



The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

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Did you ever play this finger game as a young child?

“Here’s the church.
Here’s the steeple.
Open the doors,
And see all the people.”



I thought about that simple game in June when we opened our sanctuary doors once again to worship inside. I have felt such joy as our numbers have been increasing, masks are coming off, communion is being served at the rail and hymns and liturgy are being sung. For those who have been worshipping with us in person, have you felt something different? It is the spirit is moving amongst us, around us, and through us.

That spirit is making things happen here at OSLC. Our small groups are meeting again. The quilters are busier than ever. Life is returning to our campus.

Peace,

Pastor Martha



OSLC is participating in a program called Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS). This is a 2-year program which assists congregations with planning an efficient stewardship appeal. It involves meetings (via zoom) with other teams from our synod and the Rocky Mountain Synod. We are just beginning the process and have only met at 2 Cohort meetings and have just begun to plan our appeal.

First of all, there is new language! We will not refer to “pledges” but rather to “statement of Intent (SOI)”. A budget is a “generosity plan.” So when you see those phrases, you will know it is actually the stewardship team!

One of the assigned tasks is to come up with an appeal timeline, so the suggestion is mid-December as the commitment date for the appeal, so that SOI’s would be returned by that date. It is early days, so this may change and you will be hearing more later.

There is also the suggestion that we have specific needs or plans for the next year. These are broken into 3 categories, internal (like new carpet in the patio room or something bigger), external (like our outreach programming), and ministry excellence, which last year was our work with LSS. Obviously this will require conversation and input.

The leadership of SAS feels that professionally printed materials are a good idea, so you will probably be seeing something new and different as part of this fall’s appeal. In addition, we have talked about using some new strategies which other congregations have used, but no decisions have been made yet.

And of course, as part of the whole process, there will be work to do in creating a “generosity plan” for 2022.

Lauretta Olson, Tracy Ratliff, Ginny Phillips, Pastor Martha, and Kris Sanchez make up this team.

More specifics as decisions are made!

Council Corner

July 20, 2021

Dear Members of the OSLC Community:

Since the global pandemic began, the Council has faced some unique challenges in its work, especially as we strive to care for OSLC's finances and facilities and, more importantly, seek to care for the congregation during these difficult times. This month there is much good news to report on the finance and property fronts, and we will be asking for your help with more actively caring for one another as the pandemic persists in our community.



During much of 2021 we've observed a gap gradually widening between our budgeted offering income and our actual offering amounts, but in July several gifts helped to offset much of this shortfall in offering. We're grateful for these generous gifts, as well all of the diverse gifts of time, talents, and treasures that help OSLC continue God's work. Please continue to share your gifts as you are able, and if you are looking for ways to engage in our church community, please see Page 3 for a list of areas where volunteers are especially needed.

At the end of July Lutheran Social Services-SW will be moving from OSLC to their new location; please join us in wishing them well and continuing to support their mission in our community. We're looking into some new options for making use of these properties, and will be investing in air conditioning for one of our other rental properties. You may also notice some work happening around the church office as several doors are repaired and additional security cameras are installed. The carpet in the church office suffered some damage during a recent storm; it will soon be replaced with new flooring that is less susceptible to water damage and mold.

In addition to addressing financial and property-related matters in each month's Council meeting, we also devote time to discussing the most recent Covid-19 data here in Pima County and measuring it against the thresholds in OSLC's safety policies designed to care for the wellbeing and safety of the entire OSLC community. This month we were concerned and saddened to see that the positivity rate in Pima County once again surpassed five percent; as you may recall, one of OSLC's thresholds for action is a positivity rate above five percent for two consecutive weeks. We hope that this is only a brief and temporary setback as we weather this pandemic, but we are asking everyone at OSLC to please take an active part in caring for one another in our church community. We request that as of Sunday, August 1 everyone—vaccinated and unvaccinated—please resume wearing a mask, and carefully maintain physical distance from those outside of your household. We hope that the Covid-19 conditions in our community will soon improve and that no further measures will be necessary at OSLC, but we will continue to monitor the local data and keep you informed of any updates.

We invite you to join with us in thanking God for all the ways He has richly blessed this congregation, and in continuing to pray for the health and safety of everyone in the OSLC community.

**In Christ—
OSLC Church Council**

As we are transitioning in to in-person, indoor services, we need to update our list of worship assistants. Vital positions include altar guild, lectors, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, acolytes, and sound technicians. These are not gender specific or age specific positions (although a couple of them are confirmed member only positions.) Please send your willingness to serve (even if you have served in the past in some of these) to **Kathy DeVinney** (kmdrainbow@aol.com, 520-419-4321). We need YOU!



Our sincere appreciation to **Bonnie Phelps** for serving as the organizer/scheduler over the past few years!



Food Donations for Interfaith Community Services

Thanks for your generous donations. The Food Bank is increasing food distribution as families are still struggling to recover from COVID and high unemployment. The **August item of the month is canned meats.** We will continue collecting in-date canned and packaged products: cereal, rice, beans, spaghetti, pasta sauce, meals in a can, personal hygiene items and new or slightly used children's books.



August Birthdays

Riley Wesanan-Neil, Michael Jones, Charles Josephson, Nancy Murray, Lisa Riley, Gerald Fitzsimmons, Cynthia Freeman, Ella Scott, Hannah Jones, Sabrina Dowayee, Margaret Gitatha, Dolores Reece, Logan Tyree, Carol Lange, Sherry Cross, Sara Lashbrook, Dennis Matson, Rickie Thornhill, Mary Wedge, John Enemark, Jacklyn Fahey, Betty Griffis, Bobbie

Cajero, Sharon Larson, Thea Austin, Hildi Williams, William Ebert, Jill Hughes, Steve VanMeter, Tom Tyree, Ted Earle, Karen Jonaitis

August Anniversaries

Gloria Alvillar & Ted Earle - 1984
 Karl & Nancy Hoerig - 1995
 Harold & Jessica Hahn - 1999
 Fred Alvord - 2003



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Hello Everyone!



News From the Office

-Kathryn Barrera, Parish Administrator



Summer has been wonderful but I am definitely enjoying the rain. We did have some slight flooding in the office because of these wonderful rain storms so we are working on drying out the carpet and maybe will try and replace some squares or sections of it down the road depending on our budget. Otherwise, work around the office has been staying pretty steady. We had a break in last month, and even though nothing was stolen, Graham is working on replacing the outdated door hardware to make our office more secure.

That's all for now. Have a wonderful month!

- Kathryn

