International Leaders Program and other programs.

27 In this sometimes lonely world, praise God that we always have Jesus, a loving shepherd who knows us and provides us with care, guidance, renewal, comfort and courage as we face the challenges of daily life.

28 Pray for the needs of people in your neighborhood and community, give thanks for their joys and recognize how their lives intersect with yours.

29 Pray that the Spirit will make us courageous and articulate in sharing the good news even in the most intimidating of circumstances, just as John and Peter did while in prison.

30 Give thanks for national and local leaders, health care workers and volunteers who continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and help us recover physically, economically, spiritually and emotionally. Pray that God will help them persevere and that we will generously express our support and gratitude.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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## PRAYER VENTURES

—APRIL 2021—

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*These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.*

1 As Paul said, our faith in Christ may seem like foolishness to some people but we can always trust in God's love for us through Christ because it is real, trustworthy and life-giving. Pray that God will embolden us to share our faith without hesitation or embarrassment and to invite others to believe even when doing so seems foolish.

2 *Good Friday* Remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God, for our sake and salvation. Give thanks that God looks upon us with concern, gracious love and mercy.

3 Lift up prayers of humble gratitude that through baptism our lives are conjoined with the life, death and resurrection of Christ, which enable us to "walk in newness of life" and be "alive to God."

4 *Easter Sunday* He is risen! Praise God! Give thanks that through Jesus' resurrection we are no longer constrained by sin and death but can celebrate salvation, new life and God's wonderful grace, which reclaims and changes us.

5 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Look around and give thanks for the people, community, world, wonders of creation and signs of God's presence and work that surround you.

6 *Arab American Heritage Month* Remember in prayer the diverse gifts, cultures, heritages and stories of our Arab and Middle Eastern siblings in Christ, who remind us of the rich history and tradition of Christ's church in the world. Ask God to bless and further the work, witness and advocacy of Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries in the ELCA and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage of the ELCA.

7 Give thanks for the generosity shared from across our church, which helps us respond to the needs of the world, live out our faith in service to our neighbors and proclaim the gospel everywhere.

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*This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact [info@elca.org](mailto:info@elca.org) for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.*

**8** Jesus continues to walk with us daily and to make his loving presence known when we gather with bread and wine, remembering the sacrifices he made for our sake and for the restoration of our relationships with God. Give thanks and praise to God for being in our lives!

**9** Give thanks for the empathy and support expressed by the Rev. Martin Junge, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), in his letter to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and our church in a time of political and social tension. “People need to talk and listen to each other again,” he wrote. “Broken relationships need to be mended. People need to trust again so that they can live and work together. People need to heal from their pain and their wounds.” Give thanks for the LWF, a global family who accompany one another in doing God’s work in the world.

**10** Pray for the humility to acknowledge and respect God’s infinite power, presence and grace for the sake of all people.

**11** Jesus is with us in times of fear and uncertainty, just as he was with his troubled disciples after the resurrection. Pray for the Spirit to encourage our faith, ground us in the good news of Christ and grant us peace, reassurance, hope and direction throughout our baptismal journey.

**12** Give thanks for signs of spring! Some places still have snow on the ground, yet others show signs of nature blossoming and new life emerging. Give thanks for the good, life-giving work of our Creator, who urges patience and stirs new life and hope in every season.

**13** Pray for Creation Justice Ministries, Lutherans Restoring Creation and other ministries, organizations and networks that deepen our awareness and knowledge of creation and the environment and equip us to care for creation and our communities.

**14** “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” Pray that God will help us better understand what living together in unity requires of us as siblings in Christ and as world citizens striving for peace, justice, reconciliation and mutual care.

**15** Ask the Spirit to inspire wisdom, insight, compassion and boldness in the members of the ELCA Church Council as they gather online this week to guide and shape the work of our church in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, serving our neighbors in need and supporting our congregations.

**16** Pray that, as we share the gospel and serve our neighbor, we will recognize the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of our siblings in Christ who are also doing God’s work in the world.

**17** Pray for our ELCA missionaries serving alongside companion churches and organizations in Asia and the Pacific region, including the Rev. Phillip Baker (Cambodia), the Rev. Chandran Paul Martin and Timothy Melvyn (India), the Rev. Charles Peterson and the Rev. Jeffrey Truscott (Indonesia), Hailey Brenden (Nepal) and the Rev. Suk Yeon Lee (Jang) (South Korea).

**18** Lift up prayers of gratitude to God for the presence of the Spirit in our lives, which deepens our faith and trust in Jesus as the promised Messiah, helps us understand Scripture and moves us to respond to God’s call that we bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

**19** Give thanks for volunteers of all ages and gifts who serve in congregations, including teachers, assisting ministers, child care providers, committee members, greeters, singers, musicians, people who fix things and those who visit the ill or homebound. Praise God for the rich diversity of gifts, skills and passions we share in the body of Christ.

**20** The Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) is a pre-event to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Pray for the MYLE leadership team of youth, young adults and adults planning the summer 2021 event on the theme “Made Free.” Ask God to bless their work of creating a community, inclusive and accountable to all, that is inspired and woven together by the Spirit.

**21** What a joy it is to be called children of God because of God’s great love for us! We may not know or understand everything about God or what lies in store for us, but we are still loved, forgiven and claimed without condition. Thank and praise God!

**22** *Earth Day* Give thanks and glory to God for the blessings and mysteries of creation, entrusted to us to sustain and enrich all generations. Pray that God will make us wise, generous and responsible stewards of nature and Earth’s resources for the glory of our Creator and the well-being of our neighbor.

**23** Give thanks for our church’s partnership with Lutheran World Relief to support pandemic emergency response projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

**24** Remember in prayer people who are confined in our jails, prisons and correctional facilities. Pray that they will be treated humanely and justly, be renewed by the good news of Jesus Christ, and find hope and strength in God’s love and mercy. Pray for the Spirit to help us – as individuals and as faith communities – empathize with prisoners returning home and boldly extend our hospitality, acceptance and support as they do the difficult work of building new lives in our communities.