**Weekly Happenings**

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**SERVICE INFORMATION**

**Attendance**

Week of August-17

***25***

***Acolyte –*** **August 24*-Vacant***

***Greeter –*** **August 24*-******Donna Taylor***

***Usher –* August 24*-Paul Blixrud***

***Altar Guild-* August 24-Sara Meyers**

***Reader-* August 24-Betsy Reese**

***Communion Assistant-* August 24-Flavia Via**

***Tech-* August 24*-Gary Antes***

**Welcome**

***You are absolutely invited into this sacred space.  We welcome all who are seeking God’s love and grace.  All Saints recognizes that we are all unique and beloved children of God.  We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has given us.  We affirm the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.  We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, ability, age, or culture. We are committed to working towards anti-racism in ourselves and our community. We affirm the sacredness of all those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.  We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ’s teaching to love one another as God loves us.  We need each other and our sincere hope is by being in community together, we will experience God’s presence in new and real ways.***

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**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Monty Health Concerns (May 15)*

*Paul Health Concerns (May 31)*

*Mary Health Concerns (May 15)*

*James & Family Health Concerns (September 11)*

*Betty F (Sara’s friend) Health Concerns (July 15)*

*William and Family Health Concerns (September 25)*

*Becky H Health Concerns (October 28)*

*David Health Concerns (November 18)*

*Becky W Health Concerns (November 18)*

*Larry Health Issues (December 16)*

*Helen Health Issues (January 14)*

*Jennifer Health Concerns (February 27)*

*Otto Health Concerns (July 15)*

*Kay (Sara’s cousin) Health Concerns (**July 15)*

***Merciful God, your justice and mercy are without limits. Bring courage and resilience to those who resist tyranny with their words and their bodies. Strengthen those who fight for justice in your name in Los Angeles, across the country, and around the world.***

***Please pray for the people of Haiti, Ukraine, Israel and Palestine.***

***Please pray for the people of the Sudan.***

***Please pray for the Homeless.***

***Please pray for legal & illegal immigrants & those seeking asylum or citizenship.***

If you haven't made it to our physical services on Sundays you can still check out our services online. You can find us on Facebook Live every Sunday beginning at 9:15am.

**BLUE SPRINGS COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAGUE NEWS**

The BLUE SPRINGS COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAGUE is very appreciative of your continued support of your neighbor.

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**IMPORTANT DATES and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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| ***August 24*** | ***Pot Luck*** |
| ***August 26*** | ***Creative Friends 1:30 pm*** |
| ***August 28*** | ***Coffee with Council*** |

***Upcoming Events***

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| ***August 31*** | ***Fifth Sunday Conversation*** |
| ***September 07*** | ***God’s Work. Our Hands/Zoo after Worship*** |
| ***September 14*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm after Worship*** |
| ***September 17- September 21*** | ***Pastor Sarah Vacation*** |
| ***September 22-23*** | ***Blue Springs Theatre 7:00 pm-9:00 pm*** |
| ***September 29-October 01*** | ***Blue Springs Theatre 7:00 pm-9:00 pm*** |
| ***September 28*** | ***Bishop Installation/Atonement Lutheran Church 5:00 pm Overland Park*** |
| ***October 04*** | ***Blessing of Animals TBA*** |
| ***October 12*** | ***Fall Work Day*** |
| ***October 15*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm*** |
| ***November 05*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm*** |
| ***November 16*** | ***Congregational Meeting*** |
| ***December 05*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm*** |
| ***January 14, 2026*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm*** |
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* **August 31: Pastor Sarah will be at ASLC for our 5th Sunday Conversation as we wrap up the book of Esther, talking about the power of stories to help us work through our desire for justice that looks like vengeance, when God's justice looks more like mercy.**

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*You may recall that there has been an announcement in the bulletin over the past year directing you to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) if you wish to support the people of Ukraine. LIRS has changed its name to Global Refuge and can be found at* ***globalrefuge.org****. Although their name has changed, their mission remains the same: to assist and support refugees in the United States and around the world. Visit their website to see all the ways you can support this important work.*

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Bishop Candea reminded us that as followers of Christ, we are to pray for and support the most vulnerable among us. She pointed out that right now, the most vulnerable people in the world are the women, children, and elderly people living in the Gaza Strip.

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If you feel called to do something to help, Lutheran World Relief is providing aid to civilians caught in the crisis in Israel and Palestine. You can donate directly at lwr.org/israel-gaza.

All members are welcome to attend regularly scheduled council meetings. Additionally, the Council would like to remind you that the most recent Council reports and minutes are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

▪ If you need anything in the weekly happenings it should be submitted no later than Monday.

**YOUTH NEWS**

TBA

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**SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE**

Facebook is the place to find updated information that didn't make it to the newsletter or for new information.

You can find us on Facebook Live every Sunday beginning at 9:15am.

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**All Saints Lutheran Church**

We have moved our live Videos to YouTube. Here is the link:

**https://www.youtube.com/@AllSaintsLutheranChurch-bs**

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**SIMPLY GIVING**

To provide the best possible equitable income for ASLC, we encourage you to participate in “Simply Giving”, a program offering electronic donations to be provided directly from your bank account. Sign up is easy. Fill out the form located in the narthex, or you can find the form on our website by clicking here and giving to the church secretary. For more information, you are welcome to discuss with any council member.

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**Pastor Sarah's Link to her Sermon & Questions for Discussions**

**Pastor Sami August 17, 2025**

1. The history of Haman is given in the reading. Why? What does it matter? Ah, when the writers give us specific information such as this, it’s a red flag that this is something important. If we read Esther 2:5, we discover Mordecai is the “son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite.” Kish is the father of King Saul. Haman is decided from Agag, King of the Amalekites, who were perennial enemies of Israel. The conflict between Haman and Mordecai mirrors the conflict between Amalekites and Israel.
2. Mordecai overhears a plot by the eunuchs to assassinate the king. Why do you think Esther and Mordecai care if the king dies? They have made the best out of a difficult situation. Esther and Mordecai were exiles. Throughout this reading, we see Esther and Mordecai are captives. Esther may be queen, and Mordecai may be sitting in a position of some responsibility at the king’s gate, they are both under duress because they are exiles.
3. Pastor Sarah talked in her sermon last week that wisdom is shown in NOT overreacting to situations and not acting extremely. King Ahasuerus was not wise and now we see Haman is not either. He overreacts to Mordecai not bowing to him by wanting to kill him and the entire Jewish population. We see Haman is not a wise character. How does Esther react in this story? Is she wise?
4. The people who cast Pur were seeking a lucky day, as indicated by the lots, for the purpose in hand. A lot was cast for each day of the month, and for each month in the year, and in some way or other one day and one mouth were indicated as the most favorable. The notion of lucky and unlucky days seems to have been prevalent in the East in early times. Haman casts pur to discover the day of the genocide of the Jewish people in Persia. Why do you think he casts pur for that and not asking for the king’s decree to make his plans a reality?
5. It’s interesting the Jewish people were given an entire year to plan and strive to save themselves before the day of their impending death. Could this have been an act of God?

**https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKdwdmSPJdndwhKYV9jwsEQ/featured**

Reconciling Works strives to ensure RIC communities have what they need to continue their journey of welcome and I encourage you to bookmark this site or download and keep these resources handy.

**https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BxSVXGUZxCCqQ1pudWpyRTE3SmM?resourcekey=0-5LxvtlMTdT\_--7mcKNGHig&usp=sharing**

**facebook instagram twitter youtube**

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