

# Crossroads

## From our Minister—

This has been a hard month for our community and for our country. We continue to deal with mounting COVID deaths, as well as an infection rate that remains out of control. At the same time, we continue to deal with the fallout from a presidential election that was contested by outgoing President Trump, as well as political leaders and citizens who bought into his lies about stolen votes and rigged processes. (There has been no credible evidence brought forward that substantiates any of these claims.) Rhetoric has been heightened on both sides, to the point that on Wednesday, January 6, the Capitol building was overrun by domestic terrorists, people who have been radicalized right here in our own country to believe that the violent overthrow of the government is the only way to deal with the outcome of a fair and rigorous democratic process.

I don't know whether you have had this experience or not; for much of the weekend after the insurrection, I spent time glued to social media, until I emerged on Sunday night feeling as though I were stuck in an echo chamber. Rightly, there have been voices calling the events of January 3rd treason, and calling for mass arrests and prosecutions. Rightly, there have been voices calling for justice. Rightly, there have been voices crying out in anger against the perpetrators, who threatened the lives of members of Congress and the media.

But by Sunday night, I found myself buying into the anger and losing sight of the humanity of those involved. It is easy, in situations where opinions are so polarized, to demonize the people on the other side of the issue. It is easy to call for retribution, to de-humanize those who committed these crimes, to lash out in hatred and set aside love. It's easy to think that in situations like this, love is not called for - after all, where is the love in fascist uprisings like what we saw on the 6th?

The answer is - the love is found in God. For God created all of us - even the hate-filled among us. And thankfully, it is not up to us to determine who God will forgive, any more than it was up to Jonah. Like Jonah, we may be afraid of God's mercy for our enemies. But God's forgiveness is extended to all. God's mercy is for all God's creatures. God's love is truly universal - no matter the circumstances.

The only way forward for us as a people is to remember this, and to practice following God's example in our love and mercy. Yes, accountability is needed. Yes, justice must be served. Yes, we must move forward through this painful time; we cannot just sweep it under the rug. But it is imperative that we remember that even those people who chose to storm the Capitol, to try to overthrow the government and subvert an election process are still beloved by God.

If you are struggling with this - like I am, like so many of us are - I recommend Archbishop Desmond Tutu's book, *No Future Without Forgiveness*. In this book, he details the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the wake of apartheid, when the government and people of South Africa chose to confront their national sins head-on, rather than sweeping them under the carpet. The goal of this commission was to name the sin of apartheid, as well as the specific crimes of specific actors either in, or supported by, the government, in an effort to grieve the sin of apartheid and heal the nation, allowing the country to move forward in unity.

Archbishop Tutu's role in this commission and the writing of this book show us a way forward through the trauma, to reparation, healing, and ultimately, reconciliation. I pray we are able to find our way forward as well.



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## 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**

Our Coffee With Council Zoom meeting in January was delayed a week to Sunday, January 31st. Everyone should have received an email with a standing invitation going forward with the link to join on the fourth Sunday of each month at 11am. Please keep that email handy—we would love everyone to participate as we continue to socially distance.

One topic we hope to discuss is if there is any interest in participating in an Ash Wednesday worship that would be more like an open house. No set time, but a range of time to arrive and receive the ashes. More discussion on how this would work will occur on the 31st.

Another topic we will open discussion on is the progress of the Transition Team. They have been working diligently with synod representatives to help us begin congregational talks. This is important to each of us, and we all should work to participate in this endeavor. This is our future.



On a terribly sad note, we have lost a dear, sweet soul, truly the conscious of our council team members, Nancy Cramer. She passed on January 17th and we will miss her optimism and her honesty.

Her death leaves us with four members of a six council team. We are again at a crossroads where we ask you, as a supporter, as a member, as a Christian, to look inside yourself to ask if you can offer your time and talents as a council person. The fewer people in leadership is not in All Saints' best interest. To expect a small group of leaders to make the best decisions for all is not reasonable, and we need your support.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve the congregation.

### ***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.



Council members will review the most recent Time and Talent forms and contact those that expressed an interest in participating in worship services as lectors or assisting ministers. The plan is provide scheduled Sundays for at least a month, hopefully longer, to accommodate everyone's schedule and work to include all in our virtual services.

If interested, please contact Sara Meyers or Pastor Sarah to put your name on the list. We will set the schedule and work with you for recording lessons, or prayers.

Thank you!

We are beginning to schedule lectors and worship assistants for our virtual services.

## ***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.

## SOUP—ER BOWL February and BSCSL

Always a good time for a warm bowl of soup . Bring in a can or two of your favorite soups to share with those who are less fortunate than you. Place in the grocery cart in foyer. As always, BSCSL thanks you for all you do to help others. Below is a word search for soups – can you find them all?

Bean  
Beef  
Beer  
Cabbage  
Cauliflower  
Celery  
Cheese  
Chicken Dumpling  
Chicken Noodle  
Chili  
Clam Chowder  
Corn Chowder  
Egg Drop  
Fish

French Onion  
Giblet  
Gumbo  
Minestrone  
Mushroom  
Potato  
Pea  
Oxtail  
Oyster Stew  
squash  
Taco  
Tomato  
Tortilla  
Vegetable



G	C	O	R	N	C	H	O	W	D	E	R	N	H	F	T	C
V	G	I	B	L	E	T	O	M	A	T	O	N	L	M	H	R
R	L	H	Y	B	A	P	O	K	M	I	Y	R	D	I	C	E
E	I	J	R	T	G	E	R	P	N	W	S	B	C	N	A	D
W	A	Z	O	U	B	G	E	O	L	N	T	K	N	E	K	W
O	T	P	M	O	O	R	H	S	U	M	E	M	P	S	R	O
L	X	B	L	C	V	C	Q	Y	V	N	R	H	W	T	S	H
F	O	E	S	H	N	T	G	P	D	W	S	Q	N	R	Q	C
I	C	E	L	E	R	Y	U	U	P	C	T	A	Z	O	U	M
L	D	R	R	E	F	V	M	O	P	B	E	E	F	N	A	A
U	W	F	Y	S	U	P	R	U	I	B	W	E	F	E	S	L
A	L	T	W	E	L	D	O	O	N	N	E	K	C	I	H	C
C	H	I	L	I	G	C	E	G	A	B	B	A	C	G	S	A
I	F	H	N	G	A	B	R	T	O	L	E	W	N	O	R	H
V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	A	L	L	I	T	R	O	T

## City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy “Mel” McDonald

The summer of 1956 saw my father remain on the farm to make things ready for its sale. My mother finished up her schooling to receive her bachelor's degree in education and I stayed with her. As I mentioned previously, Mother stayed in a boarding house with about 6 other women, but we all got along quite well.

By staying all summer, I was able to attend summer school which was a joy and delight. First, instead of having at most 3 or 4 kids in my grade level there were 15-20 eager 6<sup>th</sup> graders to comingle with. Most of the kids were children or grandchildren of someone who taught or worked for the college and our teachers, were elementary school teachers who just loved to teach.

These kids challenged me to keep up with them and I relished the challenge. Our major study that summer was to find out as much as we could about South America and to inform our classmates of our findings at the end of the summer term. We divided up in groups of two or three and were given a country to learn about. We learned about the geography, culture, and history of the country we were assigned.



This was not only a great learning exercise but taught me how to research and present my findings in oral and written form. It also required me and my teammates to spend a lot of time in the library which kept me out of mother's hair.

My group's country was Chile and we first convinced our classmates that it really wasn't chilly in Chile except of course in the mountains. I also learned that Brazil was larger in area than the entire continental U.S. (of course this was before Alaska became the 49<sup>th</sup> state) and that Argentina was undergoing a lot of political unrest at the time.

Our teachers, supplemented our study with films about the continent, and brought in some native clothing. At the end of the term, we took a bus trip to KC to visit the zoo and, attended a fiesta at the Guadalupe Center. Believe it or not I had never been to a zoo and certainly had never visited the Guadalupe Center.

In July, Mother put on her cap and gown and at the age of 45 was one the oldest and yet most deserving graduates. She immediately started interviewing for a position and within a few weeks found a teaching job in one of the fastest growing suburbs, in Kansas City. My parents than purchased a lot and found a builder to build their first house.

Adios, and Vaya con dios to all, and may the groundhog bring us good news for the days that lay ahead.

*"This column is dedicated to the memory of Nancy Cramer whose life served as a model of the godly life."*

## Blue Springs Community Services League Update

The Blue Springs Community Service League is continuing to reach out and to help those families in need. Some with assistance for food, others to help them with rent or utilities or in finding a new job. Today, 1 in 5 children do not know where their next meal is coming from. They appreciate whatever we can do to help serve our neighbors.

A short list of needs includes:

- ◆ Peanut Butter
- ◆ Jelly
- ◆ Side Dishes
- ◆ Skillet meals
- ◆ Instant Rice
- ◆ Instant Potatoes
- ◆ Canned meats
- ◆ Jell-O
- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Soup/Large cans
- ◆ Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- ◆ Cereal bars

Should you know of any families who are in need please direct them to the Blue Springs office at 200 SW 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Church Leadership Opportunities—

We have been blessed to have Carla Girkin step up to accept the role of treasurer. She and Doug Neeb will be working closely over the next few months to provide her with experience before Doug and Tammy move to North Carolina. Thank you Carla, for your service!

We are now looking for two people that could fill the openings we have on council, with the passing of Nancy Cramer. Council members represent our congregation and a full council offers full representation. Please thoughtfully consider this opportunity. Any council member is happy to discuss these positions. If interested, please contact Pam Meek. Thank you!





### Happy Birthday to:

Katie Dustin	2/3
Georgie Vader	2/16
Jim McDonald	2/23
Hazel Crane	2/28

### 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.

### 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!

### Nancy Cramer—

**We send our condolences and love to Niel Johnson and the family of Nancy Cramer on her passing January 17, 2021. Nancy had lived life to the fullest and was a dedicated member of ASLC. She worked to make our church more inclusive and her mission was to improve communication in all projects. May we work to be better in her image and may she rest in peace.**

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

**Sunday Services**  
(currently online at [aslcbs.org](https://aslcbs.org))

#### 2020-2021 Church Council

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

#### Program Ministries

<b>Witness/Marketing/Advertising</b>	Ron Easton
<b>Learning/Youth</b>	Carla Girkin
<b>Property</b>	Pam Meek
<b>Service/Stewardship</b>	vacant
<b>Community Life</b>	vacant
<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](mailto:pameek@kc.rr.com).

# FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	1	2	3 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	4	5	6
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7	8	9	10 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	11 <i>Council Meeting via Zoom 6:30pm</i>	12 <b>Lincoln's BD</b>	13
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14	15 <b>President's Day- Office Closed</b>	16	17 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	18 <i>PTA Meeting</i>	19	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
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21	22 <b>Washington's BD</b>	23	24 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	25	26	27
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*Coffee With Council via Zoom 11am*