

Crossroads



Volume 33, Issue 3

March 2020

From the Pastor —

To all the Saints:

We begin the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 26, at 7:00 PM.

This season always gives us a mixed message. On the one hand, we are reminded of our role in the painful journey of Jesus to the Cross. We are part of the tragic way of the Cross. I am sure that somewhere in our consciousness we remember our failures and sin. Yes, we do have the picture of the suffering Christ embedded in our awareness of the season.

However, there is another major message of the Lenten season. The season communicates the motive and plan of God to save us from ourselves and restore us our status as God's people. Yes, the Cross communicates to us and all people that we are the beloved ones of God. We are the ones who live in the grace, the undeserved love, of the One who came to live among us.



John's Gospel emphasizes that Jesus came to dwell among us. Yes, He blessed our humanity with his presence. Luther came to the realization that God's lover was active in the tragic events of the Cross.

So, yes, we experience both sides of the coin. The most powerful message is the love that covers us. WE THE BELOVED ONES OF GOD. Jesus' presence proclaims that his ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension are the source of all healing for all.

Peace be with you this season of Lent.

Area Lenten Worship Schedule

As is our custom, we share a Lenten meal with area churches. This year, ASLC will host on March 25. Each week begins with a simple dinner at 6:00pm followed by a worship service at 6:40pm. Weekly offering to support Blue Springs Community Service League.

March 4

Chapel Hill Presbyterian
3108 SW US Highway 40
Message: Rev. Cliff Caton

March 18

First Good Shepherd Christian Church
111 SW Woods Chapel Rd
Message: Rev. Bill George

March 11

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
1433 NE RD Mize Road
Message: Rev. Andrew Florio

March 25

All Saints Lutheran Church
421 SW 19th Street
Message: Rev. David Lynch

April 1

First Christian Church
701 NW 15th St.
Message: Rev. Virginia Pych

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**

City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy "Mel" McDonald

In the spring of 1951, shortly after her miscarriage, my mother began looking into returning to her first passion; teaching public school.

She had graduated from high school in 1929 and immediately entered teacher training, and received a teaching certificate. This allowed her to teach at some small (one, two, and three room) country schools.

For a couple of years she taught at one room schools close to her home, riding a horse to school. Unfortunately, the Great Depression deepened and many schools were closed.

Being out of a job she applied to be a nanny in Kansas City and for a couple of years did that. While in KC she also worked as a seamstress for Nell Donnelly at Nelly Don Fabrics, where she worked when she met my father.

In 1951, mother had two large hurdles to overcome before returning to teaching. First, she still did not have a teaching degree. Even her brother-in-law, who was County Superintendent in the county to the south of our farm, could not find a place for her but he did refer her to his peer, the County Superintendent in the counties north and east of our farm toward Jefferson City.

This man's name was Dr. George Riley. He made her an offer she could not turn down. If she could obtain her degree within three years, he had an opening in a one room school about eight

miles from our farm via a farm-to-market road. She snapped it up.

The other hurdle; what to do with me. Pre-school and kindergartens were not in existence in rural Central Missouri in 1951 and her sister who lived only six miles away had enough on her plate raising four children, soon to be five.

Dr. Riley was a tough looking loud talking man but once we got to know each other I discovered his bark was much worse than his bite. He asked he a number of questions and determined that I would be allowed to enter first grade as a five-year-old.

Next month, the great flood of the summer of 1951 and how it affected our family.

"...he determined I would be allowed to enter first grade as a five-year-old."



SOUP—ER BOWL Update—Youth Group Project

The Youth Group would like to thank you and the surrounding community for the great response to their food drive for SOUP-ER Bowl Sunday. They were able to collect 93 items of food for BCSL, and would like to see this become an annual event for them and you. Thank you for your support of the youth!

Blue Springs Community Services League Update

Yes, we can make a difference when we share that can of soup or jar of peanut butter. Yes, we do make a difference when we share that can of soup or jar of peanut butter. The following is a note received by a Community League from a single mom who had come for help.

“I want to thank you for all the wonderful things you did for my family. I was a single mom with four little boys. I will never forget how your generosity and kindness helped us. Please use this donation enclosed for another single mom to help her with her little ones. Hope the year provides all your needs for others entrusted to your care. (We all know boys can eat). Thank you so much for what you do for others..”

Box meals, Jell-O, corn meal mix, side dishes, tuna, canned chicken, spaghetti sauce, pasta and pork & beans are always welcome items.

Thank you for all you do to make life a little easier for those barely scraping by.

Soles for Souls —

During Lent, ASLC will be collecting shoes. All types and sizes of shoes, slippers, and boots are welcome donations. The four churches we share Lenten meals and services with are joining in this project. Collection will be March 1st to March 31st. Bags of shoes will then be taken to a storage unit, where they will be processed.



We will deliver the bags of shoes to the storage unit on either Friday or Saturday mornings (to be determined by those that wish to help.) We are looking for a few strong folks to volunteer to help with lifting and hauling. We anticipate that we will need to drop off weekly, due to the expected collection.

Shoes will be prepared on Tuesday afternoons during Creative Friends. Anyone is welcome to join us for this part of the process. We will tie shoes together or rubber band those without ties, and bag in groups of twenty. Shoes brought from the other churches will already be processed. We will deliver to the storage area.

Shoes may be dropped off at ASLC anytime the church is open, M-F from 9-12, or any other times you have access to the building.

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.

Are you on FaceBook?

If you are, and you haven't "liked" ASLC's page yet, please do! Up to the minute information regarding church events. Easy to do, and easy to keep in communication with what's happening at ASLC. It's also a great way to invite your friends to join in our events and happenings throughout the year. Just search 'All Saints Lutheran Church' in your FB search box, and click the "like" button to begin receiving updates.



*More Church
News....*

Inclement Weather Procedures—

When the weather is bad check your phone and the TV to see if we're having services or activities. If you haven't signed up for text notifications, you still can. Text the keyword EZASLCBS to 484848 and wait for a confirmation message. ASLC is set up with all the local TV stations for notifications if we are closed, or delayed. We will also put the information on our FaceBook page and website, aslcbs.org.

Treasurer Position Available—

Doug Neeb is stepping down as treasurer for ASLC. If you feel you have the calling to help the church in this capacity, please contact any council member and tell them of your interest. Doug is willing to work with you in the transition of duties, and the details of the responsibilities can be reviewed with you. Thank you for your consideration.

Changes You Will See—

Beginning this month, you will be seeing changes occurring to the nursery/ Sunday school room.

Katy Melton has received approval from the council to renovate that room for her Girl Scout Gold Star Project. The room will still be available for young children and infants that visit and need space during worship, but will also be adapted to accommodate our older youth and their activities.

Katy has provided the council with a specific budget and plan for renovation. For her project, she will be responsible for finding her resources, volunteers and work closely with the youth leaders during the process. The work itself will be done during school breaks and summer vacation. She anticipates the project will be done by mid-August.

We are extremely proud of Katy's desire to improve and address needs of our young people and offer her whatever support she needs during this process.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH A CHEER

by Nancy Cramer

A friend recently asked me, on observing that I walk with a cane with my head bent over looking at the path I am walking on, "Why do you always look down, when you could look up and see more things?" A good question, I thought, but for safety reasons, I look down to avoid rough places, cracks, or obstacles in my way. I admit I do miss looking at my surroundings whether it is a brilliant blooming flower bed or children playing in a pile of snow. Yes, I miss seeing things that amuse me, delight me, make me laugh or shake my head in dismay.

For those of us with a cane, looking down is an important safety measure. We don't want to trip on a small throw rug in the house, or stub our toe on a gash in the concrete sidewalk. But if it deprives us of much we ought to be seeing, how can we become more aware of our surroundings and enjoy life from another perspective?

Now that I have posed one question, let me share another one to think about.

How do we decide what the future of our little church? And how can we achieve it without tripping, making mistakes, even falling flat on our face? (A horrible situation.) We want to be looking ahead, not down.

Can we discuss these questions thoughtfully and seriously? Can we respect the ideas of another person? Their experiences?

Many of you came from Abiding Savior, so this is not a new situation for you. Meanwhile, thirty years earlier, the seeds were sown by the founders of All Saints. So it can be done, if the will is there. Yes, you object, but we were younger then and had more strength and energy. True, but all things come from God, including "strength and energy." Perhaps your enthusiasm will be transferred to someone younger, just waiting for such an assignment.

I strongly believe, that by "looking up and looking ahead," we will find the answers to the questions that All Saints is presenting to us. We have congregants of good character, with many talents (some undiscovered as yet), and the drive and will power to bring about the conclusion we are seeking.



Yes, we look ahead!

Go Chiefs! Go All Saints! Yea, yea, yea!

"How do we decide what the future of our little church?"

News from the Council—

By the time this newsletter will be released we as a congregation (and council) will have received the report from our Transitional Team . Based on this report, we will need to determine what we feel our future will look like. Next month's newsletter will have more on this discussion.

In the meantime, we continue to work towards a proposal for a community garden, to better utilize our property and offer something to our community. This will include, we hope a small orchard of fruit trees for the area. A formal proposal will be presented at the May congregational meeting, but you may be seeing surveys being sent to the community, to generate and quantify the interest our neighbors have in participating in the concept. We thank Kansas City Community Gardens on their information and sharing of data for this project.

Speaking of the May congregational meeting, this is typically when we will fill two council positions. This year, Joyce Cutbirth and Jim McDonald will be stepping down from their responsibilities and we will need to fill those slots. Please prayerfully consider if you would be interested in committing to a

three year position. As mentioned in another article in this newsletter, we continue to search for a treasurer.

Please note that these positions of leadership may seem daunting, but you will be supported by others and no one should consider themselves unqualified.

A few other items of interest—during Lent, bell choir will practice on Tuesday evenings, allowing members to attend the weekly Lenten services, with which we participate. And the building has passed a fire inspection by the Blue Springs Fire Department.



Church
business
continues
throughout
the year—

DO's and DON'T's (from the Property Committee for activities at the church to help maintain our property):

- ◆ Do consider the safety of yourself and others around the church as the #1 priority. Fire Codes are in place for your safety.
- ◆ Do lock the door if you are alone or with a small group in the church.
- ◆ Do clean up after yourself (let Phil Gross know what was spilled and where).
- ◆ Don't put ANY liquid in a wastebasket. Leftover liquids need to go down the kitchen sink or into the grass outside. Empty water bottles can be recycled.
- ◆ Don't put anything in the outside trash dumpster that isn't in a trash bag.
- ◆ Don't leave food out. This attracts bugs and ants.
- ◆ Do close the blinds when the church is unoccupied.
- ◆ Do put clean items that can be recycled into the recycle bin in the kitchen.
- ◆ Do set back the thermostats and lock the doors when you leave.

Thank you for your help!

MARCH 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School | 2 | 3 Creative Friends 1pm Bell Choir Practice 6pm | 4 Host Church: Chapel Hill Presbyterian 3108 SW US HW.40 6pm Rev. Cliff Caton | 5 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School Spring Forward— Daylight Savings Time begins | 9 | 10 Creative Friends 1pm Bell Choir Practice 6pm Girl Scouts Troop #1214 6:30-8:00 pm | 11 Host Church: Episcopal Church of the Resurrection 1433 NW R.D. Mize Rd. 6pm Rev. Andrew Florio | 12 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> Council Meeting 6:30pm | 13 | 14 <i>8am Men's Breakfast Bob Evans</i> |
| 15 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School | 16 | 17 Creative Friends 1pm Bell Choir Practice 6pm | 18 Host Church: First Good Shepherd Christian 111 SW Woods Chapel Rd. 6pm Rev. Bill George | 19 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> | 20 Newsletter Deadline First Day of Spring! | 21 |
| 22 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School <i>Coffee With Council</i> | 23 | 24 Creative Friends 1pm Bell Choir Practice 6pm Girl Scouts Troop #1214 6:30-8:00 pm | 25 Host Church: All Saints Lutheran Church 421 SW 19th St. 6pm Rev. David Lynch | 26 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> | 27 | 28 Project Comfort 9:00am-Noon |
| 29 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School Pot Luck Sunday | 30 | 31 Creative Friends 1pm Bell Choir Practice 6pm | | | | |

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

<https://aslcb.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 Cutblth |
| 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.

Worship Assistants—

*Please note the Sunday you are expected to serve. If you cannot provide your time, please **find a substitute** and notify the church secretary as soon as*

Greeter 3/1 Sheryl Seevers
 3/8 Sharon LeVasseur
 3/15 Donna Taylor
 3/22 Joyce Hoover
 3/29 Sharon LeVasseur

Reader 3/1 Tracy Nelson
 3/8 Betsy Reese
 3/15 Ron Easton
 3/22 Sheryl Seevers
 3/29 Joyce Hoover

Ushers 3/1 Paul Blixrud
 3/8 Jerry Green
 3/15 Paul Blixrud
 3/22 Brian Hoover
 3/29 Sheryl Seevers

Communion Assistant 3/1 Tracy Nelson
 3/8 Sheryl Seevers
 3/15 Ron Easton
 3/22 Sue-Lyn Olson

Acolyte 3/1 Tyler Melton
 3/8 Addison Antes
 3/15 Noelle Benz
 3/22 Zach Antes
 3/29 Tyler Melton



Happy Birthday to:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Katie Dustin | 2/3 |
| Georgie Vater | 2/16 |
| Jim McDonald | 2/23 |
| Hazel Crane | 2/28 |
| Janet Cooper | 3/3 |
| Michael Benz | 3/11 |
| Vashti Bird | 3/17 |
| Joyce Cutbirth | 3/17 |
| Jane Thompson | 3/17 |
| John Pratt | 3/24 |
| David Fast | 3/25 |
| Savanna Bird | 3/29 |
| Carla Girkin | 3/30 |

Happy Anniversary to:

| | |
|------------------|------|
| H.T. & Gwen Hake | 2/20 |
| Tom & Pam Meek | 3/30 |