



Kirkkopulletiini

OF FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

January – February 2021

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will (Ephesians 1:3-5 keep reading through verse 14 for further comfort).

Dear Family in Christ,

I thought this was a beautiful text to begin the new year. It is part of our reading that was assigned for the 2nd Sunday in Christmas. To me it says we have what we need, and we know whose we are, and thus equipped we can step out in confidence and assurance into whatever the new year might throw at us. This text tells us that we are sought after, chosen, that we are loved, and God will do what it takes to stay in relationship with us. When I say “us” I am referring to all of creation, not a select few. It also says to me, that though we know that life will be challenging, hateful and difficult, at times, that there is still room for praise of God and a chance to work to alleviate the suffering and hardship experienced in our own lives and in the lives of those around us.

My prayer for you in 2021 is that you will know that you are both blessed and a blessing. That your mouth will be filled with words of praise. That wisdom, peace, justice, good news and good health will flourish. That eyes will be opened to God’s activity within and around us.

Peace be with you,
Pr. Kristy

Rakas perhe Kristuksessa,

Mielestäni tämä on kaunis teksti uuden vuoden aloittamiseksi. Se on osa siitä mitä luemme toisena sunnuntaina joulusta. Minulle se kertoo, että meillä on mitä tarvitsemme, ja tiedämme kenen olemme, ja niin varustetut voimme astua luottamuksellisesti ja varmuudella kaikkeen, mitä uusi vuosi voi tuoda tullessaan. Tämä teksti kertoo meille, että me olemme etsityt ja valitut ja että meitä rakastetaan, ja sitä että Jumala tekee mitä tarvitsee pysyäkseen suhteessa meihin. Kun sanon "meitä", tarkoitan koko luomakuntaa, ei muutamaa valittua. Se teksti kertoo myös minulle, että vaikka tiedämme, että elämä on toisinaan haastavaa, vihamielistä ja vaikeaa, niin on vielä tilaa Jumalan ylistämiselle sekä mahdollisuuksia kohdata koettelemuksia, kärsimyksiä ja vaikeuksia omassa elämässämme ja ympärillämme olevien ihmisten elämässä.

Rukoilen puolestasi vuonna 2021, että tiedät, että olet sekä siunattu että itse siunaus. Että suusi täyttyy ylistyssanoilla. Että viisaus, rauha, oikeudenmukaisuus, hyvät uutiset ja hyvä terveys kukoistaisivat. Että silmät avautuisivat Jumalan työlle meissä ja ympärillämme.

Rauhaa
Pastor Kristy

Pastor's availability: Pastor Kristy Daniels is available for counseling during these difficult times:
Contact info: Phone: 206 788 6745, e-mail: kdaniels@compasshousingalliance.org

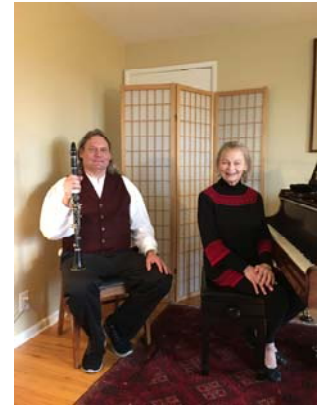
FLC in November - December

We continued to livestream our services and we can say that it has been quite successful. Participation remains in the 30 – 40 range, sometimes even 50 log-ins. Pastor Jukka Joensuu gave two bi-lingual services before Christmas, and with him many from the “other side of the border” joined in. We keep maintaining our church inside and out, now with the outside shed installed, we have the opportunity for a deep spring clean-up as soon as the corona situation allows.



Our music life is thriving under Maria’s leadership. She currently has a lot of “hats” to work from: cantor, pianist, manager of the livestreaming of the services, choir director, compiler of choir videos from individual singer’s audio- and video tapes, video editor etc. Additionally she is a wonderful soprano soloist, singing our favourite Christmas songs “O Holy Night” and “Varpunen jouluamuna” (The Sparrow on Christmas Morning) on the Christmas Day Morning.

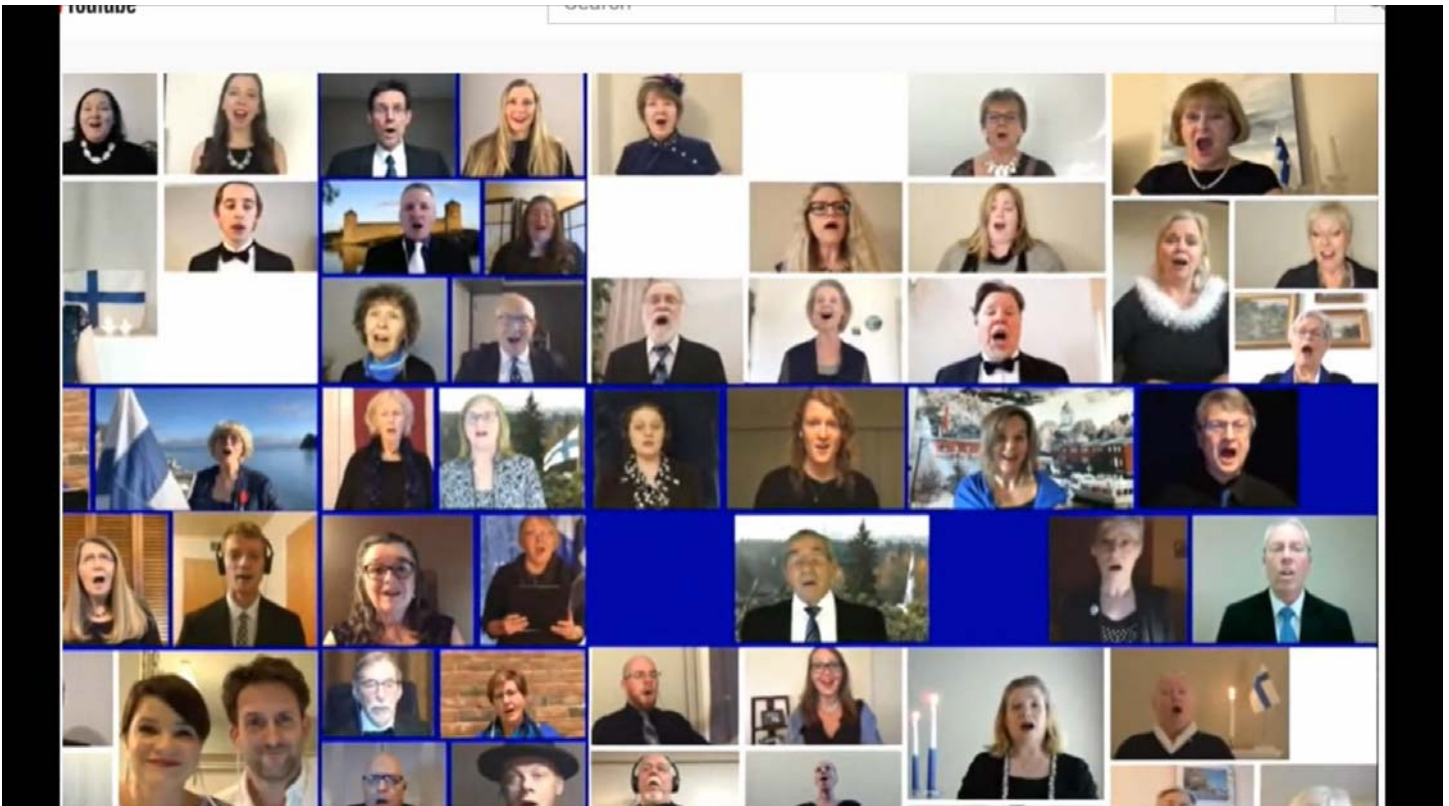
Yvonne and Peter Vollan are playing the prelude and postlude usually twice a month, beautifully livestreaming from home.



Maria has expanded our choir with singers from all over USA, from Canada and from Finland. On Finland’s Independence Day “our choir”, had, assisted by Pastor Tarkki’s Suomi Kirkko, grown to more than 60, singing Sibelius’ Finlandia with Ruusamari Teppo – Sibelius’ greatgreatgranddaughter accompanying.

That accomplishment was featured in Finnish newspaper IltaSanomat! Click here to see/listen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUQLfKkSD-Y&feature=youtu.be>



For more choir music, see these links:

The 44th Annual Kalevala Festival: [44th Annual Kalevala Day: A Celebration of the Finnish Sauna - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGMsnP_TOE0)

A Nordic Christmas in Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGMsnP_TOE0

Finnish Singers of Seattle songs: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrQHL8qqkwwiyvUItIxo5i>

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 31, 2021 AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE. WE NEED THE PRESENCE OF AT LEAST 30 MEMBERS TO ACHIEVE QUORUM

Annual Meeting Agenda, January 31, 2021

- 1. Call to order and confirmation of quorum**
- 2. Opening prayer by Pastor Kristy Daniels**
- 3. Minutes of annual meeting held on January 26, 2020**
- 4. President's report**
- 5. Financial Matters:**
 - Financial Secretary's Report**
 - Treasurer's Report**
 - Presentation of Budget for 2021**
- 6. Auditor's report**
- 7. Nomination and election of new Church Council members**
- 8. Discussion of the future of FLC**
- 9. Other business**
- 10. Adjourn**

To join the meeting at 11 AM, click on the following link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2239421655?pwd=K2xtcUc1U3lJZW9jY252eDF6a0FkZz09>

Or to hear the audio only, dial in to 1 253 215 8782, Meeting ID: 223 942 1655, Password: 505118.

Our church continues to livestream the services every Sunday at 10 AM.

Only the Pastor and Cantor/Pianist are present in the church – socially distanced.

To join the service at 10 AM, click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2239421655?pwd=K2xtcUc1U3lJZW9jY252eDF6a0FkZz09>

Or to hear the audio only, dial in to 1 253 215 8782, Meeting ID: 223 942 1655, Password: 505118.

Please mute yourself upon entering. Following the service, you will have an opportunity to unmute and socialize during our virtual coffee hour.

Prayer Requests and Announcements

Prayer requests and announcements can be emailed to pulletiini@finnishlutheranchurch.org for inclusion in the service.

Donation to the church

We are very fortunate to be able to offer church services virtually during these times. Please consider making a donation as you are able, to help us maintain our services and music program. Donation checks can be mailed to the Finnish Lutheran Church, 8504 13th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117.

We also accept online donations using PayPal.

You can access the donations page on the Finnish Lutheran Church website:

www.finnishlutheranchurch.org. Click on the "Donate" tab.

Thank you very much for your support!

TAMMIKUU 2021 JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 New Year's Day	2 Aapeli
3 Elmeri Elmo Service at 10 am, Pastor Kristy Daniels Organist Maria Mannisto	4 Ruut	5 Lea Leea	6 Harri	7 Augusti Aku	8 Hilppa Titta	9 Veikko Veli Zoom Choir 10 AM
10 Nyyrikki Service at 10 am, Pastor Kristy Daniels Organist Maria Mannisto	11 Kari Karri	12 Toini	13 Nuutti	14 Sakari Saku	15 Solja	16 Ilmari Ilmo
17 Toni Anton Service at 10 am Pastor Jukka Joensuu Organist Maria Mannisto Prelude and Postlude Yvonne and Peter Vollan	18 Laura Zoom Choir 7 PM	19 Heikki Henri	20 Sebastian	21 Aune Oona	22 Visa	23 Enni Eine Zoom Choir 10 AM
24 Senja Service at 10 am Pastor Kristy Daniels Organist: Maria Mannisto	25 Paavo Pauli	26 Joonatan	27 Viljo	28 Kalle Kaarlo	29 Valtteri	30 Irja
31 Aili Service at 10 am Pastor Kristy Daniels Organist: Maria Mannisto Communion Prelude and Postlude Yvonne and Peter Vollan Annual Meeting						

January

Birthdays to
celebrate



Niemistö Thomas	5
Rudbäck Matias	12
Zieman Randall	17
Lenox Amy	21
Zieman Elli	21
Mustonen, Arno	23
Männistö Heikki	25
Sarkanen Anna-Mari	26

Finnish Lutheran Church
8504 - 13th Ave NW
Seattle WA 98117 Office phone: 206-789 0864
web page
<http://www.finnishlutheranchurch.org/>

HELMIKUU 2021 FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Riitta Zoom Choir 7 PM	2 Jemina, Lumi	3 Valo	4 Armi, Ronja	5 Runebers's Day Asser	6 Terhi, Teija Zoom Choir 10 AM
7 Riku, Rikhard Service at 10 am Pastor Kristy Daniels Organist: Maria Mannisto	8 Laina	9 Raija, Raisa	10 Elina, Ella	11 Talvikki	12 Elma, Elmi	13 Valentin's day Sulo, Sulho
14 Voitto, Service at 10 am Pastor Kristy Daniels Organist: Maria Mannisto Prelude and Postlude Yvonne and Peter Vollan	15 Sipi, Sippo Zoom Choir 7 PM	16 Kai	17 Karita, Rita	18 Kaino	19 Eija	20 Heli, Heljä Zoom Choir 10 AM
21 Keijo Service at 10 am Pastor Kristy Daniels Organist: Maria Mannisto	22 Tuulikki, Tuuli	23 Aslak	24 Matti, Matias	25 Tuija, Tuire	26 Nestori	27 Torsti
28 Onni Service at 10 am Pastor Kristy Daniels Organist: Maria Mannisto Communion Prelude and Postlude Yvonne and Peter Vollan						

**February
Birthdays
to
celebrate**



David Bark	1
Muriel Kouhia	1
Sohvi Borland	2
Mark Hillmn	6
Katja Kupari	7
Michael Muller	8
Linda Banks	12
Pirjo De Hart	12
Ulla Forsstrom	16
Tuomas Keyes	21

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New Year's speech 2021 by Finland's president Sauli Niinisto:



My fellow citizens,

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all of you. So far, we have coped with the coronavirus pandemic rather well compared to many other countries. Particular thanks go to those who have worked to look after the health of others. This is something we achieved together, however. Finland has again proven its strength and resilience in a tight spot.

The coronavirus has put us all to the test. To highly varying degrees: some have faced irrevocable losses, while others have got off more lightly with only inconvenience in their normal daily lives.

However, this is an experience we all share. No one has remained unaffected. Our future success also depends on each one of us. Even if we already feel tired, we must find the strength to go on. The hardship is not over yet. While vaccines have already given us some hope, even in the best case the exceptional conditions will continue for several months. Complying with the restrictions is the only way of getting rid of the restrictions. The vaccines will only help if we get ourselves vaccinated. Our shared future is built through the actions of each individual, here and now. Also this responsibility we share.

As we turn our backs to year 2020, we also leave behind the world that preceded it. There will be no going back to the life we had, even when we have overcome the coronavirus pandemic. The game-changing transformation we are currently going through is difficult to fully understand as of yet. There is something we do know, however. We will face something new.

The pandemic has changed us. The way we live our lives was transformed in a heartbeat. It was bewildering to realise how vulnerable we are – and how far humankind is from being all-powerful. Each one of us has done some serious thinking, to take stock of ourselves and our resilience in an unfamiliar situation. Loneliness, as well, has unfortunately also become a familiar feeling for many of us. On the other hand, the shared hardship has also brought us closer together. It has made us realise how much we depend on each other and taking care of each other. I hope this is something that we will not forget.

However, the transformation is not only about the pandemic. Global warming continues to advance, even faster than was feared. Power relationships in international politics are in turmoil. In monetary economics, millions have become commonplace, and not only billions but also trillions, figures with 12 zeros, crop up more often. At the same time, new transitional technologies ranging from artificial intelligence to quantum computing are making a rapid breakthrough.

Facing a new situation offers us fresh opportunities to do things better and more wisely than before. Facing a new world may also feel frightening. However, trying to hang on to the something old that will not return would be much more dangerous. We recall periods in our history when the goal of our shared effort was clear in our minds. We upheld a young democracy and brought Finland on the world map. We defended our country and paid war reparations. We rebuilt the economy and reformed our society. We based our welfare on a foundation of education and culture. We made it clear, through determined efforts, that we are part of the West.

At the previous turning points in our history, the old foundation never disappeared completely. We have been able to find a new direction by building on our strengths. Now, once again, we find ourselves at a new turning point. Each of us must ask ourselves: what defines today our common resolve in facing the new?

On Independence Day, I had an opportunity to talk to General Jaakko Valtanen. He had some wise words to say about the “sense of belonging”. “Is not a society in which the status and rights of an individual citizen are safeguarded worth defending?” he asked. This sense of belonging, or inclusion,

sums up many things in Finland whose value we sometimes overlook ourselves. They are often easier to see from the outside. It is not by accident that Finland is successful in international comparisons. A society like ours is indeed worth defending.

For those who have it, Finnish citizenship is precious capital. Someone who has been granted asylum in Finland is also in a better position than most people in the world. Discussing and even debating the extent of freedoms and rights enjoyed by all those who live in this country is quite justified. Less attention has been paid to the other side of the equation, duties and responsibility. When weighing these issues, the objective should be balancing the equation: without responsibility, the rights cannot be upheld, either. Finnish society is indeed worth taking responsibility of.

Recent discussions on security lead us to reflect on a certain dilemma of a civilised state, separate of individual cases. In brief, it is about giving protection to those against who we may need to protect others. This raises difficult further questions. To what extent can everyone's safety and security be balanced against everyone's right to security? Or the other way around: can we put the security of entire society at risk by prioritising the rights of individuals?

This is what civilised European states are considering, and so far they have come to a wide variety of different conclusions.

A little over a year ago I was concerned over Finland ending up in a situation where we address security risks less firmly and have laxer legislation than our peer countries. We must constantly stay on top of the security situation, which is what we are now doing by renewing Finland's terrorism legislation.

Our feeling of security has also been eroded by new digital threats. Whether the target is Parliament or individual citizens' health data, the word 'data breach' is not strong enough to describe the problem. Cyber attacks threaten security; they are attacks against not only individuals but also our entire social order. We must improve our ability to foil them, also at the international level. It has been said that the authorities look after our security, subject to their liability for acts in office. They certainly do what they can, each one within the framework of the applicable legislation. This framework shall be kept up to date. We should never have to acknowledge that our policies have been naive.

Another encounter on Independence Day has also stayed with me. The main message of the child group Biolapset from eastern Helsinki was 'catch the ball'. They were worried about climate change, and not without a good reason. The same concern has been strongly present in the messages I have received from children and young people throughout the year. We must be able to respond to this demand.

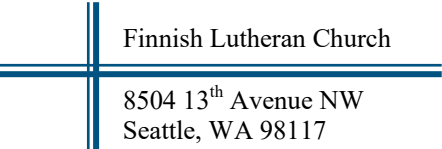
At the beginning of the year, we could never have imagined having to avoid close contacts and social interaction, limit our movements and walk around wearing face masks. All these impossibilities are commonplace today – to avoid the danger, we have modified our behaviour in ways that are difficult to believe. Could we learn something from this that would help us combat another danger, the threat of climate change? Because climate change is all about human behaviour.

We also have plenty to learn in other areas of life. While we are not all-powerful, we can still do many things. As we encounter the new situation, we should strive to do things better. This is what the pandemic has led us to. The need to take others into consideration in the way we behave, willingness to help others, and an ability to adapt to exceptional conditions all build a more human society. Let us continue on that road.

I wish you all a happy New Year and God's blessing.

President Sauli Niinistö





Finnish Lutheran Church

8504 13th Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98117

Finnish Lutheran Church is located in Crown Hill, serving all the Finns in the Washington State area and people with any interest in Finnish language or culture. We have services both in **English** and in **Finnish** with Finnish Liturgy **every Sunday at 10 am**, everybody is welcome!!!! Finnish music is presented with our numerous and gifted members and friends. You are welcome to stay for a coffee and refreshments after church and get to know new people!

Message from the President of the Republic to expatriate Finns

Dear Expatriate Finns, Dear Friends,

2020 is coming to an end. This year has been exceptional. The coronavirus epidemic has put us all in a new situation. Many of you expatriate Finns have had to spend a long time away from your loved ones here in Finland. Concern about your own health and that of close friends and relatives has grown.

Despite the fact that physical distances may seem long, I believe that emotional ties to Finland remain strong and may even have been strengthened. While times are demanding and we have experienced loss, there is hope. We will come through this, everywhere.

It is of great significance that you celebrate Finland's Independence Day all around the world. This year, due

to coronavirus, our independent homeland will be remembered in a different way than in previous years. This will not diminish the importance of the day, however. On the contrary.

You are representatives of Finnishness in the world. Each of you carry the blue-and-white flag with dignity. Finland needs friends throughout the world. I express my heartfelt thanks to you for that.

I would like to wish you all, expatriate Finns and people of Finnish heritage around the world, a very happy Independence Day!

Sauli Niinistö
President of the Republic of Finland