

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In writing this letter, I reviewed what I had written ten years ago for the president's newsletter article for September 2011. Ten years ago! My how time flies.

In that letter, I thanked all who participated in a successful Rally Day: "Rally Day was a success thanks to your participation. Special thanks to all who committed their time and talents to set up and staff the various booths and displays for this memorable occasion. It was fun and informative." To be certain, my ten-year-old words still stand.

In that letter, ten years ago, I encouraged everyone to participate in our stewardship efforts by submitting your Time and Talent surveys and making commitments to serve. Time and Talent surveys will be addressed later this year, but we urgently need your participation and support in numerous ministries now. Please reach out to any committee chair to volunteer. You can find them on our church website in the leadership tab.

In that letter, ten years ago, I announced Consecration Sunday. This year the date will be October 31. To quote my ten-year-old letter, "That date is fast approaching. It is not too early to begin prayerful consideration and family discussion regarding what financial giving God is asking you to commit to for the upcoming year. I hope and pray that we will all recognize the incredible blessings He has bestowed on us and share richly of that abundance." Sound familiar?

In that letter, ten years ago, I announced a special community worship service to be held on September 11 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. Well, it's the 20th anniversary now. Though we don't have a special service planned, our country and the world needs our prayers and loving service to others more than ever.

And now we have a COVID-19 pandemic. There is an old saying that my friend Buck Haltiwanger might appreciate. "You can't change the wind, so ya gotta adjust the sails." This pandemic is like the wind. We can't change it, so we do our best to adapt. **We worship God** while doing what we think is best practice to avoid the illness for others. It ain't perfect, but neither are we. Despite this dangerous nuisance, our church has accomplished many wonderful things. We called and installed two terrific pastors; Sunday School is back; handbells and choirs are back; First Communion class is starting in September as well as Bible presentations and Bible 101. Bible studies, Bookmen, and New Member Class are meeting. We just assembled 170 school kits for LWR. We are planning Oktoberfest, a big fellowship event for our church, working in conjunction with our Haiti Hunger Fight team to raise funds for our school children in Haiti. We're working toward a fall Habitat for Humanity build (need volunteers); participating in disaster relief locally and internationally, planning a new season for Room in the Inn, and much more -- all the while trying to plan things knowing that we may have to change plans. God changes our plans sometimes, but He has a perfect plan for us, and sometimes we have to be uncomfortable and inconvenienced while we do His will.

I guess my point is, ten years later, little has changed. Again, just like ten years ago, I want to thank you for your faithful service to our Lord and Savior, through your work and gifts. You are the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew. Together,

In Christ, We Worship, Love, Grow, Serve and Send

In Christ's service,

Ken

Ken Cockerham, Congregation President