

Crossroads



Volume 33, Issue 7

July 2020

From the Pastor —

At the council meeting on June 11, I asked members to list three major challenges (problems) that All Saints faces. Each member presented their list. There were a variety, but there were duplicates among the lists.

I interpreted these duplications as evidence that All Saints Lutheran Church is like every other organization that exists. Whether you are human or a business, non-profit charity, certain problems take on a life of their own. The content of the problems may be unique to the organization. The issue is that these problems continue in spite of strenuous efforts to solve them. The problems become part of the culture of the organization. For those of us who are above a certain age some health situations become chronic, i.e. they do not have resolutions. These chronic conditions require attention and need medical interventions. As long as they are treated, they usually are not life threatening.

So what are we to do about these chronic conditions? I share the following as examples: small numbers of membership, families and financial threats. My experience of living with chronic health issues is management, not resolution.

How do we function in the face of continuing challenges? We cannot wish them away! However, we can acknowledge them and move on. Yes, we can live with our limitations. We do not let our issues rule us.

We can join others in ministry in areas where we lack the resources to carry on ministry on our own. We have many talented members and many resources, though limited. It is time to step forward and join in the path that Jesus calls us to follow.

Peace and blessings and stay safe!
Transition Pastor William O. George

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**



Church Services in a Parking Lot?

By Nancy Cramer

Yes, it can be done and All Saints Lutheran Church, Blue Springs, recently proved it. A one-time happening, the congregation attended in numbers almost equal to those attending regular inside services. They enjoyed the early morning breeze and the shade of abundant number of oak and maple trees nearby. COVID-19 guidelines were followed “to the letter,” which required planning and improvisation. A large sign at the entrance, begged people to “*Pleeeeee wear masks*” and follow other guidelines.

To ensure that congregants placed their chairs at the required six foot distance, Pastor Bill brought a long pole which he declared, “Moses had taken on Mt. Sinai,” a claim met with chuckles. It did the job measuring the prescribed intervals, whatever its past history.

Families were allowed to sit in their family group. Because singing is not allowed by COVID, organist David Fast recorded music which he played on his computer attached to a loud speaker. A communion table was set up, and it was “do it yourself,” without the aid of Pastor’s hands. The service lasted about 30 minutes. The overall atmosphere was casual, peaceful and happy, as people were seeing each other for the first time in 3 months.

It will not be repeated because of July and August heat which, even at 9:15 A.M. can be “too much for our older members,” Pam Meek, Church Council president, explained, with Pastor Bill nodding his head in agreement.

The service proved that with sufficient planning and the proper site, a summer outdoor service can be held. Members brought their own folding chairs, and many were dressed appropriately for the occasion. That is, they wore shorts and sandals. Pastor George added long socks and tennis shoes to his knee length shorts. Visiting afterwards was limited in time, again complying with the rules about socializing. As members departed, they were given a binder with biographical stories of the church leaders and active members. Food and school supplies were brought, as is the weekly custom, for donation to the Community Services League of Blue Springs. With no regular worship services for three months, donations more than filled the several boxes and a grocery store cart .

It was an occasion to be remembered. Not to be repeated, at least this year, said Pastor Bill and Pam, but with preparation and following strict guidelines, a safe church service can be held outdoors. In Biblical times, outside is where most of Jesus’ teaching took place, although he probably did not have the benefit of COVID-19 guidelines.

A blending of ancient customs with modern technology created a moving and unique worship service.

Virtual Sunday services are available on the church’s website, <https://aslcbs.org>. Come and worship with us at All Saints, indoors, outdoors, or on our virtual site.

*A wonderful,
peaceful time for
worship*

June 14, 2020 Worship Service



All Saints Lutheran Church, Blue Springs, MO, June 14, 2020

An outdoor service during the pandemic



Photo Credit—Niel Johnson

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.

Council News—

Council worked hard over the past month to organize our “parking lot” worship on June 14. We wanted to account for every possibility to offer a safe opportunity for our congregants to worship together once again. That goal was accomplished. And we are grateful for those that attended, while understanding that many still feel more safe at home attending virtual worship options.

We do not expect to have another worship service such as this until September, due to heat constraints. However, we are working to improving our technology to provide a more “live” worship option, as well as how we might be able to offer “drive-in” options as well. And we continue to work out how to hold our semi-annual congregational meeting.

We are working on dates and times to have ZOOM meeting to continue our transition talks. So much needs to be accomplished with us meeting, and yet, this virus is slowing us down. Our first step is offering our *Coffee With Council* time (at the time this goes to press, it has not yet occurred) on Sunday, June 28, at three different times: 11am, 1pm, and 3pm. Instructions on how to participate are in the *Happenings* email that went out to all on June 23. If you haven't received it, please contact Ron Easton, for assistance.

Although we are working through our tech issues, we, as council members, are very much aware that we must still provide communication to you. Communication is a two-way street and we welcome your comments, concerns and thoughts, as well.



Any of us are more than happy to take your phone call, or answer your email. Please take advantage of us.

We would also like to share any activities you and your family might be enjoying over the summer. Pictures and a basic story (don't worry about grammar, we can fix that!) for the newsletter. Our new normal may keep us from seeing each other face to face on Sunday morning, but we can still share our stories in many ways.

So, for now, please join us at one of the times available on Sunday. If you don't have computer access, your phone will work just as well to call in, with no picture.

We hope to see/talk to you then!

**Communication is
key as we work
toward our future.**



Observing or Participating

by Nancy Cramer

"I can model what I am doing and what I would like to be doing. I will reflect my values for others to see. "

I stand observing from the side lines. I am safe, I am comfortable. But the sights I see, the sounds I hear, the words spoken would pierce my soul if I would permit it. I don't permit it. I don't allow it to affect me seriously, as it would if one of those harmed or killed were of my blood. They are not, and I cannot yield to the temptation to share the agony of those I see on television or I read about in the newspaper. I have a protective shield, like the ones police wear when they are about to lose a canister of gas onto an innocent crowd. Does my shield make me one of those policemen? Does my retreat from the reality of the scenes of brutality, of despair or anger mean I cannot admit they happen? Am I denying these scenes exist?

All these questions and more have plagued me since the protests started some three weeks ago. But also is the victimization of others which has existed all my life and beyond. This is a matter of conscience for me, as it is for others. I sometimes feel I am the suburban mom that writers describe, the one who feels the injustice yet does little or nothing to resolve it. What can I do, I ask myself. I am too old to march or join protest crowds. I have no transportation to take me to parks where peaceful vigils are held. I write as many small checks as my account allows to feed hungry children, bring water to an Indian reservation, help women across the world start up their home businesses. I write more checks to support medical research, fight diseases, educate a homeless child. This is what I do, but is it enough? Can I do more considering my physical limitations?

I write endless letters to my state and national representatives on issues vital to education, health and the well being of the elderly. But is it enough? Ten, definitely 20 years ago, the answer would have been "No, it is not enough." And I would follow my conscience. Now I am limited and my conscience nags me "to do more." More what, I ask? I can speak out with my voice and with my writing, and that is the path I have chosen. It will have to salve my conscience, it will have to restore my self respect. I can model what I am doing and what I would like to be doing. I will reflect my values for others to see.

So here are my values: The sanctity of human life; the equality of all persons; and the right to speak and protest nonviolently. If I see wrong actions leading to violence, I need to speak out against them. If I hear words that denigrate another human being, I need to object. If I read about mistreatment of young and old, I need to speak out or write in protest. I will no longer be an observer only. I do the most I can in exposing wrong doing. I will praise the help I see being offered. No more shielded face, no more silent lips. I will join and offer the gifts I alone have. That I can do, and I will do.



City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy “Mel” McDonald

The remainder of 1952, and the first half of 1953, were as I remember, not noteworthy. We must have had good crops, for in the summer of 1953, my parents went on the only vacation we ever took as a family. My Mother had a cousin I believe, who lived on the Gulf Coast, so off we went in our Red Ford.

Our first stop was in Mammoth Springs, Arkansas. I have not visited this area since 1953, but then, it was quite eerie for a seven-year-old to take in. We then travelled down to New Orleans via Memphis. We drove by a number of cotton fields, with adults and children working in them. After staying a short time in the Big Easy, we travelled on to I believe Gulfport, Mississippi, where my Mother’s cousin lived. The one thing I remember was there were black servants in the house doing most of the menial duties. My Mother stated later that her cousin was not wealthy but that it was quite common for blacks to work in the same homes their ancestors had worked in several generations previously.

On the return trip, we stopped in Nashville, and my Dad bought tickets to see the Grand Ole Opry, in Ryman Auditorium. This was the largest indoor facility I had ever been in. We bought a program which we kept in the family for many years. As I remember, we saw Minnie Pearl, Little Jimmy Dickens, and I think Hank Snow perform that night.

An interesting thing in my mind took place upon our return home. We had left our two dogs with my cousins, but when we returned, only one dog was there. I don’t know exactly what my father was told about this matter, but the real story wasn’t revealed to me until some forty years later. During the visitation prior to my fathers funeral, my cousin Everett stated that one of the dogs got into the chicken coop and ate some chickens. This could not be tolerated, so my uncle shot the dog leaving just one. When we moved to Kansas City some three years later, we no longer kept dogs.

Stay safe, and keep the faith!



We must have had good crops, for in the summer of 1953, my parents went on the only vacation we ever took as a family.

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.

JULY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Office Closed—4th of July Observed	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9 Council Meeting 6:30pm via Zoom	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Project Comfort 9am-noon
26 Coffee With Council—TBA	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.

Thank you!

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

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

Sunday Services
 9:15a.m.

Sunday School
 (age 3 and up)
 10:30am

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:

Beth Hopkins	7/1
Jim Singleton	7/2
Addison Antes	7/3
Linda Bird	7/3
Linda Schwantes	7/7
Tyler Neeb	7/11
Nancy Cramer	7/20
Monica Hallerud	7/20
Judy Williams	7/24
Cheyenne Blair	7/25
Peter Limburg	7/26
Niel Johnson	7/28
Raymond Meek	7/29
Allison Meek	7/30

Happy Anniversary to:

Darren & Lisa Melton	7/29
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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.

In addition, we are looking at holding Zoom meetings in the near future to continue our discussions regarding transition, and what our next steps will be. Please look out for those emails and text notices.

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!