

THE LIVE WIRE

www.americanlutheran.net

PLUG INTO THE HIGHEST POWER

December 10, 2020

A WORD FROM TRICIA

I think it's safe to say that none of us could have ever predicted how 2020 has turned out to be.

It's been a wild ride of emotions for all of us ranging from concern, sadness, fear, depression to optimism, gratitude, enthusiasm and hope. The thing I always come back to is that God is here.

He is in this with us. He is walking side by side with us on this journey we are on and if He is here then shouldn't we be content? Shouldn't we be satisfied?

The reality is life happens. Sometimes things are good. Sometimes they are not. Right now, I'm doing a lot of self-talk. I try to remind myself of the things that are positive in my life. Blessings like healthy kids, food on the table, a job that I love, friends that support me, parents that are safe and extra time to be creative or to work on that project I wanted to do.

Ultimately, I want to move into 2021 knowing that I'm better than I was this time last year. Looking back on this year, I'm struck with deep gratitude. Gratitude for the lessons I've learned, for the darkness that helped me appreciate the light and for the people who walked arm in arm with me to walk through it.

How are you dealing with the stress of these times? Do you find comfort in God's word? Can you identify blessings in your life? Are you reaching out to your friends, making sure they are alright? We need to be the church. If we believe that we are the hands and feet of Jesus, then even in these times, we can find creative ways to stay connected to God, each other and our church family. Pick up the phone and call that person. Write that note to encourage someone. Pick up those flowers that remind you of that happy person and drop them on their porch. Drop by a plate of cookies. A little goes a long way, especially these days.

May we shine His love more brightly than ever. Merry Christmas! **Tricia Sokoloski**

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STEVE

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Folks, as I venture out and engage many of our homebound church members I find some common themes: loneliness, depression, fatigue and frustration. The isolation and social distancing which is necessary considering the outside events in the world do have an underlying negative effect upon people designed by God as social beings. We as a church however can overcome this perilous situation that exists around us and with Christ, turn evil into good.

Romans 8:37-39, ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:28, ²⁸"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

I encourage you to reach out with the technology available to us in our modern world. Call each other, contact people you may know who have been absent as of late. Talk with each other and encourage each other in Christ. The simple phone call and act of caring will bring great inspiration to those going through hard times.

We as a church are all in this together. We are one team, one fight!

1 Thessalonians 5:11, ¹¹"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

As Christmas fast approaches let us show the love of Christ and the encouragement that comes knowing who He is in our lives to our fellow church members.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Pastor Steve Balog**

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ASTER WAY

Johan Glidden,
Kenny James,
Jon Hust,
Glory Arellano,
Cosimo Bohrman,
Curtis Gruver

ALBUM RELEASE

Friday, Dec. 18, 7 PM

Social Distancing
and Masks
Required

STAY CONNECTED

See what's happening throughout the week on our Facebook page: [American Lutheran Church](#)

Watch daily devotionals from our Minister of Music, David Sherman, on his [YouTube channel](#).

Both our Traditional & Contemporary online services are easily accessible via our [website](#).

If you have a prayer need, please e-mail Abbie at abbie@americanlutheran.net and your request will be passed on to the prayer team.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER:

11: Judy McLaughlin, Mary Shoenback

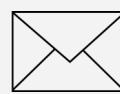
13: Mary Drake

14: Carol Evans, Jack Shannon

15: Calvin Cordes, Taylor Hicks,
Lois Hilgendorf

16: John Dunkel, Gerald Emery

3 WAYS TO GIVE



Envelope: Ask for a box of personal numbered envelopes from the church office or mail in your tithes

Mobile: Download the Tithe.ly App to give a one-time gift or to schedule ongoing giving using your checking account, debit or credit card. Or text GIVE to (928) 756-0099 and follow the prompts.

SimpleGiving: Request an automatic withdrawal form for recurring once a month giving, available in the office, M - TH 9 - 3 PM; F 9-12 PM.