

Crossroads

From our Minister—

Those of you who come to the Bible study after church heard about one of my birthday traditions: on the Saturday before or after my birthday, I smoke a couple of racks of ribs (and a chicken), make some sides, and we host my parents for a celebratory dinner. I've been doing this for probably 12 years, if not longer. The chicken is a recent addition, as our son prefers chicken to just about any other type of meat.

I fire up the smoker at other times of the year, as well, but this birthday tradition is an important one for me. Cooking for people I love is a way that I express that love, and I have deep love and great appreciation for my parents! My birthday seems like a good time to express that thanks. I also find cooking to be a comfortable way for me to extend hospitality to others, caring for a pretty fundamental need that everyone has and welcoming them into a space and a place (and a meal) that I have created with them in mind.

Jesus extends this welcome and this hospitality to us every Sunday, when we are invited to the Lord's Table to receive the body and blood of Christ. Regardless of who we are, we have a fundamental need to be fed spiritually, to be reminded that we are loved so completely by Jesus that he is willing to feed us his own body and blood, given to forgive our sins and to bring us into the embrace of God.

We are, in turn, invited to share this welcome and this hospitality.

Some people recommend that sharing a meal with a visitor is the most likely way to get them to return to church, but this is a hard thing to do in this age of rising COVID vaccines. So how do we reach out to visitors in this time?

We make personal connections – we have conversations, learn names (something I struggle with on a good day). We obtain contact information if we can and follow up, be intentional about inviting (and inviting back).

And we practice the art of cultivating good soil, and being good sowers.

The scripture reading at the heart of my devotional this morning was the parable of the sower, who sows seeds that land on the rocky ground, on the path, on the shallow soil, and on the good soil. I reflected that sometimes, I am good soil, and sometimes I am not. Sometimes I sow seeds in good soil, and sometimes I don't. Regardless of my intentions, sometimes my efforts fall short.

But I think the key is to understand what draws the other person in. What do they need? Are they seeking connection? Healing? Rest or respite? How can I meet them where they are, provide them with what they need? My hope is that with God's help, I can care for a need that they have, and that with the Spirit's guidance, they will feel God at work in their lives and be fed.

But I can only sow good seeds when I cultivate good soil in myself. I can only sow good seeds when I am fed, when I am the recipient of Jesus' hospitality and care.

I pray that we are all fed, that we are all good soil, and that we are all good sowers.



Volume 34, Issue 8
August 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**

Congregational Meeting August 15

We will have a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, August 15** immediately following the service to vote on Pastor Sarah Pierce's calling. There will be a couple of issues that we will be vote on including accepting the calling and the other will be the financial side. A packet of information will be mailed to all rostered members on Monday, August 2 so look in your mailboxes for this information. If you do not receive the packet by August 6th, let Ron Easton know and he will get you a copy as soon as possible.

HELP WANTED

We are still in need of a financial secretary. If you are interested please see a member of the council. Primary duties are: overseeing the counting of the weekly offerings, overseeing the creating and depositing of receipts, train individuals who count the offerings, ensuring that two non-related individuals are present for the counting of the offerings, report to the treasurer the totals of all offerings, overseeing the recording of contributions to the individual records, report on levels of giving to the council and congregation, and provide periodic statements to contributors for tax reporting.



We are looking for committee members for the following areas:

- **Audit Committee** - An Audit Committee of three voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office will be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for re-election.
- **Staff Support Committee** - A Staff Support Committee shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor. Term of office shall be two years, three members to be appointed each successive year. Committee members will hold no other office in the congregation during their term.
- **Annual Review Committee** - The Annual Support Committee shall be appointed by the Congregational Council. Term of the office shall be one year, two members to be appointed each successive year and include one member of the congregational council. Committee members can not hold a position as Staff Support.

School Supplies Needed for BSCSL

Hard to believe but these warm days will quickly fade and turn into fall with school days once again upon us. For the months of July and August we will focus on school supplies for the children as they organize and return to school. Stores will have lists of items requested in their entrances for us to pull items from, however a shorter list of routine items follows for your use. Items will be taken to BSCSL and they will be sorted and distributed among those in need.

Items include:

- #2 yellow pencils
- packages of colored pencils
- blue, red and black pens
- Highlighters
- large and soft pink rubber erasers
- 16 and 24 count boxes of crayons
- Crayola or Prang watercolor paint
- packages of loose-leaf notebook paper (wide rule)
- spiral notebooks (wide rule)
- 2 pocket folders
- 3 prong paper folders
- 12-inch rulers (centimeter and inches same ruler)
- bottles of white glue, glue sticks
- small blunt scissors



This list is by no means a complete list but a start. Please put these items in the grocery cart along with your monthly food donation. Boxed dinners, pastas, sauces, cereals and cereal bars, applesauce and fruit cups, pudding cups, soups and chili are all good fall options.

The BSCSL League is very appreciative of your continued support of your neighbor.

132 food items here taken to BSCSL on May 26, 2021 along with 23 personal items for our May focus. A total of 155 items. Thank you for all the lives you have touched by your generosity.

Youth News

Bags to Mats Ministry

Please bring your clean, dry used plastic shopping bags to church to be used to make sleeping mats for the homeless. If possible, keep the bags smooth, rather than crumpling them into a ball. It will take about 700 bags to make one mat, **so this is a long-term project**. Also, please be encouraged to use reusable canvas/vinyl bags when possible, but when plastic bags are used, bring them to church for upcycling! A collection box is available in the narthex for you to drop them off.

Thank you for supporting this service project of the Youth Group!



Any youth is welcome to participate in Youth Group activities and events.

Summer Fun!

The Youth Group decided to stick close to home with CoVid rearing it's ugly head again, and played water balloons to have fun and cool off after working on their service project.

We expect to meet on the 4th Sundays of each month following *Transitioning Into Our Future* gatherings to work on the mats and plan our activities. For more information, contact Lisa Melton or Carla Girkin.



City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy “Mel” McDonald

Being an only child with two working parents, I made out like a bandit for Christmas, and birthdays.

On our last Christmas on the farm, I received a present that was completely unexpected but which earned a special place in my heart; even today.

That special gift was a trombone! Neither of my parents played a musical instrument, and didn't sing in the Church choir, so I have always wondered what inspired this gift. For whatever reason, I embraced the challenge immediately, and the challenge was daunting.

Being only nine years old, and fairly short for my age, the primary challenge was extending my arms to reach the 7th position to play a C.

When I returned to school after the holidays, I found out the grade school I attended, where my mother was principal, had an arrangement with the local high school for grade school students to come and take classes with the high school band director. Every other week myself, and five or six students from my grade school took the six mile bus ride to Tipton where other rural grade school students also came to the local high school. So as I best recall, we had about 20-25 young musicians gathered.

Our band director was Mr. Gregory, and he had the patience of Job. I did notice that he would place cotton in his ears on occasion.

When we moved to Kansas City, the trombone came with us, and to this day, I still have it in my possession I played in the marching band, and concert band all through high school.

Up until about five years ago, I would take the trombone out of moth balls, and play it at Christmas and Easter.

Well so long, and enjoy these “Dog Days of Summer”.

“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.”



Donations Needed

If you have any extra calendars and/or greeting cards of any sort and do not want or use them, please bring them to the church to be passed on to assisted living homes to be used by the residents there.

Also collected, the face of used Christmas and greeting cards to be used by the assisted living activities group. Please, no personal notes written on them.

All can be placed on the square table between doors.



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

Bible Study Group—

An adult Bible class meets after Sunday worship. All are welcome to participate. We are studying the book of Acts.

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.

Sign up for our text service by texting the keyword EZASLCBS to 816-319-3710.

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

celebrate!

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

Celebrate Niel's 90th With Us!

Mark your calendar for August 1st! Niel Johnson's family wants to share Niel's milestone birthday with us, his church family by hosting a birthday reception following worship that day.

Plans are still in the works, but all are invited to wish Niel well and share our love for him...with him.

A special HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our resident historian!



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

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

Sunday Services
9:15am
and streaming online at
alscbs.org

2021-2022 Church Council

President	Ron Easton
Vice President	Lisa Melton
Secretary	Sara Meyers
Treasurer	Carla Girkin
Member	Janet Cooper
Member	Betsy Reese

Program Ministries

Witness/Marketing/	
Advertising	Ron Easton
Learning/Youth	Lisa Melton
Property	Carla Girkin
Service/Stewardship	Betsy Reese/Janet Cooper
Community Life	Carla Girkin
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.

AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study Niel Johnson's 90th Birthday Celebration	2	3	4 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study	9 <i>Council Meeting 6:30pm</i>	10	11 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	12	13	14
15 Worship 9:15am Congregational Meeting	16	17	18 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 Worship 9:15am <i>Transitioning for Our Future</i> <i>Youth Group</i>	23	24	25 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	26	27	28 <i>Project Comfort 9- 12pm</i>
29 Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study	30	31				