

Crossroads



Volume 33, Issue 12

December 2020

Parish News—

With the season of Advent upon us, and Christmas following, we have much to prepare for at ASLC.

Typically our “busy” season, there is the feeling of so much to be done, and yet, with the pandemic, we cannot do it “together”. Our Hanging of the Greens event has been parceled out to allow community safety standards. Secret Sisters year end gathering is being adjusted to accommodate social distancing. And even our normal worship continues to be virtual.

We welcome Sarah Pierce to lead us with ministerial duties for the next few months. She is graduating from seminary this month, and although not yet ordained has been authorized by Central States Synod to perform all pastoral care duties until called. Her office hours will be all day every Wednesday, and her email is spierce.aslcpastor@gmail.com.

Pastor George continues to recover from his fall, and is very grateful for your cards, and messages wishing him well.

Nancy Cramer, along with Niel Johnson has been working diligently to create our first Silent Virtual Auction. Items will be listed and available for online bidding starting Tuesday 12/1/2020 and ending Friday, 12/5/2020. The link to access the site is <https://www.32auctions.com/ASLC> . Feel free to share this with friends and family. All are welcome to participate. Proceeds will go to local charities. (Many thanks to Ron Easton for his assistance in this project.)

Our next Congregational Meeting will be held via Zoom on December 20 at 11am. The

purpose is to approve the 2021 Congregational Budget. Please plan to attend, if not visually, at least by phone so we can all understand our plans for the coming year. Thank you to all that completed and submitted their pledge cards. It is with this base that we place our faith in the meeting our budgeted needs.

We also will continue our Coffee with Council Zoom gatherings on 12/27 at 11am. All are welcome for the fellowship as we gather virtually.

ASLC is still in need of someone to step up to provide treasurer duties. We anticipate that reports and tax filings will be done by an outside accountant’s firm, but need someone that can cut checks to pay the bills and payroll. It’s all on Quicken software and not difficult to learn.

We also would welcome another member to step up and fill our sixth open council position. Truly, to have multiple viewpoints help us in our leadership mission.

Our transition team will continue its work with synod support for the next few months. Please continue to hold them in prayer during this time.

As always—stay safe, stay well. Merry Christmas!

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**



celebrate!

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.

Happy (Belated) Birthday to:

Molly Nelson	10/2
Pam Meek	10/5
Anne Lee	10/9
Mary Latela	10/10
Jennifer Blair	10/17
Monte Benz	10/24
Jordin Via	10/25
Katie Thompson	10/27

Sheryl Seevers	11/5
Mary Simpson	11/6
Betsy Reese	11/9
Michael Blair	11/24
Howard Watson	11/27
Gary Antes	11/29
Zachary Antes	11/29

Happy Birthday to:

Martin Meyers	12/1
Ron Schwantes	12/4
Tyler Melton	12/12
Noelle Benz	12/17
Erek Via	12/18
Kimberly Girkin	12/21
Darren Melton	12/21
Larry Taylor	12/24
Gloria Wiltse	12/24

Happy (Belated) Anniversary to:

Phil & Mary Ann Gross	10/5
David & Beth Hopkins	10/7

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.

Little Bear and Mama Bear Go Shopping

By Nancy Cramer

Mama Bear called, “Little Bear, come here. We are going shopping” and she sat in front of the computer. Little Bear was puzzled. They usually put on their coats and got into the car.

Mama Bear smiled at his curious look and explained, “We are going shopping on the computer. It is called a virtual silent auction, and the church is having it to raise money to help people in need.”

She typed rapidly on the keyboard and soon a form and then a list of items for sale appeared. They explained how to bid on the items. The list showed photos of some familiar things and some things Little Bear had never seen before. He tried to read the words but most were too hard for him. Mama Bear saw his frustrated look and began to read them for him.

“We are going to look at some things we would like to buy, and then write down the price we are willing to pay,” she said. Little Bear was confused. At the stores they looked at the price tag or the Sale sign, but he trusted Mama Bear to know about such things. So he watched the screen as it showed a table with lots of Christmas decorations. Then it moved on to show some Chinese dishes.

Mama Bear stopped at a metal plaque showing the Chief’s quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, holding the Super Bowl trophy. Little Bear

remembered that because Papa Bear got so excited when he saw the Super Bowl on TV last year.

Mama Bear said, “Now the bid sheet shows the starting bid is \$25.00 on the plaque and the next bid needs to be higher, so I will bid \$30.00” and she typed that on the computer screen. Little Bear was confused again, why pay more than asked for? Mama Bear patiently told him that the trophy plaque was popular and many people may want to pay even more.

They looked at the computer again. Little Bear exclaimed when they came to a table of dolls. “Stop, I want the doll in the pink dress,” he said. It was Mama Bear’s time to be puzzled, so Little Bear told her about the little girl bear down the street whose dog had chewed up her pretty doll and she would always cry about it. “I will pay with my allowance,” he said. Mama Bear looked at the minimum price. It was \$10.00. That was a lot of allowances for Little Bear, but she could manage it

They saw pretty dishes, then tables with books, a small suitcase, and many items of needlework. Mama Bear stopped here. “Hmm, if I buy everything in this item, we could give many people

How do you participate in a virtual silent auction?



Little Bear (con't)

different gifts." She typed in an amount she was willing to pay for the grouping.

Little Bear saw some big striped cushions lying on the floor under a table. Just the thing to build his fort. And only \$6.00. "There, Mama Bear, is what I would like," and he pointed to the stuffed pillows. Mama Bear made a mental note to get them for a Christmas present. Next were the books. "There is a set of 5 mystery books for Grandpa. That's what he likes."

The Bear family shopped, and then closed their browser. They would wait to see if others bid on the items they wanted, and perhaps increase their bid the next day. The

auction would continue for 5 days.

Meanwhile, Mama Bear said she would bid again on the trophy plaque if she had to, up to— well she would decide. Little Bear was happy because he liked the little girl bear and didn't want her to cry. He crossed his paws for good luck on his price.

Shopping at a silent auction was fun. He wanted to do it again after, he had saved up his allowance. They told Papa Bear about their shopping trip, and he laughed. But they didn't tell about the trophy. If they won the bid, that would be a surprise for Papa Bear. Mama and Little Bear joined in the laughing, because isn't that what all bears do?

Ways to Participate in Virtual Worship



We continue to work towards providing live streaming video of our worship services, but that has been placed on hold for the time being with the uptick in COVID cases in the metro area. Until then, we will continue to provide videos of homilies and lesson readings on our website.

any given Sunday.

It's easy. Ron will forward the lessons to you. You will be able to record your readings of each lesson and email them back to him. He will then upload to the website for viewing that Sunday.

This is a wonderful way to stay involved and participate while we all stay safe.

Readers are needed for Sunday lessons to be uploaded to our website. Thank you for your participation!

City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy “Mel” McDonald

Sometime during the Spring of 1955, my parents made a couple of decisions that would impact all of our lives for many years.

First, after the heat wave and drought of 1954 destroyed our crops, my father came to the realization that maybe becoming a farmer was not such a good career choice. So, a determination was made, that in 1955 he would plant one more crop and if it also failed, he would pursue selling the farm. He had developed a skill as a welder that could serve him well anywhere he was living.

My mother only needed about five classes to obtain her Bachelor degree in Education, which would make her eligible to teach in any school district. With baby boomers entering the class room by the droves, new schools were opening all over.

The only problem was that Mother would have to go to Warrensburg to finish her schooling. Since we only had one vehicle, she would take the car on Monday morning and return on Friday afternoon for the next two summers.

The second question was what to do with me. The decision was made that I would stay with my father and help out as I could. I did spend one week that summer with my mother which was quite eventful. Mother stayed in a rooming house with six other

women. One might think this was uncomfortable for all concerned, but in reality, it seemed to work out okay.

Mother had all of her classes in the mornings. After class, she would pick me up and we would go out to eat. We ate at what seemed to me to be quite an elegant restaurant, but it was just a diner, quite common in the 1950's.

In the afternoons, she would study in the library and I would stay busy reading the *Kansas City Star*, *Kansas City Times*, and *Life* and *Look* magazines. One day, after she was finished at the library, we headed back to the rooming house. In those days, there were no seat belts and Mother took a corner a bit fast. The door flew open and out went yours truly.

By the grace of God, the wheels narrowly missed me. Mother stopped the car. When I ran back, she was slumped over the steering wheel sobbing. When she saw I was unhurt, her tears of sorrow changed to tears of joy.

See you next month. Happy gobbler time.

“In those days, there were no seat belts and Mother took a corner a bit fast.”



To Be Thankful For—

By Nancy Cramer

I asked myself this morning, “What do I have today to be thankful for?” This became a daily ritual some years back when waking up to another day was not always pleasant. As I walked into the living room the sunlight from the glass panes of the front door greeted me with a flood of brightness that Thomas Edison spent years trying to recreate.

Taking my bottles of plant water I fed the plants on my shelves. They thirstily gobbled the water until the top layer of dirt was moist, and I knew they were satisfied.

Next I went out on the front porch, where the unusually warm November weather required no heavy coat or even a jacket, and I watered the baby mums. Happily, they have bloomed long after their expiration date.

I returned to the kitchen to pour a bowl of cereal, confident that my dependable neighbor had left my morning paper jacketed in its yellow plastic wrapper outside my back door. I, in turn, had the night before, delivered another neighbor’s paper at an hour when most of the apartment’s residents were fast asleep. I call it playing “Round Robin “.Don’t understand? Too young to know the game? Just ask someone with white hair or no hair except for a fringe, and they will explain.

Reaching for the cereal and

milk reminded me of the unknown tall person who miraculously shows up in the grocery aisle where the items I want are on the top shelf. “Need a hand?” they might ask or “Can I be of help?” as they eye me struggling the reach the unreachable item. I tried using the crook of my cane once to snatch the desired box, Half the boxes tumbled down. No more cane reaching, I embarrassedly learned.

So what am I trying to say with all these mundane anecdotes? I am saying that all around me I am blessed. If I consider these few insignificant examples ones to be thankful for, then what about having a roof over me, food to eat, health that is relatively good; family (though small in number) and friends (I dare not boast); and pleasant activities to occupy me during this disastrous pandemic which has taken too many lives before their time.

With so much to be thankful for, I chose some of the simplest ones to mention. Ones that in my younger years I would have overlooked as not being worthy. So I am thankful for things big and small; ordinary and unusual; easily obtained or rare; and things easily within my vocabulary.

And the simplest expression says it all, “Thank you.”

“So I am thankful for things big and small; ordinary and unusual; easily obtained or rare; and things easily within my vocabulary.”

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Sunday Services
(currently online at aslcbcs.org)

2020-2021 Church Council

President	Pam Meek
Vice President	Ron Easton
Secretary	Sara Meyers
Treasurer	Doug Neeb
Member	Nancy Cramer
Member	Carla Girkin
Member	vacant

Program Ministries

Witness/Marketing/

Advertising Ron Easton

Learning/Youth Carla Girkin

Property Pam Meek

Service/Stewardship

Nancy Cramer

Community Life vacant

Worship/Music Sara Meyers

Secret Sisters—

The pandemic has impacted Secret Prayer Sisters. Some of you have brought gifts for your secret sisters to the church and others have sent greetings by mail. We are to the point now that we need to close out the year, so we are suggesting that you bring your Christmas gifts that reveal your secret identity to the church.

You can ask Jean to notify the recipient by phone or e-mail that something is waiting for her at the church. Alternatively, you can contact your secret sister directly and perhaps have a meeting wearing masks at the church to give your gift in person. We suggest that you do whatever you choose by about December 15th. Don't leave your secret sister wondering about your identity!

What are we going to do about 2021? At the present time, let's wait and see. Perhaps we can revive the program for six months. Or we can just skip 2021 and start over for the next year.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Sara Meyers or Betsy Reese.



Church Leadership Opportunities—

It is becoming imperative that we find a church treasurer, as Doug and Tammy Neeb will begin their move to North Carolina in December. The other option is to hire an outside accountant to handle this duty. Please think prayerfully about your abilities and consider sharing your time.



We also still have an opening on council as a representative of the congregation. Any council member is happy to discuss these positions. If interested, please contact Pam Meek. Thank you!

Newsletter Deadline is the
20th of each month.

Submissions can be emailed
to the church office or Pam
Meek, at pameek@kc.rr.com.

Blue Springs Community Services League Update

Blue Springs Community Services League thanks you for your generous commitment to help by sharing. You are a blessing to those in need.

Wondrous honor you have given
 To our humble charity in your own mysterious sentence,
 "You have done it all to me"
 Naked, sick, in prison, hungry -
 In the least, your face we view,
 Saying by your poor and needy
 "Give as I have given to you" -
 It is more happy and more blessed to give than to receive
 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Consider a holiday type food this season. Turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams, mashed potatoes in a box or pumpkin pie filling. Place items in grocery cart in foyer to be delivered.

The church is open M to F / 9 to noon. Please leave your donations in the grocery cart. Items are sorted and delivered to the league at the end of each month.

How to Help CSL For Christmas—

Helping those in need looks very different this year for the holiday season. We have had to change direction due to the pandemic that can limit how we serve. Our focus is now on gift cards, as we will be signing up families and providing a Christmas meal, limited toys, and the gift cards to ensure no family goes without Christmas.

We want to thank you for participating and we are asking that all gift cards be brought to our office no later than **December 14, 2020**. Here is a list of gift cards we are seeking to obtain in increments of \$10, \$20 and \$25 amounts:

1. Grocery Stores (Price Chopper Hy-Vee, Aldis)
2. General Retail Stores (Kohls, Target, Wal-Mart, etc.)
3. Fast Food Restaurants (Burger King McDonalds, Culvers, etc.)
4. Amazon
5. VISA gift cards
6. Barbers/Beauty Salons
7. Recreation (bowling, movies, etc.)



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

DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	10 Council Meeting (via Zoom) 6:30pm	11	12
13	14	15 Secret Prayer Sisters Drop-Off 9am-Noon	16 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	17 Thomas Ultican Elementary PTA	18	19
20 Congregational Meeting—Zoom 11am Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	24 Christmas Eve <i>Office Closed</i>	25 Christmas Day <i>Office Closed</i>	26
27 Coffee With Council—Zoom 11am	28	29	30 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	31 New Year's Eve <i>Office Closed</i>		

Church Group Schedule—

The church building is open with the current guidelines listed on page 3. 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!