PARTING MESSAGE
from Carolyn Sowinski

It has been my honor to serve as the second Director of Gifts of Hope for the past nine years. My husband will be retiring in 2022 and at that time we will move back to Bloomington, Indiana, where we lived and raised our family prior to our 2010 move to Germantown, Maryland. Thank you for walking with me on this journey of generosity in our community. Thank you for showing kindness and compassion, sharing your time and resources, making a difference, and responding to God’s grace.

Under the leadership of our next director, Natalie Cain, our commitment to help others continues. Our work in the community continues because of you—our donors, volunteers, congregations, organizations, and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod.

COVID-19 IMPACT

Our community, our country, and our world face health and livelihood issues in 2020 and beyond due to COVID-19. Gifts of Hope (GOH) responds to these issues by changing in the following ways:

- Instead of visiting tables in church buildings, individuals can support GOH via our website (www.giftsofhopedc.org) or by mail (an order form is included in this catalog). We want to honor the health of our volunteers and donors, even if congregations return to on-site worship this year.
- We continue to have our catalog, though the size has been reduced this year.
- The number of gifts have been reduced to 20 in 2020. You will have the choice of supporting one or more of our 19 beneficiary organizations. The gifts are more general in scope, not for specific projects. Each organization needs to maintain flexibility as they find new and sometimes unique ways to serve their clients, and GOH wants to be flexible for them.
1. **Support all 19 beneficiary organizations**
and your donation will be matched, dollar for dollar, by our lead donors.
Your gift will help men, women, and children of all ages and provide help
for a variety of needs. Your gift, divided equally among the
organizations, will make a difference locally and globally.

2. **Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center**
provides unforgettable faith, education, and renewal experiences for all God’s people in God’s creation. The camp shares a
welcoming, prayerful, playful space: a simple environment, disconnected from the distractions of technology and the world.
Year-round, the staff hosts church groups, nonprofits, families, and community groups for large and small group retreats.
Since the first Summer Camp in 1959, over 40 rostered leaders in the Church have begun their ministry as a camp
counselor at Caroline Furnace. Gifts will support Summer Camp, community outreach, facility upgrades, and more.
www.carolinefurnace.org

3. **Community Family Life Services**
was founded in 1969 and works to meet the varied needs of Washington, DC’s most vulnerable citizens:
those struggling with poverty and homelessness, and women returning home from prison. Your gift will help
CFLS to provide crisis assistance, medical case management, food and clothing distribution, transitional
housing, substance abuse counseling, employment placement, and mentoring. www.cflsdc.org

4. **The Community of St. Dysmas**
is an ELCA Lutheran congregation within the walls of the Maryland State prison system. Staff and volunteers provide worship, Bible study, and
Christian support to the inmates at four facilities, as well as support to those who have been transferred to a facility that
doesn’t have a formal congregation. These lively, faith-filled congregations are where God is changing lives through the
good news of grace, forgiveness, and new life. CSD partners with aftercare programs to provide support for members
after their release to find housing, employment and basic needs. The funds from Gifts of Hope have enabled CSD to
continue to bring the Gospel into the prisons and to continue to support people as they transition back to the community.
http://www.stdysmasmd.org

5. **Fellowship Square**
was founded in 1960 and
advocates for and provides
affordable housing and
supportive services to older
adults with very limited income. Foundation Square
offers safe living environments that enhance
independence, self-confidence, and the well-being of
its diverse residents. The chaplaincy program
provides pastoral care and counseling to residents.
Your support will help with medical and dental care,
counseling, and nutrition. www.fellowshipsquare.org

6. **Good Shepherd Housing Foundation**
makes hope possible by providing permanent rental
housing to families with limited income. Rent does not
exceed 30% of income and case management support is available
in some of the homes. Your gift will support two projects: ‘Keeping
the Lights On’ and ‘Keeping your Car on the Road’ and will change
the lives of families. www.goodshepherdhousing.org

7. **Housing Up**
was founded in 1990 and builds thriving communities in Washington, D.C. by developing
affordable housing and providing comprehensive support services to homeless and low-income families, empowering
them to gain long-term independence. Living expenses include much more than just rent and utility payments,
transportation costs, and household essentials. As families transition into life beyond 2020, your gift will provide the
flexibility in funding needed to support the unpredictable needs of the people served by Housing Up. From navigating
distance learning with their children to regaining stability after being laid-off due to COVID-19, you can make a difference
in many families’ lives. www.housingup.org
8. Lutheran Campus Ministry
supports young adults as they navigate one of the most important times of their lives. Throughout
the Synod, our campus ministries provide opportunities for students to worship, grow in their faith
and connect with inter-faith learning opportunities, as well as develop leadership skills, participate in
meaningful service opportunities, have time and space for retreats, and much more. Your donation
helps support and raise up young adult leaders who are the present - and future - of the Church and
the world. www.lutheranterps.com

9. Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
walks with those in need and mobilizes community partners to provide services that offer
hope and rebuild lives. LSS/NCA helps individuals and families who face challenges, including
adoption care, refugee resettlement services, and youth development. Your gift will change
the lives of others, by providing activities for youth, meals for all ages, and apartment
furnishings. www.lssnca.org

10. Lutheran Volunteer Corps
celebrates its 40th anniversary by expanding the social justice year of service program for
volunteers at least 21 years of age, to include service semesters in August, January, and
June as well as year-long learning seminars on social justice topics. LVC continues the core
values tradition of living in community, simply and sustainably; while volunteering 40
hours each week at partner Placement organizations with missions including immigration,
housing, education, health, and other areas. LVC welcomes volunteers at all stages of life
including retired, on sabbatical, in-between or changing jobs, gap year, and more.
Participation is at no cost to the volunteer. Your gift helps fund the program for new
generations learning the lifelong commitment to social justice.
www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org

11. Lutheran Churches in Namibia
Our Synod has Companion Synod relationships with three entities in Namibia—The Paulinum Seminary, ELCIN, and
ELCRN. This gift will help the various Lutheran entities in Namibia, and they can choose which project they like—whether it
be books for the Seminary, hostel supplies for ELCRN or monies for the retired pastors’ fund sponsored by ELCIN. Your gift
will improve lives and livelihood and meet the spiritual needs of the Namibian people.
metrodcelca.org/ministries/companion-synods

12. The Salvadoran Lutheran Church
is a new church, small in numbers, but with a powerful voice in a country where pain and
hope are both easy to see. These Lutheran churches in El Salvador thrive among the least
fortunate, in urban slums and small towns. Your gift will help fund micro-business grants
and other projects, and support salaries for pastors, almost all of whom have jobs outside
the church, to pay their bills and support their congregations.
metrodcelca.org/ministries/companion-synods

13. Lutheran Churches in Slovakia
The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia dates from Luther’s lifetime. Still recovering from
persecution under communism, this church bears witness in a part of Central Europe where educational work and youth
ministry are bearing great fruit. Ministry to immigrants and to the Roma people are also vital now. Your gift will help
renovate damaged church buildings, maintain Lutheran schools, and enhance church grounds.
metrodcelca.org/ministries/companion-synods

14. Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center
serves others through year-round retreat hospitality and summer camp programming. The camp is
a place of community and sanctuary, located in the beautiful Catoctin Mountains of Maryland as
well as out in your own community. Committed to faith formation for people of all ages, everyone is
welcomed and accepted as they are, a beloved child of God. Your gift will provide programming
supplies and Camperships so everyone can experience life-changing, friendship building summer
camp fun! www.mar-lu-ridge.org
15. **N Street Village**

Empowers homeless and low-income women in Washington D.C. to claim their highest quality of life. Through our strong community of hope and respect, the Village provides the tools for women to make real, lasting change in their lives. Your gift will help us provide for immediate client needs like food, clothing, and shelter, as well as access to health care and job training resources. www.nstreetvillage.org

16. **Shelter House (formerly NOVACO)**

Provides permanent housing and emergency services to families affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Your gift can help to support a family with rent and utilities to ensure that they are able to maintain housing. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many families have experienced a loss of income. Your gift is needed now more than ever to help families stay housed through this crisis. www.shelterhouse.org

17. **Roanoke College**

Is a four-year liberal arts college located in Salem, Virginia. Founded in 1842, Roanoke is the second-oldest Lutheran related college in America and lives at the intersection of faith and reason. Reason calls us to be honest. Faith calls us to be authentic. Your gift supporting Roanoke College will be directed to the scholarship program for students pursuing a church vocation who are from the Washington D.C. area or the three international companion synods. This gift will provide students with tuition assistance or help with other college expenses. www.roanoke.edu

18. **Southeast Ministry**

Is located in Ward 8 of Washington, D.C. and provides a ministry of hope for men and women in a safe and respectful environment through math and literacy education, financial skills classes, job readiness, and other programs that celebrate achievements, build self-esteem, and transform lives. Clients are mapping their educational and vocational pathways so your gift will make a difference today and tomorrow. www.southeastministrydc.org

19. **United Lutheran Seminary**

Is located on two campuses, Gettysburg and Philadelphia. The seminary offers graduate degree tracks and lifelong learning programs that equip rostered and lay leaders to serve with deep faith and excellence—in congregations, social ministry agencies, campus ministries, military settings, and global missions. Your gift to ULS will help seminarians meet basic needs and help underwrite housing expenses while they study the Word of God and develop skills which put words into actions. www.myuls.edu

20. **The Village at Rockville - A National Lutheran Community**

If you live long enough, you might run out of money through no fault of your own. The Village at Rockville admitted its first resident in 1895 and has never had to ask such a person to leave. Your gift can provide peace of mind, food, shelter, and stimulating activities for older adult residents. Thank you for keeping this promise alive. The Village at Rockville provides memory care services, short-term rehabilitation, outpatient physical and occupational therapy, nursing care, and hospice care. www.theg Villageatrockville.org

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**How to Order**

**Option 1:**
Pay online with PayPal at www.giftsofhopedc.org

**Option 2:**
Mail completed order form and check (payable to Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod) to:
Natalie Cain
7901 Bethelen Woods Lane
Springfield, VA 22153

Questions?
Email Natalie Cain at goh@metrodcelca.org

Name: ____________________________
Street Address: _______________________
City, State, Zip: _______________________
Email: _____________________________

Item No. (can list multiple items) _______ Donation Amount ($)