

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens."

Phillipians 4:12

God's word is comforting in all circumstances. May we never forget or overlook that power if we want to live happy, joyous, and free lives. We have choices in how we feel and act.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

with Pastor Judith at www.alcsuncity.org/servicesanddevotions

July 14

[God's Will](#)



WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

GROUP STUDIES

Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall
or Conference Call
at 339.209.5700

SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE

Lesson: Ephesians 2:11-22
Psalm 23
Gospel: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

July 14, 2021

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JUDITH

Greetings,

As many of my fellow senior citizens know, as we age sometimes our bodies remind us of the passing of time in surprising ways. I used to wonder why the elderly talked about their health challenges and doctor appointments so much. I do not wonder anymore, as I have arrived at that point in my life. For example, this week alone I had three medical appointments! I went to the eye doctor, the dentist, and the digestive health specialist.

At the last one I was told I am in need of an upper endoscopy as a result of a previous discovery from a health procedure. The diagnosis was diverticulosis and MALT lymphoma. So now I'm off for a second opinion. I feel like I have joined the club that I once wondered about.

I share this diagnosis knowing that it is curable and knowing we continue to pray for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. I was going to just say that I have health issues, but I also know when I was working as a therapist, I learned that secrets can have a way of keeping us sick and are the root of many unanswered questions. I pray that I can be a role model for others of authenticity in my faith life. And so, we can also share our experience, strength and hope as we walk our spiritual journey together.

God promises to surround us with angels, and I certainly see that as I look into the eyes of my brothers and sisters and see the love of Jesus. As Christians, I pray we always feel safe sharing our lives with one another in appropriate ways.

In this wake-up call, I am reminded that I have a history of cancer in my family so I do not take this lightly, but certainly I know all will be well and all manner of things will be well. I cling to my favorite verse from Psalm 46:10, as I pray and meditate, "Be still and know that I am God."

Be Still and
know that I am

God

Psalm 46:10

Further medical opinions may reveal more or less, but I realize the time has come for me to make a life decision that has been difficult but realistic. Because I love what I do as Pastor of Spirituality and Care at ALC, I have hesitated to set a time frame on my ministry here. But when it was time to sign a new contract this week, I realized perhaps this was how God was inviting me into a life of retirement one more time. I told Pastor Lowell that we need to be careful about wanting a sign

from God about retirement as it may come in a way we least expect. As pastors, sometimes I think we never really retire; we just do different kinds of ministry.

My last retirement was 5 years ago! I have prayed about this current attempt of retiring by the end of 2021. Because I want to provide sufficient support and time for finding another to serve in this capacity, I intend to serve for three more months. This will be mid-August to mid-September, when Pastor Lowell goes on vacation to meet his new grandchild, and in November and December, which are very busy months for our church schedule and snowbirds are returning. The other months I will be on a leave of absence. Not only will this give us time to adjust but will also be a boost to the budget.

I share all in this article so you will not have to wonder, **“Where in the world is Pastor Judith?”**

I will most likely be spending time with family and friends, resting, and traveling as I continue to be a member of this wonderful congregation. I plan to continue to live here and be part of this beautiful congregation. I also intend to continue with plans for the Camino Santiago as a walking pilgrim leading our group from ALC just after Easter of 2022.

God is good all the time; all the time, God is good. I celebrate the flexibility regarding my leave of absence for three months while I plan for the next chapter of my life. Thanks to all of you for witnessing your faithful lives and sharing the love of Jesus with me. It continues to be a joy to be one of the many pastors who have served at ALC.

Prayerfully,



Pastor Judith



GEORGE AND JOYCE ZOSKE

Dear friends,

We have been told many times by our wonderful pastors that God loves us, He watches over us, and we need to put our trust in Him. Joyce and I experience His protection and love for us very recently. As survivors of the recent drive-by shootings we know God was watching over us and protecting us. We want to thank everyone for the many cards, well wishes, telephone calls and prayers of support and encouragement. Your kind words have enabled us to move on in peace. We were so comforted with the time Pastor Lowell spent with us while in the hospital.

God Bless Everyone.
George and Joyce Zoske

BOB GEIGER MEMORIAL SERVICE IN MINNESOTA LIVESTREAM

The memorial service for Bob Geiger will be held on Friday, July 23, 2021, at St. Phillip, The Deacon Lutheran Church. The visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. The service will be at 11 a.m. and it will be livestreamed at <https://spdlc.org/livestream/>. There will be lunch after the service.