

Crossroads



From the Pastor —

The coronavirus and limitations of activity forced All Saints Lutheran Church to find ways to carry on its ministry. As with many religious organizations, All Saints had to change its way of worship ministry. The website has become an important resource and provides a means of worshiping as a community. The members' participation is maintained and enhanced through the recorded services and participation of members in producing the service. As a congregation and individuals, you adapted to a wholly new and unique situation. The context of your congregational and personal lives were challenged and you responded.

My presence as your Transition Pastor represents a new challenge for All Saints. You are proceeding into discovering your new future and direction. The issue before you is that the pandemic delayed the process of your transition. We are lagging in engaging the process. However, I think that the Coronavirus 19 has taught you several things:

1. You can change
2. You can work together.
3. You can plan and accomplish difficult tasks.
4. You have capacities and gifts.

The tasks of discovering your future as God's people in this place will present more difficult challenges. Doing the same things will not carry you into the future. Just as the virus forced changes, the discovery of your future will bring pressure to adapt. You will discern your future which may not be to your liking or preference.

Questions for you:

1. Do any of the lessons from the coronavirus challenges transfer to your situation as a congregation in transition?
2. As you grapple with God's future for All Saints, are you able to manage the anxiety of the discovering the unknown?
3. Most important question: Can you open your selves to the awareness that God has a plan for All Saints Lutheran Church?
4. Can your faith accept that Gods' plan may not fit your expectations of what you think should happen?

As Transition Pastor I will walk with you, in front of you ,or push you from behind. In the near future I and the transition team will host a series of forums via Zoom to report findings and invite you to engage in a discernment of the information and developing a plan.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus guide and direct us all!

Pastor William O. George
Transition Pastor



Volume 33, Issue 8

August 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**

Council News—

During the past month, we have continued to assess the threat COVID-19 poses for ASLC. There are short time periods when we feel the threat is abating, and now currently (as of the end of July), the threat seems very real.

Council has worked over the past month to maintain contact with church members, via phone calls, FaceBook, email and providing current news and information via our website. We are working hard to “not lose touch”.

We are supporting Pastor George in his efforts to continue the transition work begun over a year ago, but was sidelined temporarily with the shut down. We are enthused that the transition team will begin meeting with members to begin (once again) a time of discernment and answering hard questions about ourselves.

We hosted the June Coffee with Council, offering 3 Zoom sessions in hopes of more members attending. As the 11am session was the best attended, we consolidated to offer only that time for our July gathering. It was nice to see everyone's faces and we continue to share information as we have it.

Zoom appears to be the tool of choice for meeting with people, and it should be noted that *you can include yourself by calling the phone number, if you wish to not engage the video portion of the call, or if you don't have access to video capability.* The phone number is always listed at the end of the email notification of the meeting.



We continue to review and assess our online presence and are pleased to see those watching our virtual services is higher than the physical attendance we've seen in the past. We expect to continue virtual worship even when we are able to offer in-person worship again.

So, for now, join us online for worship and look for Zoom meeting notices coming out for Bible study sessions, transition group meetings, and Coffee With Council.

Stay safe—

The Zoom logo, consisting of the word "zoom" in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font.

If you prefer not to access the video portion of Zoom, you can always participate by phone only.

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. Gloves are optional.
- 5) We fully recommend the six-foot social distance protocol. Our fellowship area is 639 square feet. Our sanctuary is 972 square feet. Using the guidelines established, that allows for 10 people to safely accommodate the fellowship area and 27 people to use the sanctuary area. Please follow these occupancy guidelines. With the tables set up in the fellowship area, the actual occupancy limits are slightly lower, to allow for the 6 foot distance between people.
- 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.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Katy Melton has undertaken the project of remodeling our current nursery into a youth/Sunday school room for the youth in our congregation.

Her statement (sent to her Girl Scout representative for approval) states: *“The youth attendance has decreased over the past few years. The youth group and Sunday School groups are forced to move around depending on other events occurring at the church. For my gold award, I would like to establish a space in the current nursery that the youth can utilize for Sunday school, community service planning, and other activities. My hope is to increase the participation of the current youth at the church and create an appealing place for visitors and guests. I will also make sure that this space can still be used as a nursery.”*

With the blessing of church council, Katy is now working on the project but can use your help! Her fundraising expectations have had to change, due to the COVID-19 restrictions. She had expected to offer baked good and fresh produce for a free-will donation on Sunday mornings, but as we are not currently meeting, this is not an option.

She states, “During the July and August, I will be offering baked goods and fresh produce at the church for a free will donation. I would greatly appreciate any donations you are willing to give towards this project. If you would like to donate towards a certain item or piece of furniture on the list below, you can email me at dolce.heart20@gmail.com.”

The list includes;

- Bookshelves
- Comfortable seating
- Colorful wall decals
- Bench Seat (toy storage) - will maintain the nursery aspect of the room

Please feel free to contact her directly to help support her work toward her Gold Star Award and help the kids have a place of their own, once we can return to the building.

Thank you!!

Katy will be working at church throughout the summer to complete her project. Please support her as you are able.

Blue Springs Community Services League Update

During the past 4 months our lives and the lives of many others have been turned upside down due to the Coronavirus Epidemic. Many have lost jobs or are attempting to work at home while kids are trying to do homework, again for a “new normal”, it is now our turn to step up and help with replenishing the pantry at Blue Springs Community Service League.



During the month of August, we will be focusing on collecting all types of food.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Pasta | Canned Fruits |
| Pasta Meals | Soups and Stews |
| Cereals | Juices |
| Cereal bars | Peanut Butter |
| Canned meats | Jellies |
| Canned Vegetables | |

Whatever you would like to donate would be greatly appreciated. Please place in grocery cart.

School Supply Drive—

During the month of August, we will be collecting school supplies. We are hopeful that kids will be going back to school, however they will need school supplies whether back to classes or virtual learning at home. The Blue Springs Community Service League thanks each of you for your continued commitment to help others and your response to the school supplies drive.

A short list of some of those needed items are:

- ◆ #2 Pencils with eraser
- ◆ Boxes of Crayons (16 and 24 count)
- ◆ Highlighters
- ◆ Packages of Colored pencils
- ◆ Blue, red, and black ink pens
- ◆ Large erasers
- ◆ Soft pink rubber erasers
- ◆ Packages of multi-colored and white construction paper
- ◆ Packages of loose-leaf paper (WIDE and COLLEGE-RULE)
- ◆ Spiral notebooks (wide Rule)
- ◆ Two pocket folders
- ◆ Eight subject dividers

There are copies of a more complete list of school supplies on the table in the narthex. Please take one. It is also posted on bulletin board. Donations can be placed in in the grocery cart.



The church building is open from 9 am-12pm, M-F, for you to drop off donations.

We Will Win the Race—

by Nancy Cramer

“On your mark. Get set. GO!!!”

Those are the commands for All Saints Lutheran Church as we begin the sprint, or the 400 yard, the mile, or for goodness sakes, it may be the marathon in our search for the future of our church. At the last Council Coffee with members on Sunday, July 26, 2020, the conclusion was that we have accomplished the sprint and the 400 yard dash, and now we are preparing for a longer race. Who knows which one that will be? The vicious COVID-19 has us in its grip, and not even the Three Wise men of medicine and science can give a definite answer.

So, what are we to do? The coffee today was lightly attended. Perhaps you all sensed we would not have any remarkable answers. But here are a few: We will continue our telephone calls on a regular basis to congregants. We will let you know of our efforts each week in the monthly newsletter, and appropriate emails. We will investigate various methods for you to continue your donations to the church. (We continue to have overhead costs and benevolence pledges.) We are pleased to report that with your faithful acts of giving, the church is meeting expenses in every area. We will investigate other online options for donations.

Pastor Bill will continue his investigations of what other churches have found to be successful, and he is calling members each week to stay in touch with them. The Transition Committee is finding helpful information about our geographic community (i.e. Blue Springs, Lees Summit, Grain Valley, and Independence as examples).

As long as the summer heat and the spikes in the virus plague us, any outdoor services are not feasible. That will change, and we hope to be once again in control of our activities. Two groups are currently meet at the church—the Girl Scouts and Project Comfort. This latter is sewing furiously as they are behind schedule in achieving their goal again of 100 quilts by Christmas this year. We wish them Godspeed but and not too many pricked fingers. The Girl Scouts under Marie Benz’ leadership are studying new topics in search of more badges for their sashes. Let’s wish them well also. Our secretary, Jean, takes care of office business every morning from 9 to 12, and Pastor Bill also keeps office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Council as always, is open to your suggestions and will explore their feasibility and usefulness. This report is to reassure you that your church is alive and well, though short from the finish line. As we round the next curve on the race track, we are saying, “Join the race with us. Keep on truckin’.” That means “running,” and together we will reach the finish line. It may take longer than we want, but we Lutherans are determined folks, and we will break through the finish line tape. That’s the time we will give a roaring cheer.



“Keep on truckin’”

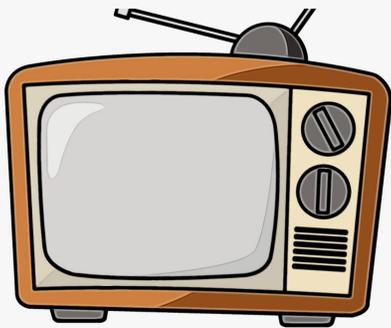
City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy “Mel” McDonald

The year 1953 was an uneventful year. But Baby New Year brought in 1954 with a bang and lots of changes. The earliest of these changes occurred in March of 1954, when that new entertainment venue, the television, found its way into our house, complete with tubes, antenna, and rabbit ears to maneuver the antenna in the right direction.

The antenna was affixed on top of our windmill. When it got bitterly cold, the antenna would freeze, and my father would climb up and shake off the ice. I could not watch him climb, and prayed he would safely return.

The rabbit ears served an important function. We were blessed with only two stations in completely opposite directions of each other, so the rabbit got cranked a lot.



The two stations were on the air for about twelve hours a day each, as I remember, and overlapped each other for about half of the time. When the stations were not on the air, the screen displayed a test pattern, which I never could comprehend.

A couple of weeks later, Mother received bad news. The one-room school where she taught was being closed. She was advised of this occurring when she was hired three years previously. She was working to obtain her bachelor's degree, but was about a year short of achieving it.

There were five or six schools still open in small towns within 10-15 miles of our farm. But vacancies were rare, and most were in a different county, meaning a different bureaucracy to deal with.

I think my parents talked about Mother going to school full time. But that would mean buying another car. That was not in the picture, so to speak, after the major purchase of the television and with crops being as fickle as they could be with such unpredictable weather.

For the fall term of 1954, I was enrolled in the town school, only about one mile and a half from our farm. That summer, Mother took a heavy load of classes via correspondence. As luck would have it, just a few weeks before school started, she was notified that there was an opening. It was in a three-room school in the sprawling metropolis of Fortuna, which had a population of about 350 on a good day. She interviewed with the County Superintendent and not only did she get the job, she was selected as the school principal, because of the college classes she had completed.

Meanwhile in Kansas City, big things were happening. It was announced that in 1955, major league baseball would have a home in Kansas City with the arrival of the Philadelphia Athletics. Also, a new mayor was elected: The Honorable H. Roe Bartle, whose nickname “the chief” derived from his activity in the Boy Scouts, and whose nickname would be given about 10 years later to the Kansas City football team which moved from Dallas to Kansas City and is still with us.

We were blessed with only two stations, in completely opposite directions, so the rabbit got cranked a lot..

AUGUST 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4 Pastor's Office Hours	5 Pastor's Office Hours	6	7	8
9	10	11 Pastor's Office Hours	12 Pastor's Office Hours	13 Council Meeting (via Zoom) 6:30pm	14	15
16	17	18 Pastor's Office Hours	19 Pastor's Office Hours	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 Project Comfort 9am-12pm
23 Coffee With Council 11am (via Zoom)	24	25 Pastor's Office Hours	26 Pastor's Office Hours	27	28	29
30	31					

Church Group Schedule—

The church building is open with the current guidelines listed on the opposite page. Please refer to the building use guidelines, and inform Jean at the church if your group will want to utilize our building, and if so the dates and times, as well as a contact person to keep on file. Please note that if your group is new to utilizing our facility, it does need to seek council approval to prevent conflicts. Contact any council member with that request.

Thank you!

All Saints Lutheran Church
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816-229-3633

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

Sunday Services
(currently online at aslcb.org)

2019-2020 Church Council

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

Program Ministries

Witness/Marketing/Advertising	Ron Easton
Learning/Youth	Jim McDonald
Property	Pam Meek
Service/Stewardship	Nancy Cramer
Community Life	Joyce Cutbirth
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.



Happy Birthday to:

Marie Benz	8/2
Matthew Girkin	8/10
Heather Antes	8/11
Donna Taylor	8/14
August Benz	8/15
Doug Neeb	8/18
Cheyenne Bird	8/20
Jerrian Renfro	8/26
Tom Meek	8/27
Tammy Neeb	8/31

Happy Anniversary to:

Jim & Karen McDonald	8/24
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Church Leadership Opportunities—

We continue to look for an interested person in stepping into the treasurer's role, and it is that time of year where two council positions are open.

Please think prayerfully about your abilities and consider sharing your time as a church leader. Any council member is happy to discuss these positions. If interested, please contact Jim McDonald or Pam Meek.

And thank you!

Church Business Updates—

We continue to look to the community guidelines but are looking at holding our delayed Congregational Meeting in late July, early August, at the end of our monthly outdoor worship meeting. At this meeting, we will offer our Annual Committee Reports as well as vote for the new slate of council candidates.

It has been difficult for all of us over the last few months, we offer up our congregation in prayer as we work to define our current present and our future. Should you have any questions, you are welcome to discuss with any council person. Blessings to all!