**Weekly Happenings**

**Sunday,** **June 29, 2025**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**SERVICE INFORMATION**

**Attendance**

Week of June 22

***20***

***Acolyte –* June 29*-Vacant***

***Greeter –* June 29*-******Donna Taylor***

***Usher –* June 29*- Paul Blixrud***

***Altar Guild-* June 29-Sara Meyers**

***Readers-* June 29*-Vacant***

***Communion Assistant-* June 29-Vacant**

***Tech-* June 29*-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.***

***Birthdays***

***July 03 Addison Antes***

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**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Monty Health Concerns (May 15)*

*Paul Health Concerns (May 31)*

*Mary Health Concerns (May 15)*

*Carla (Pr. George’s wife) Health Concerns (June 26)*

*James & Family Health Concerns (September 11)*

*Betty F (Sara’s friend) Health Concerns (September 23)*

*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)*

*Steve Health Issues (January 15)*

*Stephen Health Concerns (February 27)*

*Jennifer Health Concerns (February 27)*

*Otto Health Concerns (April 23)*

*Fran Health Concerns (April 23)*

***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.

**IMPORTANT DATES and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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| ***June 28*** | ***Project Comfort 9:00 am-Noon*** |
| ***June 29*** | ***Fifth Sunday of Conversation*** |
| ***July 01*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***July 04*** | ***Independence Day-Office Closed*** |
| ***July 06*** | ***Blessing of CSL Contributions*** |
| ***July 08*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***July 13*** | ***Baptismal Birthdays*** |
| ***July 13*** | ***Installation of Church Council/Ice Cream Social after Worship/Photo OP*** |
| ***July 15*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***July 16*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm*** |
| ***August 09*** | ***BS Back to School Bingo 1:00 p -3:00 pm*** |
| ***August 13*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm*** |
| ***September 07*** | ***God’s Work. God’s Hands*** |
| ***September 14*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm after Worship*** |
| ***October 04*** | ***Blessing of Animals TBA*** |
| ***June 29*** | ***Fifth Sunday of Conversation*** |

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The book of Leviticus has kind of a bad reputation. We often think of it as being excessively rules-based, really strict, with regulations that don’t really apply to us any longer in our modern world. So much so that it seems like Leviticus has two purposes in modern Christianity – either to be ignored and set aside, or to have verses pulled out of context to be used to condemn others. But neither of those are a fair treatment of Leviticus. When we dive into it, we discover a text that we can wrestle with and learn from. A text that has much to teach us about faithfulness to God and to each other.

We will be exploring this book in a **7-part sermon series** this summer, starting on **Holy Trinity Sunday.**

* **June 29: Worship (5th Sunday Conversation)**
* **July 06: Purification**
* **July 13: Holiness Code part 1**
* **July 20: Holiness Code part 2**
* **July 27: Sabbath/Conclusion**

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**“The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)**

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she  
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

*(poets.org)*

This poem was written by Lazarus in 1883 as part of the fund-raising efforts for a base for the Statue of Liberty. It is cast on a plaque that is mounted on the inside of the base of the statue. Lazarus was an activist and advocate for Jewish refugees fleeing from Russian pogroms in the 1800s, and wrote the poem as a way to express empathy for Russian Jewish refugees to the US.

The statue was intended to be a symbol of republican (anti-imperialist) values; however, Lazarus’ poem gave it a new purpose, turning it into a symbol of welcome for immigrants and refugees at the front door of the country. *(Wikipedia article on “The New Colossus”)*

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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**

1. What’s with the fat and the blood? There are a couple of thoughts on that. One is that the best was reserved for God, and they were the best. Another is that this particular fat is in the middle of the body, corresponding to the middle zone of the tabernacle, which was reserved for priests only…so geographically speaking (if we can use that analogy in an animal’s body), this part was reserved for God. But the one that I like corresponds to life. The kidneys and the liver (mentioned in part of the text we skipped), along with the heart, were thought to be the seat of our thoughts, emotions, and conscience, and so the fat surrounding and protecting these organs may have been tied to that. And at the heart of the commandments is the concern with loss of life, so the prohibition on eating these organs, along with the blood – literally the life-force of the animal – was connected with that concern. If there was a prohibition on these parts, then every time an animal’s life was taken, it would be in sacrifice to God. (The fellowship sacrifices are thought to have been shared as a meal between the family who donated them and the priest.)
2. The verses from chapter 6 about breaking faith with God by deceiving your neighbor or swearing a false oath reminds me of a meme I saw recently. It said, “I can’t believe I grew up thinking using God’s name in vain was saying “oh my God” and not using God to manipulate people and advance your own personal agenda…” These verses are a retelling of so many commandments: stealing, coveting, bearing false witness, murdering, and – perhaps above all – not using God’s name in vain.
3. Notice in 4:31 and 6:7 that “be forgiven” is passive. Only God forgives. We are to be reconciled to the people we have harmed first, and once we’ve done that, we can be reconciled to God, but forgiveness comes from God.
4. How do we hold each other accountable for sin, especially the sins that we commit inadvertently or unintentionally? How do we allow each other to hold us accountable?
5. What does sin (the kind we’re talking about in these texts) and anger have to do with murder?

**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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