



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Volume 76 No. 11  
November 2020

## Built On A Rock

**Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;**  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling--  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.



Nicolai Grundtvig

**Not in our temples made with hands  
God, the Almighty, is dwelling;**  
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,  
all earthly temples excelling.  
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above  
deigns to abide with us in love,

**Christ builds a house of living stones:  
we are his own habitation;  
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,  
granting us life and salvation.**

Where two or three will seek his face,  
he in their midst will show his grace,  
blessings upon them bestowing.

This old familiar hymn by Nicolai Grundtvig came to mind as we struggle with the question "Are we able to be a community in Christ during this deadly pandemic?" It reminded me that the church is not contained inside a building or even in meeting together in person. God can never be contained by our own understanding and the Holy Spirit is the wind that blows where it will.

I am also reminded that as we continue to be frustrated by the physical separation, Covid fatigue and anger that most of us are experiencing, we need to love our neighbor and respect the science that deems this pandemic as deadly. We need to wear masks and physically distance.

I am also very aware that if this pandemic happened even five years ago we would not have the technology we have today which allows us to gather for worship through YouTube. Yet, for the people of God gathering for worship electronically is really nothing new. In 1923 S. Parkes Cadman had a weekly Sunday afternoon radio broadcast on NBC. By 1928 he had a nationwide audience of 5 million people. In 1952 Rex Humbard became the first to have a weekly church service. By 1980 his program spanned the globe. In 1930 the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod launched "The Lutheran Hour," and in 1945 the ELCA predecessor churches joined with other mainline denominations to participate in the "Protestant Hour" (later called Day1).

**Clearly, the church has always had a presence beyond the walls of church buildings.** The church has used all available means to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to gather the community of the church. Or as the hymn states, "Not in our temples made with hands - God, the Almighty, is dwelling." We are blessed and grateful that it is possible to gather as God's people while we are apart. We have been worshiping together weekly since March albeit remotely. The buildings are closed, but we continue to be the church in mission by learning, supporting one another and meeting peoples needs. So, we love our neighbors by safely as we gather by Zoom, YouTube and Facebook as we await an effective vaccine.

Christ keeps our Community together while we are apart. Give Thanks. Stay connected and stay safe.

Pastor Len  
Interim Pastor



## Council Corner

October, 2020



Throughout the pandemic the Council has been faced with challenging questions: when is it the right time to safely resume in-person worship services, and how? Does this time when we're all worshipping from home offer an unusually good opportunity for taking care of diverse projects around the church buildings and grounds--or should we avoid any non-essential spending during these uncertain times? And as we begin preparing the budget for 2021, how do we most accurately plan our programs and ministries--and predict our income and expenses--in the coming year? We continue to try to find the right balance between being good and careful stewards of OSLC's resources and faithfully trusting that God will continue to provide for our church community. At this point in the year offerings are about 11% below budget, but we thank you for your ongoing generosity and remain optimistic that we will see offerings rise during the coming months.

Even as we continue our worship from home, October has been a busy month at OSLC. We've begun updating our Personnel policies, and approved a policy for Outdoor Worship in hopes that it may soon be safe to at least hold worship services outside. To learn more about the congregation's thoughts regarding outdoor worship and other options for resuming in-person worship, we've drafted a survey; look for an opportunity to share your suggestions soon. Moreover, the Transition Team who will help OSLC prepare for calling a new pastor has been formed: Kent Pflibsen, Quentin Peterson, Bonnie Phelps, Michael Marty, Pam Hardman, and Sheila Bustamante. Each of these Transition Team members will be looking for additional OSLC members who are willing to take part in brief small-group discussions during the Transition process; if you are interested in participating, please contact any member of the Team. We're also forming a Phone Call Ministry in order to stay connected with OSLC's members during this time of worshipping from home; if you'd like to help to make phone calls to OSLC members, please contact Bonnie Phelps.

We invite you to find safe and creative ways to care for each other and carry out God's work and, as always, to join us in praying for our church and community.

**Report respectfully submitted,  
OSLC Church Council**

## Lutheran Social Services Update

The leaders of Lutheran Social Services-Southwest (LSS-SW) have notified us that the OSLC's campus space has not worked as well as hoped for their organization, and they have initiated a search for a new location for their offices. They hope to find a single, larger space where all of their services may be housed together under one roof. We will continue to share updates with the congregation as the timeline for their move takes shape. Meanwhile, we wish LSS-SW well as they explore new options and opportunities for their ministries.



Dear Church Family,

I want to sincerely thank you for the prayers that you have offered during my time of grief at the passing of my mother in August this year. Thank you for all the many words of sympathy and condolences, the cards, messages, donations, phone calls and virtual hugs. They have truly been the source of great comfort to me as I go through my grieving process. I feel so blessed to know that I belong to such a loving church family. Thank you very much.

Kindest regards,  
**Nilu Dorschner**



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed leading the weekly worship here at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. It brings me great joy knowing that I am joining with all of you expressing our love for our God. I, like you, am looking forward to the day when we can worship together face to face and side to side. Part of my worship experience is seeing the look on the face or the glint in the eyes of others I worship with. When I preach I rely on these clues to know if I am making sense. This has been sadly lacking in the days of COVID-19.



There have been discussions during Coffee Hour, amongst members and in council about when we can safely join together for worship. The key term is SAFELY. Everyone agrees that we do not want to do anything that will put someone else at risk. The point that is often made is that everyone must decide for themselves if they can tolerate the risk. If the risk is too much for you, stay home. That makes a lot of sense. The problem is that we forget that there are those who do not have a choice about the risk they are taking. Think about going to the grocery store. If going in person is too much risk for you, you can opt to have someone else shop for you and deliver the groceries to your home. But there are those who work at the store who need to work to support their families. They do not really have a choice about being there to bag your groceries, sweep the floor, deliver your food, and stock the shelves. In the restaurant they serve your food, cook it, and clean up after you. They are not only exposed to you but to everyone who comes into their place of business that day. You probably did not even see them.

Please remember to be generous in your feeling about those who are not willing to take the risks that you are willing to take. You do not know what their concerns are. For myself, I am not overly concerned for myself but my husband has heart issues and severe COPD. I am willing to help with limited in-person worship. That is limited numbers, social distancing, everyone wearing masks and limited singing. I would love to more. I yearn to do more but for the sake of my husband I cannot do more.

I pray hourly that this will soon be over! The best we can do is pray and stay safe.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Martha*



Hank, Tom and Ginny Phillips are hosting a nonperishable food drive for OSLC. If you want to put food on our porch (2107 E Lind Rd, 85719) or at the church office between 9 am and 230 pm Monday through Thursday between now and Tuesday, November 10th we would truly appreciate your donation. We are also able to come by and pick up food from your house on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 11 am. Please email ([hanknginny@cox.net](mailto:hanknginny@cox.net)) or call or text Ginny at (520-955-2487) by November 11 with your name, phone number and address. This food drive has been approved by our church council. Your prayers would also be appreciated for the success of this food drive.



The holidays are coming! Although I will not be on the patio to gather gifts for TIHAN care partners and their families, they will not be forgotten. If you wish to share your generosity, as in the past, you may do so in the following ways. Send a check and mark "Holiday Gift" on the 'memo' line. Buy a small appliance, towels, kitchen items for adults or clothing and toys for school-age children. Call Diedre DeMers, program manager, to arrange delivery:

TIHAN  
2660 N 1st Ave  
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520-299-6647

God bless you for caring & sharing.

- Ms. Ellie

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## News From the Office

By Kathryn Barrera,  
Parish Administrator

Hello Everyone!

October sped by so I hope you all had a good month. Happy belated Halloween! I'm not sure how many of you actually celebrated, but Steve made sure to decorate the church office so it felt festive in here. Next up is Thanksgiving which is my favorite food holiday! My family and I will be out of town for Thanksgiving week and so I hope you all have some nice (but still safe) plans.

Have a wonderful month!

Total Income & Expense through September, 2020	
Income	\$448,236
Expense	\$446,540

I hope you all are staying safe and healthy.  
Have a wonderful month!

- Kathryn

