

# Crossroads

## From the Pastor —

We are living in a time of great challenge. We, as the People of God, in Blue Springs, face the age old dilemma of how to survive and thrive in a time of fear and plague in not only our country but our world as we know it. Plagues, famines and wars have confronted and challenged to existence of God's people over the centuries. We face a challenging time today and for the foreseeable future. We know that God's people have survived and, at times thrived, in the face of these dire threats.

I want to reflect on the concepts and issues of thriving and surviving. I will frame the dialogue as questions:

*What does Survival mean?* In the history of the world survival was the only means to continue. The “dark” ages forced the church to retreat into a limited mode of existence. This “retreat” allowed the translation of many great biblical works and learning how to live in community. Do you know that the first model of democracy in the Western world occurred in the Benedictine monasteries which elected their priors by vote of the community?

*What does thriving mean?* At times the church had great powers both spiritual and secular. The popes who ruled the world had armies and fought wars of conquest. In those times the spiritual lives of the people was often neglected. As the church thrived, significant issues of values and compassion were part of experience.

*Are these concepts totally separate and distinct from one another?*

*Are they two ends of a spectrum?*

*Do they meet somewhere in the middle of the spectrum?*

*Can thriving in a situation also include the experience of survival or vice versa?*

*How can we live in an environment of survival and experience thriving as well?*

Yes, our lives as the followers of Jesus often leave us confused. How do we live and thrive in this challenging time? The same way that God's people have always lived with these tensions: BY FAITH! We believe and trust in the One who went before us to bring us through!

Peace and blessings and stay safe!

Pastor Bill George



Volume 33, Issue 6

June 2020

## 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**

## News from the Council—

As stay-at-home guidelines are adjusted in society during this time, council has been working to determine how and when we can re-open our doors. We have wrestled with the concerns for our members' safety working to incorporate all aspects of gathering. With the guidance of our local synod, we believe we can have our first worship service in 2 1/2 months. We expect a few hiccups (no one has tried to worship in this way before), but we err on the side of caution, so any issues should not affect the safety of our congregants.

### *Parameters to be met::*

- 1) Limited number of attendees (10-25), although we felt this number could increase due to the outside location.
- 2) No singing.
- 3) Six foot distance between people/family groups.
- 4) Masks (gloves optional) strongly encouraged.

Outdoor worship (with communion) at our facility will be offered once a month, and the virtual worship on the website will continue each week. Our first service is scheduled for **June 14, 2020 at 9:15am.**, in the upper north portion of our parking lot.

### *Please keep the following information in mind:*

- 1) Arrive 10-15 minutes before the service is scheduled to begin to orient yourselves to the changes.
- 2) Folding chairs from the building will be available however you are welcome to bring your own lawn chair. The parking lot will be marked to reflect social distancing parameters. Bulletins and hand sanitizer/wipes will be available for you to pick up as you enter the area.
- 3) Please wear masks. If you do not have one, there will be some available for you. If you choose to not wear a mask, please stay in your car or sit outside the six foot parameter to protect you and others. Gloves are optional for all.

4) There will be no singing, and liturgy will be read. Lectors will read the lessons from where they are seated, and asked to speak loudly.

5) Communion will not be distributed, but the elements will be set at a station for your participation. Hand sanitizer/wipes will be available for your use.

6) No fellowship will be available until more guidelines are available.

It is agreed that this proposal will meet our needs and follow the safety precautions required, however there are those that still feel it is too soon to participate. Virtual worship will continue for every week in addition to the outdoor worship, for those concerned. There is no judgment here, only an effort to begin working towards a "new normal" as it is being called.

This schedule would continue throughout the summer. Should the weather turn against us, we will not hold worship, and information will be provided via the text messaging option. However, if it is only "threatening", we have a Plan B available, still outside, but closer to the building. That said, if you feel you are uncomfortable with the weather, you are always willing to participate in the virtual service that will be offered.

As guidelines are adjusted, we will also offer changes to this process. Our utmost concern is for the safety and good health of our members and visitors and will err on the side of caution. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of your council representatives or Pastor George.



*Guidelines for our  
first worship service,  
June 14, 2020  
9:15am*

## Blue Springs Community Services League Update

During the past 3 months our lives and the lives of many others have been turned upside down due to the Coronavirus Epidemic. Many lost jobs or are attempting to work at home while kids are trying to do homework, again for a lengthy period. The number of food insecure has risen sharply to up around 30 to 40 %. Many stepped up to help, including our Blue Springs Community Service League. Numerous bags of food went out daily to those who had nowhere else to go. Many restaurants and stores filled in the blanks with meals. As life slowly returns to a New Normal it is now our turn to step up and help with replenishing of the Pantry at Blue Springs Community Service League.

During the next few months of June, July, and August we will be focusing on collecting all types of food. Pasta, Pasta Meals, Cereals, Cereal bars, Canned meats, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Soups and Stews. Juices and Peanut Butter, Jellies. Whatever you would like to donate would be greatly appreciated. Please place in grocery cart. Are we able to bring in 100 items a month?.

### School Supply Drive—

During the months of June, July, and August we will be collecting school supplies. We are in hopes that kids will be going back to their schools in the fall, but they will need school supplies whether back to classes or remain in the homes. The Blue Springs Community Service League thanks each of you for your continued commitment to help others and your response to the school supplies drive.

A short list of some of those needed items are: #2 pencils with eraser, crayons (16 and 24 count), highlighters, colored pencils. blue, red, and black ink pens, Isoft pink rubber erasers, multi-colored and white construction paper, loose-leaf paper (wide and college-ruled), spiral notebooks (wide rule), two pocket folders, and eight subject dividers. There are copies of a more complete list of school supplies on the table in the narthex and on the bulletin board. Please take one. Donations can be left in the grocery cart.

### 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.

### Soles for Souls — UPDATE

Thank you for helping with the Soles for Souls Campaign. Between our two congregations, ASLC and Resurrection we were able to collect 478 pairs of shoes, boots, and footwear.

All shoes have been delivered to the Storage unit for their processing.

Thank you again for your support in donating, even through this shutdown of activities!



## ***Re-Opening of the Church Building— (Please keep for future reference)***

### **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.

## City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy “Mel” McDonald

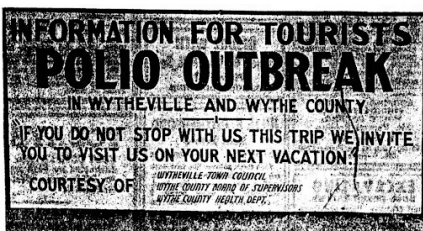
The summer of 1952 brought more changes in the McDonald household. My mother began taking correspondence classes through Central Missouri State Teachers College; now UCM. She needed to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Education, because as her Superintendent advised, the one room school houses would soon be closed and consolidated with town schools which required a four year degree to teach. That summer my mother completed 3 or 4 classes. These were the 20th century version of on-line education except the paperwork was all submitted via U.S. mail.

My parents decided, although I was only 6, I could travel with my Dad to Kansas City and stay with the people he was renting from while he worked during the day. At night we would ride the trolley car down to the baseball park at 23rd and Brooklyn and watch the Kansas City Blues, a farm club of the New York Yankees, or go see a movie at one of the many neighborhood theaters still in operation. I only did this for a few weeks that year, but in the next two years it occurred more often.

Two things still stand out. First, my introduction to television. Kansas City had two stations in 1952, one a CBS affiliate and the other an NBC affiliate. The programming was limited and the people my Dad rented from controlled what programs we watched. During the day, I would hang out with the homeowner and he and I would listen to the “Baseball Game of the Day” on the radio. What I remember vividly from watching the news on TV was the reporting of the polio outbreak of 1952 which spread throughout the U.S.A. I had heard reports of the epidemic on the radio at home at the farm. It's one thing to hear about things like this but quite another to see little children younger than myself in iron lungs to stay alive. A real eye opener!

I was fortunate to work a number of years with a lady who was less than a year old when she came down with polio and spent about 6 months in the iron lung. We talked about those times often. As an adult she spent most of her time in a wheelchair, but was able to walk with braces for short distances.

Epidemiologists believe the outbreak was caused in large part from the poor quality of drinking water, left behind from the flooding in 1951 (which we talked about last month). It would be another three years before the Salk Vaccine became available. No, the polio epidemic of 1952 did not become a pandemic. However, there were about 60,000 cases in the United States and about 1,500 deaths. Like my work friend, the scars of disability remained with the survivors all their lives.



**COURTESY CARD**—The little town of Wytheville, Va. (pop. 5500), has set some kind of a precedent by erecting the billboard pictured above on its outskirts. This summer, Wytheville, county seat of Wythe County, suffered the worst polio epidemic in the history of the nation. Noted for its scenery, climate and vacation facilities, Wythe County was visited by thousands of tourists from all over the U. S. Wythevillians, while glad to have the visitors, did not want to take any chances on their contracting polio. Hence the sign, asking tourists to include the town in their vacation plans for next year. Health authorities state that, following this year's epidemic, Wytheville will be one of the most polio-free areas next year.

*...there were about 60,000 cases in the United States and about 1,500 deaths. Like my work friend, the scars of disability remained with the survivors all their lives.*



## A Sense of Grace and Awe

by Nancy Cramer

We had been watching an unusual television show, by National Geographic, of animals in their habitats.

You ask what is unusual about that? It was the awe that came from seeing the type of animals and birds and their exotic, often hazardous, choice of habitat. Millions, yes, millions of monarch butterflies were filmed awakening from their winter slumber south of the border. They flapped their wings to gain strength in preparation for a flight of up to 3000 miles to their summer homes. Their bodies with wings folded, covered the tree trunks and limbs making a golden blanket that suddenly burst open into – yes, a million pieces.

Next, we saw wiry Japanese monkeys who live in the uppermost northern part of Japan, lounging in pools of hot water, the steam coming from the heat of the pool and evaporating in the chilled air. The pools were formed inside natural hollows in the rocks over hot springs, were surrounded by several feet of snow. The monkeys, one by one, leaped out of the hot water and frolicked in the snow. They rolled over and over, pushed each other down, and threw clumps of snow at some. They did not seem to notice the vast difference in air temperature or the chill of the snow when compared to their warm baths.

It was the giant storks of southern Europe on the screen next. Their strong wings must have measured up to three feet across to carry the weight of their large bodies. They sought warm air currents and will cradle in them, as the currents carried them from one place to another, usually from peaks on islands to other peaks on islands or land. They need the currents so they could accomplish their 8000 mile flight to the southern tip of Africa each year.

Next it was the time for hundreds of male snakes to exit their warm snug quarters to search for an equally large batch of female snakes. It is mating time, and the snakes wiggled and twisted, climbing over and under each other in pursuit of the females. There were dozens at one time, responding to the urgent call of nature to reproduce, ugly and venomous looking that they were.

Lastly, we saw large salmon swimming up a river, then leaping to gain the next higher level of the river. Leap and swim, back to the place of their birth. How do they know or remember that place? How do they contract their bodies to leap one or two feet in the air?

As I watched these wonders, I kept thinking. How do they do it? How do they know where to go and when? I was filled with a sense of awe I never before had experienced.

What energy and force they must use to survive. It is a mystery to us, but common behavior to them. God's plan is at work for all his creatures, great and small, man and animal, bird or fish. This cycle of life has been repeated for eons and will continue unless we interfere. I left feeling complete, contented, and peaceful.

It was all grace and awe for me.



I STAND IN AWE

# JUNE 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <i>Jean returns to daily office schedule 9am-12pm</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:15am Worship Service ( <i>Outside, please refer to guidelines printed</i> )	15 <i>Outside Groups Able to Return based on guidelines posted</i>	16	17	18	19	20 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>
21 <i>Father's Day</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## Church Group Schedule—

*With the disruption we have had, we are not assuming group schedules for using our building remain the same. Please refer to the building use guidelines, and inform Jean at the church if your group will continue meeting at 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://aslcbcs.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](mailto:pameek@kc.rr.com).



#### Happy Birthday to:

Brian Hoover	6/8
Joyce Hoover	6/9
Mike Williams	6/9
Rich Williams	6/9
Terri Lee	6/12
Taylor Via	6/12
Katy Melton	6/20
Mary Joe Cartwright	6/25
Lyle Lee	6/25
Lois Bach	6/27
Tori Neeb	6/27
Flavia Via	6/27

#### Happy Anniversary to:

Gordon & Gloria Wiltse	6/12
Larry & Judy Taylor	6/18

### 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!