

Crossroads

From our Minister—

As you probably know, we began a 6-week sermon series on June 20 on the fruits of the Spirit. I want to take some time in this article to talk a little bit about what the fruits of the Spirit are, and why we are doing this sermon series.

Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians early in the history of the church, when there was a debate raging about Gentile converts to the Way (which is what the early followers of Jesus were often called). The question was whether Gentiles first needed to become Jewish before they could become followers of Jesus: in other words, did they need to follow the law of Moses?

Paul argues in his letter that in Christ, the people are set free from Mosaic law. But the question then arises: what does this freedom mean? In the fifth chapter, Paul urges the followers of Jesus in Galatia not to be bound again to the yoke of slavery. In other words, if they believe that they must follow the letter of the law, then Christ's coming was for nothing; instead, Paul tells his audience, the only thing that matters is the expression of faith through love.

He goes on to differentiate between matters of the Spirit and matters of the flesh. This is not uncommon language for Paul; what he refers to as "matters of the flesh" are anything that encourages us to put ourselves first, to prioritize our wants over the needs of others, to give into sin (anything that separates us from God). Matters of the Spirit, on the other hand, are anything that preferences others, that recognizes God as the center of our lives, that serves the needs of our neighbor and the community.



Paul ends the fifth chapter with these words: "22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another."

But the question arises: as Christians, don't we do these things anyway? Why do we need to talk about them? Why do we need to spend six weeks focusing on them?

As I mentioned in my sermon on the 20th, the key here is action and intentionality. It's not just about how we feel, or about what we do incidentally as we go through our day. It's about what we do, and what our motivations are.

We are in a time of transition, here at All Saints, in our country, and around the world. As we live into our new mission statement, as we explore ways to serve our community, and as we engage in the work of antiracism, it is

important for us to remember that in all things, we are called by God, forgiven by Christ, and led by the Spirit. When we focus on the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, we work on cementing the foundation of our Christian identity, which underpins everything we do.



Volume 34, Issue 7
July 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**

At the June council meeting, officers and committee chairpersons were elected.

Officers:

- President:* Ron Easton
- Vice-President:* Lisa Melton
- Secretary:* Sara Meyers
- Treasurer:* Carla Girkin



Committee chairs:

- Music/Worship:* Sara Meyers
- Witness:* Ron Easton
- Learning/Youth:* Lisa Melton
- Service/Stewardship:* Betsy Reese and Janet Cooper
- Community Life:* Carla Girkin
- Property:* Carla Girkin

Bible study under Betsy Reese has begun, studying the book of Acts. Please join those every Sunday following worship to learn more and discuss how the apostles continued Christ's work after the resurrection.

We shared the joy of graduation with our youth and Pastor Sarah last month! Blessings to all!

We begin to slowly get back to normal as pandemic restrictions ease.

If you have any questions, thoughts or concerns for any aspect of church life, feel free to reach out to any of them.

May we support them as they continue to offer leadership to us through our transition process.

We continue to be in search of a financial secretary. If you might be interested, please contact Jean at the office.

We have begun worshipping in person again, although we maintain social distancing, mask-wearing and no singing. As Pastor Sarah has indicated, these procedures will be adjusted as the levels of infection recede.



Transitioning for Our Future Mission Statement:

Proposed All Saints Mission: REACH IN, REACH OUT, REACH UP

- **Reaching in** to support the growth of individual spirituality and our faith community
- **Reaching out** to put our faith into action through service to the community
- **Reaching up** for God's guidance for our spiritual growth and community service

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.

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 will be participating in a pool party on July 25th, following the *Transitioning for Our Future* meeting at church. They will be enjoying food and fun at Pam Meek's neighborhood pool that afternoon. For more information, contact Lisa Melton or Carla Girkin.



And...a few pix of our visit to Lee's Summit last month for Poppy's ice cream!



City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy "Mel" McDonald

As a small child on the farm, I have no memory of any encounters with tornadoes, except for reading about Pecos Bill and his duel with the cyclone.

This is perhaps not surprising given the fact that in the late 1940's, and 1950's, there was no way to accurately track the path and speed of such storms, and no way to timely communicate such developing storms to the unknowing public. The best source for information was eyewitness reports, but one could not predict the severity or likely path the storm would take and at night this method lost it's effectiveness.

This all ended the late afternoon and evening of May 20, 1957, when a tornado which became known as the



Ruskin Heights tornado began it's eventful trip from Williamsburg, Kansas some 70 miles from Ruskin Heights. The storm as wide as one-half a mile in places took a direct path northeast at between 40-45 miles per hour and in less than two hours reached it's destination.

In 1957 the land it covered was almost completely farmland and even when arriving in the Kansas City vicinity the path was south of Olathe and north of Grandview. As it turned out this tornado was one of about 35 tornados that wreaked havoc that night in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Missouri. One such storm landed in Concordia, Kansas, in north central Kansas, accompanied by hail seven inches in diameter.

Though we lived about 30 miles north of Ruskin Heights, I remember going to the basement and listening on the radio for updates. To this date this was the deadliest and most destructive tornado to hit the Kansas City metro area. I would refer you to people who were living in the area of Ruskin for eyewitness accounts. I know that Skip and Gloria Davis were living there at that time and although Pastor Brad was not born until 1959, his parents and older siblings were living in Ruskin at the time. He once told me that his mother recalls seeing a family

who lived about one block away walking down the street after the storm. The mother and two or three children survived by squeezing into a coat closet as they had no basement. The coat closet was the only part of the structure that remained standing.

Enough drama for one article! Have a great 4th and remember in five years we will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of our nation's birth.

"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."

Blue Springs Community Services League Update

Do we make a difference with that can of soup or jar peanut butter, etc? Yes, we do. The following is a note received by a CSL from a single mom who had come for help.

“I want to thank you for all the wonderful things you have done for my family. I am a single mom with four boys. I will never forget your generosity and kindness. Please use this (they had sent a donation) for another single mom to help her with her little ones. Hope the year provides all you need for those entrusted to your care. (We all know boys can eat.) Thank you again so very much for what you do for others.”

This month many children have gone back to school to find school ending for summer breaks. The needs this month include items that children can do easily. Microwavable pastas, peanut butter, cereals, soups, fruit or applesauce cups, or cereal bars are some options.



Please place donation in grocery cart.

On April 28, 2021 food items delivered to the Blue Springs Community Service League totaled 161 items, along with 1 school item and 1 personal item.

Again, thank you for helping out your neighbor.

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:

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

Happy Anniversary to:

Darren & Lisa Melton 7/29

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

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!



Newsletter Deadline is the
20th of each month.
Submissions can be emailed
to the church office or Pam
Meek, at pameek@kc.rr.com.

JULY 2021

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