

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

**"For by grace  
you have been saved."  
Ephesians 2:8**

I am so grateful God's grace is enough and God's grace says, I am enough. We often get caught up feeling guilty like we should do more, or we should be more. We do not have to earn God's favor. We received this when Jesus died on the cross for each of us. May we live with faith and gratitude for His gift and the life we are given to share the good news with others. May we be more intentional about living in a way that shows we are Christians by our love. May we walk our Lenten journey showing unconditional love and compassion that we have been shown by our Lord and Savior.

# MIDWEEK MESSAGES

February 17, 2021

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Greetings,

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*"Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my Spirit."*

*Psalm 31:5*

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I love the season of Lent. With it comes a desire to heal and be restored in faith. We are seeing days of healing and restoration in this COVID pandemic as vaccines and new treatments are showing promise. Hopefully, this time will become part of our history instead of being mired down in the increasing numbers and feeling of despair.

As a sign of this restoration, we are announcing the New Member Class which will be held on two Saturdays, March 20 and March 27, 2021 at 10 a.m. Plans are to welcome new members on the blessed day of Palm Sunday. This is the day we wave the palm branches reminding us of the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ.

As part of our Lenten discipline, I am asking each one of you to invite others to come to our classes to learn about our community of American Lutheran Church. Hopefully, their Lenten journey will include a commitment to become active members of a church that is being healed and restored. This is happening as we recover from the devastation of this last year of grief, which has been a result of the virus that has touched us all in different ways.

Our pilgrimage has taught us a lot and one thing is how much we need healing and restoration of body, mind, and soul. My prayer is that we have found even more meaning in belonging to American Lutheran Church as a home where we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in a way that gives witness to our gratitude for the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for each of us.

Glory be to God and blessings to you,  
Pastor Judith

## FREEDOM FROM REGRETS

For some reason, perhaps being raised Catholic, I always thought of the Lenten Season as "giving up" something.... never "preparing for" something. I much prefer the more positive idea of "preparing for" something rather than the more negative idea of having to "give up" something. However, after hearing Pastor Lowell's encouragement in his Sunday, February 7th message, I decided that "giving up regrets" is a freeing message, and it allows me to better prepare for trying to follow in HIS footsteps. Many of us, myself included, need to allow ourselves to have "freedom from regrets".



REGRETS. We all have them. “If only I had done this” or “If only I had said, or not said this...”. We tend to beat ourselves up with these regrets. Regrets can mire us in mud and suck us down. They can keep us in the past and not allow us to grow. They can cripple our very acts of being, doing, helping. However, what we need to do is ask ourselves, “How can we learn from these?” “What can we do differently?” God does not want us dwelling on the past---only what we can do for the present. Stay in the present. That is what He asks of us. One day at a time. One moment at a time.

It is hard to stay in the present, but it is what we need to do. We need to focus and concentrate on the “here and now”. Stay with this.

Practice this. Remember, there is no limit to God's wisdom. You can trust God and know that you are fully and completely loved.

The Spiritual Freedom God gives us allows us to have freedom from regrets!

In awe of God and his bountiful love for us,  
Terri Polk

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION JANUARY 2021

### Minutes Review:

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Congregation held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 have been reviewed by the appointed committee consisting of Mary Bortz, Larry Stage and Martha Livingston. They have certified the minutes as corrected and reflect the substance of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

The following have been asked and agreed to review the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Congregation: Donna Borden, Dick Jorgensen, and Ann Skidmore.

### Establishment of Quorum:

The appointed committee of Ted and Kathy Backman, Dennis Kellar, Myron Missling and Terri Polk met at 3:00 pm on February 12, 2021 to count the returned ballots for the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

American Lutheran Church has 1241 registered members as of December 31, 2020. A quorum is established at 10% which is 124.

A quorum was established with 452 returned ballots.

### VOTING RESULTS:

- Approval of the Budget: **440 yes** 8 no 4 left blank  
**BUDGET APPROVED**
- Approval of the 2021 New Council Members: **450 yes** 2 left blank  
**NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS APPROVED**
- Approval of the Trust Committee Members: **450 yes** 2 left blank  
**TRUST COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPROVED**

Tabulation of ballots were completed @ 3:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Rita Van Stelle, ALC Council Secretary

## SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEKEND'S SERVICE

Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
Gospel: Mark 1:9-15