



American Lutheran Church of Sun City  
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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020

## **MID-WEEK MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL**

Dear Members & Friends of ALC,

### **Fourth of July:**

As we enter July together, let us give thanks to God Almighty as we celebrate our 244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence as a free and sovereign nation. I encourage you to read again this key document as it continues to inspire us. Within it, we cherish two political freedoms clearly stated: First, that which we are “free from



second, that which we are recall, the Declaration led to the Bill of Rights and which we, the people, history.

“Dear God, instill your enthusiasm to engage in our days. Help us, Lord, to opportunity and great each one of us. God, we America.”

being subject to”; and “free to strive for.” As you the U.S. Constitution with subsequent Amendments instituted throughout our

people with the energy and democratic republic in these respect this awesome responsibility accorded to humbly ask you to bless

I will preach this coming weekend on the freedom of being a Christian which incorporates Luther’s insights on “freedom from” and “freedom to” with a foundational perspective of our “Declaration of Dependence” upon the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. When Christ sets you free, you are free indeed!

### **Pastoral care notes:**

Pastor Gary is taking some well-deserved time off, so I receive the privilege of providing more extensive pastoral care during his vacation. I am so proud of Pastor Gary’s work to invite, encourage, and support members who provide direct-care ministry to our members. From Stephen Ministry to Eucharistic Ministers, who minister individually or for some, lead worship services at different retirement communities, he is a bold proponent of Luther’s “priesthood of all believers” sentiment. All are invited into ministry! What a benefit to our church and what a great pastoral teammate! Blessings to Gary and Kathy in the coming weeks!

Pastor Judith is returning to Arizona after time with family in Nebraska, and I look forward to her enthusiastic spirit and love for our congregation. She will be preaching for the July 19<sup>th</sup> on-line service.

Lori Kellar is a vital member of our care team and has returned to Wisconsin to enjoy the summer with Dennis. She will continue to provide phone support to our members for care and wellness ministry topics. Enjoy the cooler weather, friend!

*Love, Pastor Lowell*

## IN TIMES OF THE PANDEMIC...I FOUND A HAPPY PLACE!

When the pandemic first started, I said to myself, “Surely, I can wait this out...I have plenty to keep myself occupied.” The first two weeks, I busied myself with church business and relaxing reading. I read three books and then dropped them off at the book drop-off at Fairview. Well, the pandemic wasn’t over yet, so I started the inevitable...some thorough spring cleaning just like my mom and Auntie Sis would do (believe me, that was thorough). I told myself, “Don’t get overwhelmed; just take 1 room at a time.” I cleaned places I don’t think I have ever cleaned before....those corners of the rooms, the walls and ceilings,...you know what I mean. Then, two weeks later that was crossed off my list. “Now what? Okay, let’s organize all of the papers: throw out the papers you do not need, set aside the papers and binders you need to take with you to Minnesota. Pack for Minnesota. Fast forward. Minnesota. Unpack. Clean. Plant. Can’t clean the windows yet. Too wet. Too muggy. Okay.” Interspersed with all of these activities there were some serious reflections on my thoughts and actions, “What can I do better, and what mistakes have I made?” I agree with myself that this reflection is an ongoing process. Now what? .....And so I wait.

Today, I got up and I asked myself, “What are you waiting for?” And to be honest, there is a lot I am waiting for: Peace, equality, tranquility, Heaven ...and much more. I can find small doses of these while watching the sunset, the hummingbirds, hearing birds sing, praying, meditating, watching children play, but I am still yearning. I am yearning to see and visit people...to welcome you back to American Lutheran Church...to see each of you and share, and smile, and pray together and thank you all for what you have done---your kindness and giving . Until then, I wait. But now I have a smile on my face. When I think of returning together with all of you, joining together and praising God, I am in my HAPPY PLACE! I will wait to welcome you, and thank you, singing and praying together! I can picture this...I can remember these times...and I am in a HAPPY PLACE!

*Smiling,*  
*Terri Polk, ALC Council President*



## THANK YOU’S

During our on-line services, I hope that you have been able to enjoy Jane Brambilla’s beautiful voice in her readings and as she shares two songs: “I Can Only Imagine” and “We Are One, Lord”. You can hear these on You Tube. In the search line type in American Lutheran Church of Sun City. Thank you also to John and Vicki Tate and Linda Shirck for their singing, readings and accompaniment.

*Sincerely,*  
*Terri Polk; ALC Council President*