

**ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH MOUSE
July 2020**



Sunday, July 5

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship in Spirit or Drive In 10:00 am With Communion

<http://www.sttimothybemus.com/coronavirus-updates.html>

Sunday, July 12

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship in Spirit or Drive In 10:00 am

<http://www.sttimothybemus.com/coronavirus-updates.html>

Sunday, July 19

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship in Spirit or Drive In 10:00 am With Communion

<http://www.sttimothybemus.com/coronavirus-updates.html>

Sunday, July 26

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship in Spirit or Drive In 10:00 am

<http://www.sttimothybemus.com/coronavirus-updates.html>



***Join us in the church parking lot for the Drive In service
Or***

***Grab a cup of coffee and join us via the link to worship
together in Spirit each Sunday at 10:00 am***

Pastor's Ponderings

Ahhh...the weather has greatly improved. The sun is shining and doesn't it make you feel better even if you don't get out? After the months of seeming isolation, do you find yourself lonely? As I get close to people in public, I back off, maybe going down a different grocery aisle. This is not a bad thing these days, but I am an outgoing person and I keenly feel the loss seeing and hugging friends and family. We so carefully approach those with who we do come into contact. Is that likely to change in the near future? It doesn't seem so.

Our approach to worship now is distinctive. A year ago, who would have thought that we would be worshipping in our parking lot in our cars? Even when we do return to indoor worship, it will be greatly altered from anything we have previously experienced. The up side of the whole COVID 19 pandemic is that it has forced us to be creative in how we approach doing the things that were so commonplace. There used to be a certain sameness, things you could expect in liturgical worship, but that has all changed. I cannot help but wonder what other surprises God has planned for us.

In July we will continue to work our way through the gospel of Matthew, beginning with the theme of the yoke of discipleship; continuing on through various Matthean parables. We will continue to hear Paul's teaching to the Romans throughout the month with Paul's struggles with himself in chapter 7 on the first Sunday and embracing the wonder of nothing being able to separate us from God's love in chapter 8 for the last Sunday of the month. Our Administrative Assistant, Kathy Korcyl, always posts the scripture readings for each Sunday in the e-ministry and Church Mouse. Check them out!

In the midst of the unsettled state of our world and country, can we allow God to speak to us through the everyday things of life like a beautiful sunrise or sunset, the blossoming trees and plants, the riotous colors of flowers, the chirping of birds? We can experience peace in this way in spite of what is happening in the rest of the world.

As the psalmist wrote:

- ¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- ²Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
- ³There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
- ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world. (Psalm 19:1-4)

May we appreciate God's handiwork, listening to its speech and watching its glory. Please work and play safely throughout these days of summer.

Pastor Ivy

St. Timothy Church Council

President- Kristie Bloomquist

Vice President - Marty Hunt

Secretary - Marcy Saar

Mary Lou Krott Tammy Haas

Linda Milks Pastor Ivy Gauvin

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 Mardell Hanson | 18 Barb Simpson |
| 5 Carly Hanson | 18 Luke Briggs |
| 5 Cheryl Shagla | 20 Gale Svenson-Campbell |
| 9 Marla Oste | 25 Ann Bentley |
| 11 Scott Oste | 29 Susan Caruso |
| 14 Susan Benjamin | 29 Laurie Wickerham |
| 17 Jack Hanson | 30 Stacie Cummings |
| 17 Jane Saar | |

+++++

Online and Smartphone Giving via Give+ App

ONLINE GIVING at St. Timothy for Debit/Credit cards

Three ways to give:

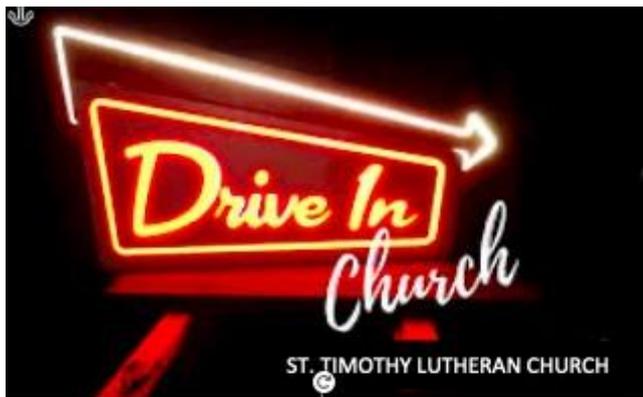
- Go directly to our website at www.sttimothybemus.com.

- 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.





WHAT A FANTASTIC WAY to worship together during the COVID-19 pandemic! We are continuing our St. Timothy **Drive-In Service** through Labor Day – rain or shine.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Our parking lot

Length: 30 minutes

Come as you are!

Tune your car radio to our service!

98.3 FM

Prelude begins at 9:45.

Sit back, wave to everyone you see and enjoy the service!

COVID-19 State Mandates

No one exits their car

Windows up **OR**

Windows down if you wear a mask

5 Loaves & 2 Fish Ministry

sand2ministry@gmail.com

P.O. Box 152 Clymer, NY 14724

ENTER



No packing June-August but will hopefully resume in September. If you would like to help, contact Gale Svenson-Campbell at gales1949@gmail.com.

We are still collecting food for the 5 & 2 Ministry, bring your items and place in the bin in the front entranceway of the church. Lists of needed items are available in the narthex.

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

Congratulations to all the Graduates in the Class of 2020.

The lawn signs for the Jamestown Seniors says it all:
“The Class with Vision, but we didn’t see THIS coming”



Monthly Readings

July 5, 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings and Psalm

[Zechariah 9:9-12](#)

The king will come in humility and peace

[Psalm 145:8-14](#)

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

[Romans 7:15-25a](#)

The struggle within the self

[Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30](#)

The yoke of discipleship

July 12, 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 55:10-13](#)

The growth of the word to accomplish God's purpose

[Psalm 65:\[1-8\] 9-13](#)

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

[Romans 8:1-11](#)

Live according to the Spirit

[Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)

The parable of the sower and the seed

July 19, 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 44:6-8](#)

There is no other God than the LORD

[Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19](#) (alternate)

God's sovereignty: both righteous and forbearing

[Psalm 86:11-17](#)

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

[Romans 8:12-25](#)

The revealing of the children of God

[Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)

The parable of the weeds

July 26, 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings and Psalm

[1 Kings 3:5-12](#)

Solomon's prayer for wisdom

[Psalm 119:129-136](#)

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

[Romans 8:26-39](#)

Nothing can separate us from God's love

[Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#)

Parables of the reign of heaven



Prayer Requests: Hans Steen, Roy Pihl, Rose Johnson-Prieur, George and Janet Balcom, Maj-Britt Traynor, Beverly Klang, Trudy Fetzner, Thom Shagla, Matt Isaacson, Mabel Trantum, Mark Patterson, Gloria Fitzpatrick, Sarah Van Staalduin, Alberta Prall, those serving in the military 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.

Everyone is welcome to Adult Education. We meet via Zoom (you can phone in) on Tuesday mornings at 10. We are studying and discussing *30-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Join us even if you don't have the book. Here is the Zoom link:

Ivy Gauvin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Ivy Gauvin's Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7892424641?pwd=R1RaRGhRVGhkY29GRXh0QzJKTTd4QT09>

Meeting ID: 789 242 4641

Password: direction

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,7892424641#,,,,0#,,964089# US (New York)

+13126266799,,7892424641#,,,,0#,,964089# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 789 242 4641

Password: 964089

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/khqscE9Dt>

Global Mission

By Marcia Brown, Mission Interpreter

HELPING YOU FIND YOUR VOICE

Who do you look to when you need guidance on difficult social topics? Especially during these times when you are not in close communication with your pastor or congregation leaders? We belong to a church denomination that pursues justice and peace. Our faith and our call to boldly serve and love our neighbor take us into some interesting and challenging aspects of life: advocacy, corporate social responsibility, racial justice, science and ethics, peacemaking, justice for women, social issues, and community organizing.

The recent murders of Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Rayshard Brooks have brought the discrimination and violence experienced by black and brown Americans at the hands of law enforcement to the forefront of our nation's awareness, once again.

The delegates at last year's ELCA churchwide assembly adopted a social policy resolution, "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric," which states: "As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions. With them, we demand and will advocate for a more just, loving, and peaceful world where the gifts of all people are appreciated, and the lives of all people are treasured."

Do you feel helpless, though, in accomplishing that goal? Our Church also helps you take action. House and Senate members have introduced urgent and meaningful policing reforms to enhance public safety for all and help reverse impact of structural racism and racial profiling which lead to sanctioned violence. Although these are first steps, they are essential steps in a longer-term effort that needs to be carried out in local communities and in state capitols. We applaud police agencies which are voluntarily undertaking reforms and changing practices. Yet more must be achieved.

Congress must hear from us. Use your voice in support of these needed reforms. Send your legislators a customizable letter at the ELCA Action Center to illustrate your specific concerns today! Go to ELCA.org, click on Advocacy under "our work". At the right you'll see the Action Center. Click on "take action" and you'll see this topic, plus many more.

Your gifts to the ELCA in the form of mission support make this possible. Thank you! We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

Learning from loneliness

We have all spent weeks separated from many of our usual connections. This can be lonely. Some people, of course, are experiencing too much togetherness. But you can be lonely even if you aren't alone. It's lonely not to have your usual connections and interactions, even if you have been cooped up with your kids. And as things begin to open up, that loneliness may lessen but isn't completely going away. We are connecting with people at a distance, whether virtually or six feet away. The casual hug isn't coming back for a while.

This time can also be an opportunity, to use the solitude to reflect, learn and grow. The book *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes*, by Belden Lane, gives "testimony to the healing power of mountain silence and desert indifference." I read the book 20 years during a lonely, desert time in my own life, and still remember the comfort I received. It reframed the challenging time as an opportunity for spiritual growth.

Scripture is full of fierce landscapes. Abraham was called by God to move far away from family and all he knew best. The people of Israel wandered in the wilderness for years. Jesus, of course, went into the desert right before he began his ministry. It was a time of preparation for the challenges ahead. God can call us to uncomfortable places to prepare us for the work we are called to do.

Abbot Moses, one of the ancient Desert Fathers, said this to a monk: "go, sit in your cell and your cell will teach you everything." (*Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from the Northumbria Community*, 2002, p. 424). We are not monks, and we don't live in "cells" or solitary rooms. However, we can learn from this enforced time, if we embrace the opportunity. Spiritual teachers have long known that coming face to face with yourself is one of the greatest learning opportunities there is. This time has thrown us back on our own resources in new ways, whether we have been at home alone or in enforced togetherness.

As you continue to walk through these days, reflect on what this has been like for you, and what it is like today. What do you notice about yourself? What have you learned about

yourself from this time of isolation and loneliness? Or what have you learned about yourself from the enforced togetherness? What do you intend to do differently? What is God calling you to do now in this new environment?

It's not comfortable to walk through—and now live—such a landscape, such a time. Resources may seem scarce. Oases are few and far between. You don't know when—or if—you will come out the other side. The familiar seems unfamiliar, and the comforting and safe (like gathered worship) suddenly unsafe. Even as things begin to open up gradually, it's still unknown territory, with familiar faces wearing masks, and close relationships requiring distance. As worship begins for some, the experience itself is a little uncertain, even scary.

However, we already knew we were facing a new world, a new landscape in which to live as Christians and do ministry. That has been jumpstarted. Perhaps this is a gift. One pastor I coach said, "My church has talked about streaming worship for 10 years, since before I came here. We figured it out in 48 hours." I've told many of the pastors I coach that in some ways they have started a new job, one which they wouldn't necessarily have taken. But this is the work to be done at this time, a new call in this new environment.

As you continue to walk through these days, reflect on what this has been like for you, and what it is like today. What do you notice about yourself? What have you learned about yourself from this time of isolation and loneliness? Or what have you learned about yourself from the enforced togetherness? What do you intend to do differently? What is God calling you to do now in this new environment?

The Rev. Margaret Marcuson helps ministers do their work without wearing out or burning out, through ministry coaching, presentations and online resources Executive Director



Ways to Help this Month:

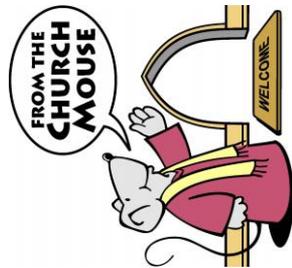
- ☐ 5 & 2 donations. Lists of food items and sizes available on the church website.
- ☐ Bemus Point Food Pantry. Items needed are cereal, spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, soups, canned fruit, applesauce, toilet paper, dish soap, shampoo and toothpaste. **Monetary donations are always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

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

3748 Route 430, P.O. Box 9190

Bemus Point, New York 14712

Address Service Requested



JULY 2020

THE WORD IN SEASON

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

			1 Matthew 11:20-24 Psalm 119:161-168 Jeremiah 18:1-11	2 Psalm 145:8-14 Zechariah 1:1-6 Romans 7:1-6	3 John 14:1-7 Psalm 136:1-4,23-26 Judges 6:36-40 Ephesians 4:11-16	4 Luke 10:21-24 Psalm 145:8-14 Zechariah 4:1-7
5 Matthew 11:16-19,25-30 Psalm 145:8-14 Zechariah 9:9-12 Romans 7:15-25a	6 Psalm 131 Jeremiah 27:1-11,16-22 Romans 1:18-25	7 Jeremiah 28:10-17 Psalm 131 Romans 3:1-8	8 Jeremiah 13:1-11 Psalm 131 John 13:1-17	9 Psalm 65:[1-8]9-13 Isaiah 48:1-5 Romans 2:12-16	10 Romans 15:14-21 Psalm 65:[1-8]9-13 Isaiah 48:6-11	11 Isaiah 52:1-6 Psalm 65:[1-8]9-13 John 12:44-50
12 Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 Psalm 65:[1-8]9-13 Isaiah 55:10-13 Romans 8:1-11	13 Psalm 92 Leviticus 26:3-20 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8	14 Ephesians 4:17-5:2 Psalm 92 Deuteronomy 28:1-14	15 Proverbs 11:23-30 Psalm 92 Matthew 13:10-17	16 Psalm 86:11-17 Isaiah 41:21-29 Hebrews 2:1-9	17 Hebrews 6:13-20 Psalm 86:11-17 Isaiah 44:9-17	18 Matthew 7:15-20 Psalm 86:11-17 Isaiah 44:18-20
19 Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 Psalm 86:11-17 Isaiah 44:6-8 Romans 8:12-25	20 Psalm 75 Nahum 1:1-13 Revelation 14:12-20	21 Galatians 4:21-5:1 Psalm 75 Zephaniah 3:1-13	22 John 20:1-2,11-18 Psalm 73:23-28 Ruth 1:6-18 Acts 13:26-33	23 Psalm 119:129-136 1 Kings 1:28-37 1 Corinthians 4:14-20	24 Acts 7:44-53 Psalm 119:129-136 1 Kings 1:38-48	25 Mark 10:35-45 Psalm 7:1-10 1 Kings 19:9-18 Acts 11:27-12:3a
26 Matthew 13:31-33,44-52 Psalm 119:129-136 1 Kings 3:5-12 Romans 8:26-39	27 Psalm 119:121-128 1 Kings 3:16-28 James 3:13-18	28 1 Kings 4:29-34 Psalm 119:121-128 Ephesians 6:10-18	29 Proverbs 1:1-7,20-33 Psalm 119:121-128 Mark 4:30-34	30 Psalm 145:8-9,14-21 Proverbs 10:1-5 Philippians 4:10-10	31 Isaiah 51:17-23 Psalm 145:8-9,14-21 Romans 9:6-13	

St. Timothy Lutheran Church 716-386-7280
Church Email: sttimothy2015@gmail.com

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH – JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Worship in Spirit Download interactive bulletin. Click on link http://www.sttimothybeamus.com/coronavirus-updates.html</p>			1	2	3	4 
<p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">5</p> <p>Drive In Service w/ Communion</p> <p>Mardell Hanson Carly Hanson Cheryl Shagla</p>	6	7	8	9 Pastor Ivy available via Zoom 1-5 pm Marla Oste	10	11 Scott Oste
<p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">12</p> <p>Drive In Service</p>	13	14	15	16 Pastor Ivy available via Zoom 1-5 pm	17 Jack Hanson Jane Saar	18 Barb Simpson Luke Briggs
<p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">19</p> <p>Drive In Service w/communion Council Mting 10:45 am</p>	20 Gale Svenson-Campbell	21	22	23 Pastor Ivy available via Zoom 1-5 pm	24	25 Ann Bentley
<p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">26</p> <p>Drive In Service Reopening Church Committee 10:45 am</p>	27	28	29 Susan Caruso Laurie Wickerham	30 Pastor Ivy available via Zoom 1-5 pm Stacie Cummings	31	

25 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the South Carolina Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

26 How do you envision and understand the kingdom of heaven? Pray that we might stay well-rooted in Scripture and the teachings of Christ to better understand the kingdom of heaven, and to be cautious in embracing cultural myths, traditions handed down and false promises about the kingdom of God.

27 Pray that we will continue turning to and prayerfully studying Scripture – individually and together. Pray that doing so will strengthen and deepen our faith, comfort and encourage us, guide us in loving our neighbor, and be a source of joy and thanksgiving.

28 What gives you cause for happiness and hope these days? Give thanks and praise to God for desiring joy, healing, renewed life and freedom for us and all humanity.

29 Praise God for the joy and reassurance of knowing that there is nothing – absolutely nothing – that can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ.

30 Give thanks for the special gifts, skills and minds of scientists, researchers and explorers who strive to better understand creation, improve the human condition, solve complex problems that cause us suffering, and restore and steward creation with a long view of sustaining future generations. Pray that they will make wise, responsible and just use of their research and discoveries for the well-being of all people and our planet.

31 Lift up in prayer our neighbors who are unemployed or underemployed and seek safe, meaningful work that will help them develop self-sufficiency and confidence and meet the needs of the people for whom they provide care, assistance and support.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

JULY 2020

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 this time of stress and uncertainty continues, pray that we will be persistent in our generous support for the mission of the church: comforting and caring for our neighbors, responding to the global impact of the pandemic, providing food and basic necessities for people in need, reaching out to the isolated and lonely, and aiding organizations that work for the health, well-being and restoration of our communities.

2 Give thanks for God's ever-present love and care, and for the message of the psalmist who proclaims, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

3 Ask the Spirit to help us express our gratitude and concern for first responders, nurses, doctors and hospital employees, and to show us how to serve as God's hands and voice in caring for their spiritual, physical and emotional needs.

4 Ask God to help us cherish and not abuse the blessings of freedom and liberty, work to change our society where there is injustice and oppression, and accompany our global neighbors and companion churches striving for freedom, justice and voice.

5 Give thanks that God's love and truth are revealed to us through faith in Jesus Christ and that the Spirit is at work inspiring and equipping us to share the good news, spread truth and invite others to believe.

6 Pray for wisdom and patience as we navigate how to gather as congregations and discern what is appropriate, safe, caring and respectful of the ongoing concerns of our members, communities and nation.

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 for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.

7 We understand well Paul's struggle between the inclinations of human nature and following the ways of God and teachings of Jesus. Pray for forgiveness and strengthened faith when we are weak or make poor decisions; pray that we will be guided and encouraged by the Spirit of God that dwells within us.

8 Thank God for our special relationship with the Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its diverse ministries and its members and leaders, and pray that together we will find mutual support, new partnerships and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

9 Give thanks that "the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made." Pray that our joy and thanksgiving will move us to be witnesses to God's presence, grace and mercy in the world for the sake of all people.

10 Pray for the 120 ELCA companion synods that connect our congregations with Lutherans and ministries worldwide. Give thanks that together we participate in God's mission, support each other, share our joys and sorrow, and use our gifts and resources to respond to human needs and grow the church.

11 Remember in prayer refugees and immigrants throughout the world and at our borders who hope for and seek welcoming, safe communities where they can reestablish their lives and raise their families. Pray that they will have access to health services, food and resources to meet their daily needs during this time of heightened vulnerability and isolation.

12 Pray that we will sow the seeds of the good news of Jesus Christ without bias or judgment as to how people will receive it, and that we will trust the Spirit to accomplish what God intends through our witness and service in the world.

13 Pause to reflect on the significance of the 50th anniversary of a Lutheran church choosing to ordain women in the United States. Give thanks for the leadership, ministry and gifts of women who have served the church throughout history and for those women who endured the hardships and work leading to the ordination of women.

14 Pray for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, that God will sustain her faith and strength and guide her leadership and decisions, particularly during this difficult and uncertain time in our church and society when we are looking to her for guidance and vision.

15 Give praise to God, for God's word is powerful, clear, true and trustworthy.

16 Pray for businesses that are struggling or reopening or have shut down, and for their owners, their employees and all the other people and businesses they impact. Ask God to help them make decisions and implement new health precautions that take into consideration the well-being and needs of their employees, the people they serve and their community.

17 Pray for voting members of the Western North Dakota Synod gathered for a special meeting and elections, and for members throughout the synod who will participate through livestreaming. Ask that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

18 Give thanks that God's word is a light to our path throughout life that guides us in our baptismal journey, fills us with hope and joy, and illuminates truth and justice.

19 It is a painful, nagging reality that there are both good and evil in the world. Pray that the Spirit will renew our faith, trust and patience that God's righteousness, judgment and mercy will reign when the end of time comes.

20 Give thanks for rostered ministers in our church who are active in call, on leave from call, awaiting call or retired. Praise God for their faith, gifts, caring leadership, example and sacrifices in response to God's call to a life of ministry and service.

21 We are church together; many members of the one body of Christ. Pray that the Spirit will unite us in our commitment to condemn sexism, anti-Semitism, white supremacy and racism against indigenous people and people of color, whenever and wherever these sins occur.

22 Pray that, like God, we might be "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

23 Pray for our ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries and their faculties, staff and students as they work to adapt to and overcome the disruptions and difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that faculty and staff will find effective ways of caring for students, continuing educational experiences both in person and from a distance, enriching faith and helping students discern and prepare for their vocations.

24 Pray that we will be filled with and led by the Spirit so that our actions, words and faith reveal who we are – children of God, followers of Christ.