

**KNIFE RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**MIDWEEK DEVOTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JANUARY 13, 2021**

**DEVOTION                      A Time to Lament**

There is within the Scriptures, and particularly within the Psalms, a long history of lament: of the honest and sorrowful outpouring of the human heart before God. Psalm 130, for example, begins, “Out of the depths I cry to You, O God; hear my voice.” Throughout the centuries countless numbers of faithful people have echoed such laments. The purpose of lament is to present before God our deepest griefs, fears, or conflicts, in a way that is genuine, but also in a way that acknowledges that God hears, cares, and will respond. Lament of this kind is an act of faith--not merely complaining or whining-- but a way to include God in the difficulties of our human condition and seek God’s compassion and help.

I would suspect that many might join me right now in finding themselves in a place of lament. 2021 has gotten off to a difficult start both nationally and personally for a lot of us. Just last Wednesday, on the festival of Epiphany, we witnessed a shocking scene of violence and chaos as an angry mob stormed our nation’s capitol building. This was something I had never expected to see in our country. Moreover, concerns continue that there could be further violence surrounding the upcoming inauguration; again, not at all the kind of behavior I expect of our fellow citizens. This is truly lamentable, and leaves many of us feeling sad, disheartened, angry, and confused. We rightly turn to God with this weight of emotion and bewilderment, both to express our pain and also to pray for protection, help, and healing for our government and nation.

Closer to home, it seems that many beloved members of our church and community are dealing with significant illnesses; cancer of various kinds, Covid-19 or its aftermath, mental health issues. Perhaps I am especially conscious of this, with my own husband scheduled for cancer surgery on Inauguration Day a week from today. But I feel like I could spend many hours in lament before God about the prevalence of illness and the need for healing. The death of my husband’s brother, David, in New York this past weekend, adds yet another cause for grief, and we are hardly alone in grieving the deaths of those near and dear to us these days.

And then there’s the pandemic itself.....which prevents us from putting our arms around those grieving or ill; from gathering in worship in-person to pray for our nation, our suffering friends and family members; from traveling to be a part of the response to the needs brought on by death or illness. There is hope on the horizon with the vaccine, but that doesn’t answer our concerns right now. There is indeed much reason to lament. And I invite you to join me in lamenting, as people of faith who trust that God hears, cares, and responds. This is not faithless behavior, but faithful prayer and action, and it stands within a long tradition of our heritage.

The powerful thing about psalms of lament, like Psalm 130, is that they also include an element of hope. Psalm 130 ends with these words: “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning... Oh hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.”

With this hope in mind, I invite you to join me not only in lamenting, but in praying: praying for God's powerful protection, healing, help, and comfort---for our nation, our community, our family and friends. In Christ, Pastor Susan

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### KNIFE RIVER PRAYER LIST:

In need of healing: Veronica Persons, Susan Anderson, Elsa Keeler, Becca Kuechle, Les Bolen, Fred Wright, Reid Carson, Kayla Davidson, Archie Moore, Pastor John Reppe, Faith Swanson, Seth Goodnature, Pat Hovis, Sarah Monaghan, Melyssa Bloom, DeWayne and Maurine Rubedor, Emma Durward, Bill Crandall, Becket Lundgren, Ella Jackson, Miranda and baby David Jackson, Blair Raycraft, Del Hubbartt, Susan Hubbartt, Phil Berge, Will Carlson Frankenstein, Harriet Dahl, Sara Ojard. Amy Hatton-Walters, Carol Carlson, Tom Gould

Grieving: family and friends of Pat Levenske

Special circumstances: Jacques Basson (Anne Lu's brother, who is working with Covid-19 patients in Dubai.)

Long Term Concerns: Sue Sigel, Laurie Jackson, David Pierce, Jan Moon, Pat Hanson, Dani Mattson, Lyle Northey, Leif Zmolek, Kane Bolen, Aspen Winbigler, Deb Allert, Peggy B., Corine Sutherland

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### OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Today, Wednesday, January 13-Midweek devotion and announcements posted/sent

Sunday, January 17-Virtual Worship

Tuesday, January 19: 9 AM-Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper

10 AM-Staff meeting

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### PASTORAL ABSENCE

Pastor Susan will be unavailable from Jan. 20-23, as she assists her husband recovering from surgery. Please call Lyle Northey with pastoral care concerns (834-2046) and Melanie McMillion with administrative concerns (834-6032).

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### NEW OPTION FOR ONLINE OFFERING

We are now offering the option to submit your weekly offerings online. Simply click on the link on the church's home page that states "NEW: Make online donation here via Subsplash" and

watch for the link on upcoming YouTube videos. Make a one-time donation, or set up a recurring offering that allows you to support the church even when you're away.

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#### OFFERING ENVELOPES

In order to be united with your offering envelopes, please call Melanie and arrange a pick up time. 834-6032 Thanks!

#### PHOTO REQUESTS FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

We are asking people NOT to submit pictures of children without parents' permission. It is also important NOT to submit pictures from magazines, websites or sources that may be under copyright or ownership of others. Original photos preferred. Thank you!!

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#### WHO ARE WE MISSING?

We are attempting to cast our net wide in sending out these emails, along with postings on Facebook and our church website. Additionally, we are sending snail mail copies to those who are without online resources. If you know of someone we are missing, please let us know, so we may include them too!

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**MASK MESSAGE FROM JOANIE LEE** We continue to make masks, and realize that masks wear out from wearing and washing. Please don't hesitate to ask for replacements. We have plenty. Contact at [joanielee14@gmail.com](mailto:joanielee14@gmail.com)

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#### **Correction:**

#### **Endowment Committee Scholarships for College and Youth Activities**

In the January newsletter, I made an error in the scholarship notice. In the notice, "The deadline for submitting requests for the Fall semester is February 14, 2021" was written. The correct text is "The deadline for submitting requests for the **Spring** semester is February 14, 2021." Sorry for the confusion.

Lawrence Burkhard