

# Crossroads



## From the Pastor —

Greetings,

We are experiencing the pandemic of COVID 19. The virus is a worldwide event.

As Americans we are not accustomed to the experience of limits of our freedoms and expecting to comply with orders. This infection brings us face to face with the limits of our humanity. Yes, to be human is to have limits. Yes, we are finite.

As humans or creatures we feel many things in the normal course of our lives. We normally avoid many stresses i.e. fear of the unknown, debilitating illness, lack of control over our lives. Of course, these fears stem from our fear of the ultimate loss, the fear of death. These anxieties are always there, but crises bring them to the forefront of our awareness. You will notice that some humans deny the seriousness of our situation by going to the beach, hoarding supplies or buying guns and ammunition. We all have our particular responses to fear and anxiety.

How do we, as disciples, respond to these very real human emotions?

Sometimes we think that as church-going folks we should be exempt from any discomforts or stresses. Some of us automatically feel guilt or

blame for the threats to our lives. Some of us deny any stress at all.

However, as those who follow the Cross we are called to face the facts. Throughout the history of the church in the world tragedies and crises have been part of the path of discipleship. Persecutions, plagues, famines, wars during which the innocent suffer the most have been the experience of the people of God in many places and in varied times.

Jesus of Nazareth faced his own crises from intense conflict with the religious leaders of his time to a group of followers who often did not get the point and who abandoned him in the time of greatest need. He carried on in the face of all with his trust that his mission was to announce that the kingdom that he

came to establish was different. All of the difficulties that he faced could be lived with.

Yes, life is difficult and that suffering comes to all, they are not the final answer. Life and new life can be discovered in the darkest of times. Love and compassion are present. Fear and pain can lead to the discovery of strength. Community can be found in the hardest of times.

Hope shines in the difficult times.



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April 2020

### Our Vision

**A Welcoming Place and People Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

### Our Mission

**We seek to fulfill this vision by:**

- ◇ **Celebrating God's Love**
- ◇ **Growing in God's Love**
- ◇ **Reaching out with God's Love**
- ◇ **Serving with God's Love**

## News from the Council—

As everyone is aware, the metro Kansas City area is under a “stay at home” order. To comply, ASLC has suspended all church activities, meetings, social gatherings and worship services through April 26, 2020. We expect our first worship to resume May 3, 2020.

We are terribly disappointed that we cannot provide our joyous worship service for Easter, or our Holy Week observances. We do understand and acknowledge that we are more than organized worship, and our community stretches further than Sunday mornings. It is the routine, the normalcy, that we miss.

Please know that although we have closed our church office for the time being, Pastor Bill continues to be available to you via phone or email. Any of your council members are also able and willing to help with any questions or concerns you might have.

As we comply with the community quarantine, we look forward to when we can return to our weekly fellowship with all of you. And we continue to discern our future mission, and what is waiting for us in the coming months.

Peace to all—Happy Easter!



## Are you on FaceBook or the Internet?

If you are, and you haven't “liked” ASLC's page yet, please do! Up to the minute information regarding church events. Easy to do, and easy to keep in communication with what's happening at ASLC.

It's also a great way to invite your friends to join in our events and happenings throughout the year. Just search ‘All Saints Lutheran Church’ in your FB search box, and click the “like” button to begin receiving updates.

In addition, our website is a great resource to receive updates and messages from Pastor Bill. Check out <https://aslcb.org> and browse all the information there.

And don't forget, if you receive text messages on your phone, you can receive up to the minute messages regarding worship and other news as it occurs. (Instructions on the next page.)

*As all church  
business,  
gatherings and  
worship are  
suspended for the  
month, there is no  
calendar or list of  
worship assistants  
this month*

## Treasurer Position Available—

Doug Neeb is stepping down as treasurer for ASLC. If you feel you have the calling to help the church in this capacity, please contact any council member and tell them of your interest. Doug is willing to work with you in the transition of duties, and the details of the responsibilities can be reviewed with you. Thank you for your consideration.

## Blue Springs Community Services League Update

Happy Easter, He has Risen, He has Risen Indeed.

We give because He first gave. BSCSL appreciates all you share with others from personal items to food, Teen Hygiene items and school supplies. A small thing, but it means and does so much for so many who may not be as fortunate as we are.

With spring having sprung, life usually takes on more of an active lifestyle with children in ballgames, dances, theatre and more. However, this year the course of events has been much different. With children out of school a lot earlier due to circumstance a healthy diet will help. Many will be needing additional help. Some items children like are Jell-O cups, Fruit cups, Applesauce Cups, Cup of soups, Macaroni and Cheese, Pork and Bean and cereals or bars.

Please place items in the grocery cart.

God Bless for all you do for others.

### Soles for Souls – On Hold

***Currently, we do not have access to drop off shoes, and we ask that you hold them until we can get into the building to prepare and transport. With the “stay at home” order, we will work to offer collection times once schedules return to normal. We appreciate your patience during this time.***

During Lent, ASLC will be collecting shoes. All types and sizes of shoes, slippers, and boots are welcome donations. The four churches we share Lenten meals and services with are joining in this project. Collection will continue through the month, due to the “stay at home” community mandate. Bags of shoes will then be taken to a storage unit, where they will be processed.



We will deliver the bags of shoes to the storage unit on either Friday or Saturday mornings (to be determined by those that wish to help.) We are looking for a few strong folks to volunteer to help with lifting and hauling. We anticipate that we will need to drop off weekly, due to the expected collection.

Shoes will be prepared on Tuesday afternoons during Creative Friends. Anyone is welcome to join us for this part of the process. We will tie shoes together or rubber band those without ties, and bag in groups of twenty. Shoes brought from the other churches will already be processed. We will deliver to the storage area.

### Sign Up for Text Messaging!

Get notified via text, when we have sudden church closings due to weather, news events, special announcements, and general reminders.

*How to sign up:*

On your phone, text the keyword **EZASLCBS** to **484848**. In a few seconds you'll get a confirmation text and when you reply to that, you're in.

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Blue Springs, Missouri 64015  
816-229-3633

<https://aslcbcs.org>  
allsaintslc64015@gmail.com



**Sunday Services**  
9:15a.m.

**Sunday School**  
(age 3 and up)  
10:30am

**Happy Birthday to:**

Karen McDonald	4/1
Suelyn Olson	4/3
Abigail Benz	4/4
Jane McMillen	4/14
David Hopkins	4/17
Chuck Dustin	4/23
Teresa Dustin	4/23

**Happy Anniversary to:**

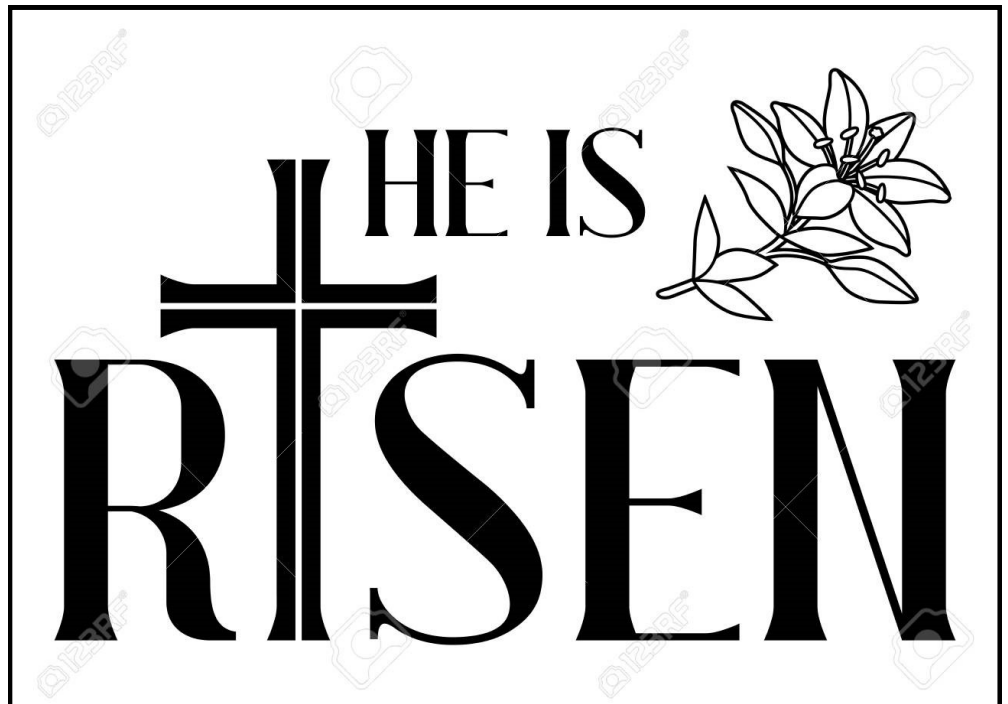
Sheryl Seevers and David	4/18
Chuck and Teresa Dustin	4/23

**2019-2020 Church Council**

President	Pam Meek
Vice President	Jim McDonald
Secretary	Sara Meyers
Treasurer	Doug Neeb
Member	Nancy Cramer
Member	Joyce Cutblirth
Member	Ron Easton

**Program Ministries**

<b>Witness/Marketing/Advertising</b>	Ron Easton
<b>Learning/Youth</b>	Jim McDonald
<b>Property</b>	Pam Meek
<b>Service/Stewardship</b>	Nancy Cramer
<b>Community Life</b>	Joyce Cutbirth
<b>Worship/Music</b>	Sara Meyers



Newsletter Deadline is the  
20th of each month.  
Submissions can be  
emailed to the church  
office or Pam Meek, at  
pameek@kc.rr.com.

## ***Opportunity Knocks—What to do during the Panademic?*** ***by Nancy Cramer***

Confined to your home for two or more weeks? The children are bored, then restless, then squabbling. Your spouse is home from work, furloughed- or even laid off. Your boss told you to pack up your work and do it from home. Easy to say, maybe harder to do. “We are all in this together,” our leader said. Perhaps. For how long? Scientists give their best guesses, and you cover your ears. Six weeks or longer? All this due to a microscopic malicious virus, something we can’t see to fight, but fight it off we must. Stories haunt us of the last great world wide, pandemic infection , influenza, which occurred one hundred years ago. Overall death count ranged from 35 million to 60 million; the latter figure is more likely.

So what should we do? We stock up on canned goods. Get out the recipe book to make cookies and Grandma’s meat loaf. Take the dust mop and rag to the far corners of our house to gather up the accumulation since last we attacked it in 20 –what? Shove your hubby, if one is available, out to the garage with orders to explore what tools and materials remain from his last project. Then have him start a new one. Check the TV schedule- figure skating, a kids’ movie, the last two episodes of your favorite serial. Good enough.

Wait, stop this hustle. How about quiet time with a book, or writing Grandma or Great Aunt Susie or a few checks to charities you’ve budgeted for. Quiet time for you, the door shut to the pandemonium on the other side. Meditate, pray, think, and dream. Maybe even nap. Ignore the dog scratching at the door, and have some quiet time for yourself. When the screams and whoops get too loud, your time is up, but you have had some rare “self time.”

If your life is missing all these challenging situations, and you live by yourself, think about this: No one really lives by themselves. God is always with us, if we invite Him in. There are others like you, perhaps waiting for the phone call to break the silence. A cheery word to eliminate the “blues.” A smile sent long distance over the telephone wires (maybe some day we actually can do that), to dispel loneliness. You’ve enjoyed your solitude, so share it with someone else. It might do you some good also.

This enforced stay at home is a rare opportunity for most Americans to do all or any of the above. The Lenten season demands it, so now we can more leisurely and thoughtfully explore its true meaning. How often can we ignore the family, the pets, the job and demands of society for our time? How often with a clear conscience? More importantly, you can engage in Lenten practices with a purpose and the time. This unpleasant period of enforced isolation may prove to be one of the richest and most rewarding times in your life.

Answer that knock and see what is on the other side.

***“Wait, stop the  
hustle.”***

We realize one of the most fun activities that has been cancelled this month is our kids' Easter Egg Hunt. To help keep our kids occupied while at home, here's a paper hunt for them.

