

# Savior's Call

an interim newsletter

Lutheran Church of the Savior, Paramus, New Jersey

September, 2017

## So what happens now? Faith! Trust! Work!

**B**y now most of you know that my term as your interim pastor will come to an end on Sept. 24, as I move into full retirement. (My letter is elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The search for a new pastor will continue. The New Jersey Synod will provide supply pastors for the Sundays after I leave. (I will be the guest pastor on Oct. 1 in order to baptize Jake Agop Hazarian.)

You will continue to have faith, to trust that God will provide for the church, to work harder to help the church through this time of additional transition and strengthen your own faith.

The leaders of Church of the Savior have worked during the past two years to help shape our ability to move into the future and a new pastor will take you into that future. That journey will be both scary and exciting because that is what the future always is—scary and exciting.

You will be open and flexible as the time passes and when a new pastor arrives. The new pastor will be like other pastors you have had and unlike other pastors you have known. They will do some things as you have always seen them done; and they will do some things differently. I am confident that you will give the new person the same kind of help, respect, trust and love that you have shown me during the past two years.

See you in Church,  
Pastor Austin

## Do you still hear it?

### God's 'Call' continues

**T**he "call" from God continues. Our life circumstances change, but God's call remains.

The "call" is to believe God, trust in God, gather around God's word and the Sacraments, pray, and serve the world in the name of Jesus.

The "call" is to care for our neighbor and the world, protecting both as gifts of God.

How are we doing?



## *To be confirmed*

*September 24*

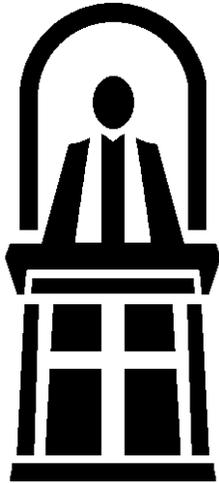
*Christophe Moderacki*



## Pastor Austin's Retirement letter

Dear friends at Church of the Savior,  
It is time for me to resign as your interim pastor.

Please do not think this is because anything is "wrong" with you. It has been a great privilege to be your interim for these past two years. I thank God and you for giving me this chance to serve.



I like doing what I do. But time moves on. I am now 76 years old, having technically retired 13 years ago. In those 13 years, there was only one year-long period when I did not have some kind of part-time or full-time "work," either as an interim pastor or church journalist.

These days, I sense that my energy is often weak and I worry that I am not

always as good at things as I ought to be. You need someone at their best, with more energy and vigor than I am able to give you, even part-time. Also, I do not want to be one of those guys who stays and stays and stays past the time when he should have left.

You are on the way in your transitional period. You are moving into your future, and I do not think I can take you any further along that road.

So my term as your interim pastor will end three weeks from now, on Sunday, September 24. Beyond that time, the New Jersey Synod, our bishop and your congregational leaders will arrange for pastoral services. You will interview and call another pastor, and we all pray that this will come soon. It is no one's fault that it takes a long time to call a pastor. We have a shortage of pastors and many factors come into play as pastors consider calls and congregations consider pastors.

As I often say, life is complicated. I had hoped I might stay with you until a new pastor comes. However, I now strongly feel that I must withdraw from this part of my life and ease into the next part of my life, whatever that may be.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you. Your leadership has given me excellent help and support during the past two years. Your own faith, dedication and prayers have inspired me whenever I felt droopy. I will miss that. But it is time.

As always... See you in church, at least until Sept. 24.

*Pastor Austin*

Baptized  
with  
the  
Holy  
Spirit



To be Baptized

Oct. 1

Jake Agop

Hazarian

## Let us pray

Of course we "pray without ceasing," following St. Paul's advice.

This month we need specific prayers for Jack Grove, recovering from heart surgery; Bob

Gawron, recovering from kidney surgery; Maggie Harrer, Brigita Berzins, and Cindy Day, recovering from minor injuries and repairs.

Let us pray for Jake Agop Hazarian, baptized Oct. 1.

We remember the people of Texas recovering from the destruction of Hurricane Harvey.

We pray for the Call Committee, our bishop and her assistants as they seek a new pastor for the Church of the Savior.

We pray fervently that the dissent, disorder and evils afflicting our civil society may be healed and that our nation and our world may find peace and justice for all.

We pray for ourselves, confessing our sins, accepting God's forgiveness and asking for stronger faith.

We pray for those who suffer any kind of oppression; that the hearts of the oppressors may be turned to justice and love.

We pray for our world, that our care of creation may preserve and protect God's wondrous gifts. We pray for the Church, that it may be strong in witness and service.



**Let us pray...**

## Farewell to Pastor Austin

It was 11 years ago that we first met Pastor Austin. Thus began our unique relationship. Little did we know that he would again be our interim pastor; this time for two years. His optimistic attitude, sense of humor, thought provoking sermons, Biblical knowledge and Martin Luther expertise have enriched us all.



Of course we know about Pastor Austin's child-like side. He can play a recorder and build sand castles bigger and better than anyone. He does not even cry when they are washed away. We will always remember his sand castle sermon as we are reminded to build our life on solid ground which is Jesus Christ.

As we venture forward with many doubts and fears, we trust that God is using his tools (us) to sculpt his masterpiece. We know that God only creates beautiful pictures and we look forward to the unveiling he has in store for us.

Pastor Austin.....We wish you sunny beaches, quality time with family, intriguing travels, new cooking adventures and great theatre experiences.

Most of all we pray for excellent health in the years ahead. "See you in church." Has been your signature. In return, we promise to STEP UP AND LEAN IN. That means God expects us to be in church to care for one another, share in the sacraments and further his ministry.

So to all of YOU...

See you in church.

Cindy Day, Head Elder

*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*  
(Isaiah 40:31)

## Reformation—500

As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation approaches, you will hear much about Martin Luther's "revolution" and its impact not only on the Church, but upon the whole world order.

For some fascinating insights, go to the "Living Lutheran" website and see the lists of "surprises" about Luther and the Reformation.

The Reformation was so radical, so sweeping, so powerful both religiously, socially and politically that historians have called it the single most important event up to the wars and technology revolutions of the 20th Century.

In the Church we remember first above all that Luther's quest was for a loving relationship with a loving God. He knew he was a sinner, unworthy of God's love. The Church at the time tried to tell him how to "earn" God's grace. And Luther tried hard to do that.

But scripture study—he was a university professor of the Bible—taught him that God's grace comes to us not because we are worthy, but because Jesus, the Son of God, came, died and rose again. This he did freely and out of love for us.

God's grace is then given us as a gift; and our faith is a gift from God. As we see that, we understand our sins, confess our unworthiness, hear God's Word of forgiveness in Christ and the Sacraments and then live our lives in joy, sharing that grace of God with the world.

Luther was a fascinating man. Brilliant, multi-talented, sometimes coarse and irreverent, he was also horribly wrong in his attitudes about the Jews. Fervent in his desire to proclaim God's grace, he did not set out to split the Church, but to correct its errors. He did not want his followers to be called "Lutherans."

But here we are, proud heirs of what he taught; and today—God be praised!—what Luther taught is also proclaimed in the Catholic Church. I think he would have liked that.

Pastor Austin



"Living Lutheran" online

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/reformation/>

## **Bishop Eaton on Care for Immigrant Children**

CHICAGO – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, issued the following statement Sept. 5 in response to the Trump administration's announcement about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

"As we journey together through the time God has given us, may God give us the grace of a welcoming heart and an overflowing love for the new neighbors among us" –*ELCA social message on Immigration adopted in 1997.*

We are saddened today by the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which provided relief from deportation to young people who have grown up as members of our churches, as neighbors playing with our children, and enriching our communities.

We pray today for those who will suffer undue repercussions due to the end of this program. As Lutherans, we regard the family as an indispensable social institution and stand firmly against policies that cause the separation of families.

As we lament this change in policy, we call on members of Congress to pass long-overdue legislation to protect young people brought to the U.S. as children, also known as Dreamers.

Our churches, our schools, our communities and the country are enhanced by their presence and contributions. It is time that our immigration policy reflects their gifts to all of us.

God's peace,  
*Elizabeth A. Eaton*  
*ELCA Presiding Bishop*

## ***The ABCs of "Lutheran"***

**W**e are **Lutheran**, that is, we are in the part of the Church that grew from the 1517 Reformation of Dr. Martin Luther.

We are also "**catholic**", that is, we are part of the universal Church, the meaning of the word, "catholic."

We are "**evangelical**," that is, we focus on the good news (which is what "evangelical" means), of Jesus Christ. We are not "evangelical" in the way that word is often used today by rigid, ultra-conservative churches.

We are an "**ordered**" church, that is, we are not individual believers in Jesus, we are part of the Body of Christ, gathered into congregations, synods, and a denomination called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We have agreed to worship, preach, teach and run our congregations in certain ways.

We are an "**ecumenical**" church, that is, we know that the Body of Christ includes others— Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, for example— and we are committed to seek unity and fellowship so that we may better proclaim the Gospel.

We are a "**worldly**" church, that is, we take action in the world, expressing our faith by serving others and seeking justice and peace.

## ***The Lutheran World Federation—a communion of churches engaged with the world***

**T**he LWF is a global communion of 145 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 74 million Christians in 98 countries. It puts the Lutheran faith into action within and beyond the communion, and seeks God's Word and Spirit for guidance.

This action takes a variety of forms, from theological reflection and dialogue with other churches and faiths, to deepening relationships, sharing faith with other Christians, serving those in need and advocating for a more just, peaceful and reconciled world.

LWF World Service is one of the most respected relief and development agencies in the world, with projects in dozens of countries, all service done in the name of Jesus.

Lutherans in the LWF share a vision, purpose and values. They work to strengthen relationships and build an inclusive, respectful communion.



**LWF**

## Words from the ELCA and beyond

### Hurricane Harvey relief

Lutheran Disaster Response teams are already on the ground in Texas and Louisiana assisting those affected by the hurricane.

### Presiding Bishop on gender discrimination in the military

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: "As church together, it's now more important than ever for us not only to pray, but also stand beside all who are facing many forms of prejudice. Transgender individuals should not be denied the opportunity to participate in our armed forces. We should honor the courage and sacrifice of all members of our military regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation and join those who serve in upholding the respect and dignity of each person." The ELCA 2013 Assembly pledged the church to oppose "employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity."

### Pastor LaCroy of Teaneck on Southern "Identity."

Pastor Gary LaCroy, St. Paul's, Teaneck, wrote an op-ed article for The Record declaring that southerners should be proud of their ancestors who fought in the Civil War, but not of the leaders who led them into a war in defense of slavery. Go to [northjersey.com](http://northjersey.com) and search LaCroy and you will find the article.

### Women pastors gather in Wittenberg

More than 100 women pastors, including 17 bishops and women in leading church positions from Suriname, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Latvia, Norway and Greenland met in Wittenberg, Germany this summer, sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation. The LWF has 145 member churches and 119 of them ordain women.



Some of the 120 women bishops, pastors and church leaders



## Worship notes: Movements

**D**o you notice the "action" going on in our worship? Most people don't. But you should because the actions speak to us.

When there is confession, the pastor begins worship in the center aisle near the people. We stand together "outside the chancel" preparing ourselves to enter.

There is movement as the pastor makes the sign of the cross in absolution. Then the pastor enters the chancel, representing all who are now "prepared."

Action and movement also surround the celebration of the sacrament. The pastor moves to the altar table. Bread and wine are brought. The table is set. The pastor's hands are extended in prayer. Bread and wine are blessed and lifted up as we remember the words Jesus spoke in establishing the sacrament.

There is more movement as people come forward to receive.

As the liturgy closes the pastor leaves the chancel, having "sent out" the worshippers into the world.

We prepare, enter God's presence, re-enact the "meal." We may kneel, bow our heads in prayer, make the sign of the cross. Then we go out, forgiven, refreshed, inspired, sent to be God's people in our daily lives.

The liturgy is a holy drama, with words, actions, movements, and music that brings the story of God's salvation in Jesus Christ "alive" in our worship.

---

## Cookbook giveaway in Pastor Austin's office



As part of his "downsizing," Pastor Austin is giving away about 60 of his many cookbooks. There are basic cookbooks, and books on Italian, French, American, and other cuisines. Some are by noted authors such as Lidia Bastianich and Jacques Pepin. They are on a shelf in the pastor's office. You are invited to come and take what you want.



## **Contact Us**

### **Church Office**

201-261-0420

### **Church Email**

coslutheran@verizon.net

### **School**

201-261-0420

### **Pastor Austin**

201-394-5485

### **Pastor Austin Email**

caustin4@optonline.net

### **Website**

<http://churchofthesavior-lutheran.org/>

## **Remember our mission statement**

The Lutheran Church of the Savior is a caring community of God's people, called in Jesus Christ, to live by the power of the Holy Spirit, thereby glorifying God the Father in our every day lives.

## **God's Work, Our Hands**

**Lutheran Church of the Savior  
643 Forest Avenue  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652**

## **Inside....**

- Pastor Austin is retiring, so what next?
- Concert at church Sept. 17
- Women pastors from around the world meet in Wittenberg
- The drama in our liturgy
- Cookbook giveaway
- ..... and more.

