

Crossroads

From our Minister—

This past week, I have noticed the first signs of spring: our first daffodil blossom burst out in a cheerful yellow bloom; the first light green hints of new grass have been poking up in last year's old and tired lawns; and down the street from our house, a magnolia tree that I watch every spring has its first delicate pink flower.

Magnolia blossoms speak to me every year of new life and the opportunity for renewal. Several years ago, I moved about this time of year across two states, away from a place that was filled (for me) with doubt and pain, to a place that (I hoped) would bring me an opportunity for a new beginning. Coming down my sister's stairs the Sunday morning of the weekend I moved, I looked out the window to see a magnolia tree in full bloom, and realized that it was Easter Sunday.

That time, and that place, did come to represent renewal and new life for me. It was while living in that place that I rediscovered myself, spending time that was painful and joyful by turns, dying to my old self and giving space for a new self, a renewed, more fully realized, more honest and open version of myself to rise from the ashes. It was alongside this process that a relationship with Christ, which had lain dormant for years, was reborn and given space to flourish.

This is a risky proposition. There is a lot at stake in letting go who we have been to make room for who we are called to be. It's a scary thing to let go of the things that have moored us to our identities, to recognize that these things may fit us differently, or may no longer fit us at all. It can be easy to cling to these things,

wondering in fear what happens if we never find something to replace them.

As I look around this year and see signs of spring, of new life rising from the ashes of the old life we left behind with the changing of the year, I wonder: what does God have planned for us? Where is God leading us?

The time of Lent, now drawing to a close, is an opportunity for introspection, for reflection on who we are in God's world, and who God calls us to be, and how we can better live into the fullness of God's love for us. The time of Easter, fast approaching, is an opportunity for proclamation: we are God's people, heirs of the kingdom, inheritors of the grace of Christ.

What does this mean for us as individuals? How do we die to our old selves and give space for a new self to rise from the ashes? What does this mean for us as the people of God, called in this place as the congregation of All Saints Lutheran Church? How is Christ calling us in this season of death and resurrection, this season of rising from the ashes, this season filled with the promise of new life? How are we, the people of God at All Saints, called to follow God?

What are we being called to let go of? What are we being called to make room for? What is it that we have loved for years that we have to figure out how to set aside, or wear differently? We may try some things on that don't work for us; but we will also try some new things on that will make us wonder, "why haven't we been doing this all along?" That's part of the fear, but also part of the renewal.



Volume 34, Issue 4
April 2021

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**

At our March council meeting, the council and transition team met to discuss the results of our February Coffee with Council gathering. Great thoughts and ideas, and even some concerns are emerging. After much discussion, we believe four general initiatives have emerged that we, as a congregation, can begin to work with.

To achieve this, we need your help. We need your involvement. We need your commitment. Going forward, we will begin holding our congregational gatherings (renamed “Transitioning for Our Future”) on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at 11am. This will provide a forum for more discussion and discernment, a time when we can identify obstacles, as well as resources available to achieve these initiatives.

The four goals are:

- 1) Determine how and implement name recognition and identity in Oak Grove and Grain Valley
- 2) How can we better offer use of our building to local businesses and organizations?



- 3) Work together on service projects with other congregations. Identify projects, resources and how to implement
- 4) Improve communication within ASLC

What we need from you, as a congregational member, is to help us determine which two of these initiatives we want to be working on immediately, and to identify how you personally, can help in these endeavors.

Bring your thoughts and commitments to the next “Transitioning for the Future” meeting on March 28, via Zoom.

As always, if you have any questions regarding this process, please contact any council person or transition team member, or Pastor Sarah.

To join into Zoom via phone, call 1-312-626-6799. When asked, type in 846 1206 6465 for the meeting ID and 152928 for the passcode.

For Discussion at Transitioning for Our Future 3/28/2021

Proposed All Saints Mission: REACH IN, REACH OUT, REACH UP

- **Reaching in** to support the growth of individual spirituality and our faith community
- **Reaching out** to put our faith into action through service to the community
- **Reaching up** for God’s guidance for our spiritual growth and community service

What two of these four goals should we focus on first?

- 1) Determine how and implement name recognition and identity in Oak Grove and Grain Valley
- 2) How can we better offer use of our building to local businesses and organizations?
- 3) Work together on service projects with other congregations. Identify projects, resources and how to implement
- 4) Improve communication within ASLC

Join us by Zoom or by phone. We need your thoughts, your voice, your commitment.

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH BUILDING USAGE AT ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

All groups should follow the guidelines below to best prevent the spread of illness. We ask that if you need assistance with any of these procedures, you contact church administration (council members) to determine adjustments. Council members contact information can be obtained from the church secretary.

Please be aware that we are following current county health guidelines. Some of these procedures may change should those guidelines change. We reserve the right to refuse entrance by groups if these procedures are not followed. Our church body has many older and vulnerable members, We err on the side of caution to keep everyone healthy.

- 1) Prior to any meeting or gathering, wipe down any and all surfaces you may or think you may be touching. We hope to continue having wipes available for use, but as a group, you should bring some just in case our supply is low.
- 2) No shared food or drink will be permitted at this time.
- 3) A mask is required for everyone indoors. Gloves are optional.
- 5) We fully recommend the six-foot social distance protocol. Current community guidelines state no more than 10 people inside our building at any one time, due to the upsurge in COVID cases. Please follow these occupancy guidelines until further notice.
- 6) Please do NOT use the drinking fountain.
- 7) Take attendance of those attending your gathering and leave in the church office. If the office is closed, please leave on the table when you leave. Provide contact information for at least one person in the group, in case we need to reach out to the group.
- 8) Wipe down all surfaces used, including the bathrooms and door handles of the front door, before and after use.

We want to be as welcoming as possible. Please understand that we do not have an on-staff janitor, but rely on the goodness of one person to maintain the cleanliness of our building. Your assistance in cleaning before and after will help us keep you and others safe during this time. Questions can be directed to any council person.

Thank you for your help.

Easter Sunday Worship Plans—

The Music and Worship Committee is planning to offer celebration of Resurrection Sunday with an Outdoor Parking Lot Worship. Currently, the weather looks like it will cooperate. (Fingers crossed!)

Please join us at 10am for this joyous occasion, bringing chairs, masks and remaining socially distanced. (Perhaps a blanket for a bit of warmth would be a good precaution as well.)

Should the weather turn, plan B will be to broadcast virtually. This plan may be subject to change quickly, look for a text message, if not by email.

A Request from the Property Committee—

How does the church men's restroom door become locked with no one inside?

It's not gremlins or even the Missouri Synod; we do it ourselves. Here's how:

- 1 – The patron enters the restroom locking the door on the way in.
- 2 – The door is allowed to close but without enough force to latch. (The wider the door is opened, the more force is exerted by the closing mechanism.)
- 3 – Then, after CDC approved hand washing, the patron exits by pushing the door open and not rotating the inside handle.
- 4 – The door closes and latches. The restroom is now locked and empty.

This is not a big problem. The lock is made to open from the outside by using a coin or similar tool. Insert the coin into the vertical slot and rotate, the door unlocks.

Please lock the door behind you when using the men's restroom. The best method for doing this is to give the handle a little tug when the door is closed to confirm that it's latched. When latched, it clicks. If in doubt, give the door a little push. Rotating the inside handle unlocks the door.

Council Member Addition—

With the death of Nancy Chambers, council membership had reduced to 4 persons. We are pleased to announce that Lisa Melton has agreed to fill Nancy's position until elections at our May congregational meeting.

We still have one position open, and in May, that increases to three. Please prayerfully consider offering your time on council. There will be two three year term commitments, and one two year term commitment to fill.

This is an important time for ASLC, and leadership will be needed.

Thank you, Lisa!

City Lights, Country Life

A couple of things I need to mention that reflected life in Kansas City in the mid 1950's: the presence of Harold Roe Bartle, and the arrival of the Kansas City Athletics.

Harold Roe Bartle (known to all as H. Roe Bartle, or just Roe Bartle) was distinctive for his booming voice and large personality, matched only by his girth, which measured close to 400 pounds.

He moved to Kansas City in the late 1920's, and for many years served as the Chief Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, for the Kansas City area. During his tenure with the scouts, he established the tribe of Mic-O-Say, an honor program for deserving scouts, and developed Camp Osceola into a first-class facility.



He acquired the nickname "The Chief" which became the name for the professional football team that arrived in Kansas City in the early

1960's.

Bartle was also responsible for keeping the Future Farmers of America convention in Kansas City for many years (remember the kids with the blue jackets), and for making the American Royal an attraction known through out the Midwest.

By Jimmy "Mel" McDonald

In the early 1950's, Bartle was talked into running for Mayor of Kansas City, and running as an independent. He served two terms as Mayor.

He died in 1974, thanks in part to his voracious habit of smoking 25 cigars a day. At his burial, the road leading into the cemetery was lined on both sides with Boy Scouts.

In 1955, Kansas City became one of only 13 cities in the United States to be home to a Major League Baseball

franchise. The Kansas City Athletics weren't very good, in fact, during the thirteen years the team was in

KC, they never had a winning record. But people came, not to see the A's, but other teams, and their stars: the Yankees with Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra, the Indians with Larry Doby, and of course, the Red Sox with Ted Williams.



*Kansas City Athletics
1955 - 1967*

In 1956, right before the end of the season, my Dad and I went to see the Yankees, and their pitcher that night was a second stringer named Don Larsen. Less than a month later, Mr. Larsen became the only pitcher in the history of the World Series to pitch a perfect game.

The "Paris of the Plains" was the place to be in the 1950's.

"This column is dedicated to the memory of Nancy Cramer who inspires us to be all that we can be, as she was all that she could be."

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 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 coming up quickly, life takes on more of an active lifestyle with children in ballgames, dances, theatre and more. A healthy diet will help keep them active and healthy. Some of those items the League is looking for are:

Jell-o cups	Canned Soup
Helper Meals	Canned Chicken
Tuna	Pork and Beans
Side dishes	

Children also like Fruit and Applesauce cups.

Please place items in the grocery cart at church. Thanking you in advance for your generosity in helping your neighbor during these difficult times.

February food donations to BSCSL were 127 food items

Should you know of any families who are in need please direct them to the Blue Springs office at 200 SW 10th St in Blue Springs. Phone number is 816-229-0033. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 9 to 12 and 1pm to 4 pm. Friday 9 to 12.



The church office is open 9am-12pm, Monday through Friday, to drop off donations.

Prayers Requested—

Ron Easton recently underwent surgery at a hospital in Omaha. He is recovering, the surgery was successful, however he will be recuperating for a bit of time, due to the extensive surgery needed.

We ask for your healing prayers to include Ron while he recovers.

A Holiday Invitation—

The Church of the Resurrection has invited ASLC members to join them for their annual Tenebrae service on March 31. Based on the last 7 words of Christ, lights are extinguished after each reading, and the slamming of the book signifies the end of the service.

They are also extending an invitation to their Good Friday worship on April 2. The church does a reedy of the Passion and will be open to a limited number of people, and also streamed online.



Happy Birthday to:

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

Happy Anniversary to:

Sheryl SeEVERS & David Sharon	4/18
Chuck & Teresa Dustin	4/23

Readers for April Worship:

We are in need of readers for April virtual worship services. They can be recorded easily and if you feel uncomfortable, you can be recorded at the church. Many thanks to those already assisting.

4/1 (Maundy Thursday)	
4/4 (Easter Sunday)	Sara Meyers/Betsy Reese
4/11	Anne Lee
4/18	
4/25	Joyce Hoover

*If you would like to participate,
please contact Pastor Sarah or Sara Meyers to learn more.*

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.

All Saints Lutheran Church
421 SW 19th Street
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015
816-229-3633

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

Sunday Services
(currently online at aslcb.org)

2020-2021 Church Council

President	Pam Meek
Vice President	Ron Easton
Secretary	Sara Meyers
Treasurer	Carla Girkin
Member	Carla Girkin
Member	Lisa Melton
Member	vacant

Program Ministries

Witness/Marketing/Advertising	Ron Easton
Learning/Youth	Carla Girkin
Property	Pam Meek
Service/Stewardship	vacant
Community Life	vacant
Worship/Music	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.*

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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				1 Maundy Thursday Via Zoom 7pm	2 Good Friday Office Closed	3
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4 Easter Sunday 10am Outdoor Worship	5	6	7 Minister's Office Hours	8 Council Meeting via Zoom 6:30pm	9	10
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11 Transitioning for Our Future via Zoom 11am	12	13	14 Minister's Office Hours	15 PTA Meeting	16	17
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18	19	20	21 Minister's Office Hours	22	23	24
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25 Transitioning for Our Future via Zoom 11am						
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