

Crossroads



From the Pastor —

Greetings to All the Saints:

Here we are still experiencing social isolation and all of its stresses and anxieties. Each of us has their individual sets of issues. If you are an extrovert like me, you feel shut in and missing varied contacts. Some of us do not mind the isolation as much. I miss going out to eat and being with friends. As a pastor I have a hard time “preaching” to my cell phone. I miss seeing us together as a community of God’s people. Amazing what an invisible virus can do to our lives, the nation and the world.

As each of us has our own issues, we have our own set of coping strategies. Deep breathing, mindfulness, exercise, prayer and keeping in touch via social medias come to mind. We can and will come through this hard time. We will find strengths that we did know that we had. Remember that it is EASTER! As the disciples faced an unknown future, He greets us with his Peace. He provides comfort and hope now and always. We believe that He leads us, guides us and walks our path with us.

I offer these words and thoughts as means of finding our way.

Be On the Lookout—

Council is looking at opportunities to connect with you all to continue our transition discussions. We want to keep the momentum going rather than having to start up again once we begin gathering again.

We hope to offer either Zoom or conference call options. Look for an email with more details. And we want your input!

Remember, the Church is not a building—it is us!

During this time of social distancing and sheltering in place I have continued to call and check in with members. I will continue to make contact with you. If you wish to talk or have individual prayer, I am available on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 AM.

Thanks to all who are working to provide worship and ongoing necessary activities in the congregation. Thanks to all the workers who assist in many ways to minister to provide care and keep basic services going!

Thank God for all of You!

Peace and blessings, Stay Safe

Pr George



Volume 33, Issue 4

April 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—

With the recommendation of government entities, the church council determined that in the best interest of our members, we would remain closed through the month of May. Our first worship will be June 7, 2020.

There are three main reasons for this.

- 1) The geographic location has not yet hit its peak of infected cases to even begin thinking about lowering our guard.
- 2) Locally, even nationwide, we do not have accessible, easy to obtain testing for our population. We are currently still in the dark regarding the number of people that may have the virus and be asymptomatic.
- 3) Our congregation is a vibrant one, however it does have many that are high risk and to take a chance in causing any of you illness is truly frightening.

Please be assured, we still have volunteers that check our mail, check our building and keep our grounds beautiful. Jean continues to come into the office 2x a week to check phone messages and administrative duties that cannot be put off. Pastor George will continue to check in with us via FaceBook, the website, email and phone and council members keep in close contact to resolve church business.

As a part of this business, we would have had our May semiannual congregational meeting to elect two new council persons, and provide annual committee reports. That will be postponed until we are open again, and a date determined (we hope in June).



Until that time, both Jim McDonald and Joyce Cutbirth have agreed to remain on council (their terms would typically have ended May 31). And just to remind you, if you are interested in being on council, please let any of us know.

We have been blessed to continue receiving offerings, as well as our Simply Giving program. If you were waiting to return to church to donate and are not on the Simply Giving program, we hope this helps you determine to continue your giving by mailing your checks to the office throughout this time. They will be deposited as received.

Once again, we are disappointed that we won't actually see everyone as soon as we expected. We do believe this decision to extend the time quarantined is in the best interest of all of us.

You are welcome to reach out to any council person to discuss or to express interest in council work, we would love to talk to any of you.

May you stay safe and stay healthy.

As all church business, gatherings and worship are suspended for the month, there is no calendar or list of worship assistants this month

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!

Blue Springs Community Services League Update

As our community continues to experience consequences of this pandemic, BSCSL is realizing the increased need for their services. Although we as a church are not currently meeting, donations to their cause is still critical for their work to continue. It is up to us to respond.

With the Neeb Foundation and a private donation from Doug and Tammy Neeb, ASLC council approved a monetary donation to BSCSL, totaling \$2,000. This is in addition to our normal quarterly benevolence of \$300, and any inkind donations of food.

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
BLUE SPRINGS, MO

April 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

All Saints Lutheran Church in Blue Springs, in working together with the Neeb Family Foundation is pleased to make this gift to the Community Services League.

As you know, All Saints provides some regular support to CSL through its local benevolence contributions.

Mr. Neeb, the President of the Neeb Family Foundation is a member of our congregation. The NFF works to support communities in time of need.

In these extraordinary times, the NFF approved a grant to CSL and All Saints approved a matching grant of \$.50 on the dollar.

Together the NFF Grant, All Saints regular benevolence, All Saints matching grant and a private contribution from Doug & Tammy Neeb we hope this \$2,000 provides some relief to those in our local community who are in need.

We applaud all the good and hard work done by CSL for the communities which it serves and are pleased to provide this support.

In Christ


Douglas M. Neeb
Treasurer

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 – On Hold

Currently, we do not have access to drop off shoes, and we ask that you hold them until we can get into the building to prepare and transport. With the “stay at home” order, we will work to offer collection times once schedules return to normal. We appreciate your patience during this time.



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

celebrate!

Happy Birthday to:

Bob LeVasseur	5/8
Paul Blixrud	5/9
Ron Easton	5/14
Sue Limburg	5/23
Dee Singleton	5/29

Happy Anniversary to:

Pete & Sue Limburg	5/4
Brian & Joyce Hoover	5/5
Ron & Vickie Miller	5/14
John & Patsy Pratt	5/21
Ron & Linda Schwantes	5/22
Marty & Sara Meyers	5/24
Doug & Tammy Neeb	5/25
Ray & Paula Melton	5/26
David & Linda Bird	5/28

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.

Out of the Surreal, Into the Real

by Nancy Cramer

When we were first issued the edict on “sheltering” and “social distancing,” I felt like a teenager learning how to ballroom dance. It was strange, restrictive, and the rules restrained me like my dog pulling on the lease to go in an opposite direction. It was strange and felt unnatural. Not seeing people in the lounge or the hallway, not getting into my car to do some errands of minor importance, made me feel like I was in a 3D movie watching from a distant field of unreality. Thankfully, though, after a few days of my new imprisonment –maybe that’s how a convict feels once the door is slammed shut–I began to adjust. I have always had a set routine. Get up, maybe dress now, or perhaps later, eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. Go to bed. In between were the things that made each day ordinary, unpleasant, or exciting and fulfilling.

I discovered to my surprise that time moved quickly. I didn’t have enough minutes in the day to accomplish what my list said. Of course writing down 34 things to do, see, or call, is a bit much, but I had feared that time would lag, I would be bored, left without something to do. None of these happened. When I realized this about a week into the “sheltering,” I learned to make shorter lists. Then the surreal feeling, the strangeness, and unfamiliarity of my day began to vanish. Soon it was gone, and here I am, frantically trying to meet some deadlines. Still saying Yes when I should say No. Still writing stories when I have books begging to be read, I find that I enjoy each day more or less, just as I used to.

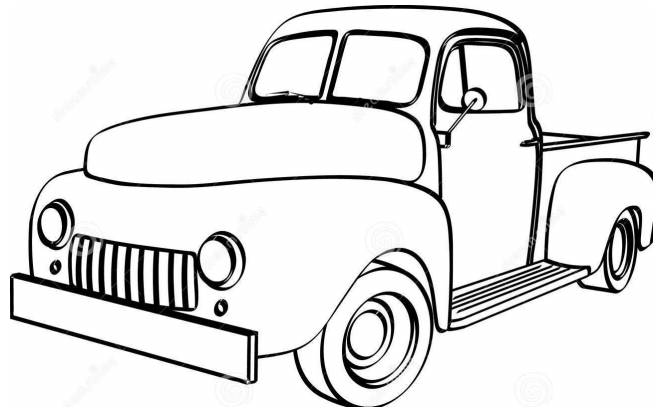
To be honest though, I miss seeing other people and engaging with them. I have had two experiences using Zoom for meetings, and they both enriched my days. So, solitary that I am, I am still a social creature, practicing what the politicians, scientists and medical professionals call “social distancing.” I’ve decided it is okay for now, but as a permanent way of life, give me the daily routine, the social whirl, and the presence of other people. I have to admit the surreal was a bit too much of a 3D movie for me.

City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy “Mel” McDonald

The late winter and spring of 1951 saw unprecedented levels of rain and snow fall on Western Missouri. On July 14, 1951, the Missouri River at Kansas City crested at over 46 feet the highest level since 1844. My dad worked in Kansas City during slow periods on the farm, and this was one of those times.

One day my mother received a call from the people my dad stayed with in Kansas City. Because my dad worked in the East Bottoms he was given a tetanus shot. He did not know he was allergic. He was running a high fever with chills. Mom and I hopped in the 1950 red Ford and drove to Kansas City. It was quite hot and humid with all the precipitation in the air, so we had all the windows open. When we arrived we laid Dad down in the back seat and covered him with blankets. Because he was chilling, he insisted on the windows being closed. What a miserable ride! Mom and I stopped several times to get some air.



My Dad slowly recovered and things returned to normal. The historic flooding event and how it impacted our small family still remains vivid in my memory.

As the summer of 1951 faded into fall, anxiety reigned supreme in the McDonald household. My father, finally recovered from his negative reaction to a tetanus shot, was anxious to get back to work in the fields and in Kansas City. My mother was anxiously awaiting her return to school teaching after an absence of more than 15 years, and me (yes even 5 year olds can have anxiety), was anxious to enter a new stage of life as a first grader interacting with kids I had never seen. One emotion I was not prepared to deal with was having to share my mother, my best friend, with all these snot nosed newbies.

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“The historic flooding event and how it impacted our small family still remains vivid in my memory.”

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I will just mention a few things related to life in the one room schoolhouse that are completely foreign to life in the 21st century. First if one was to google the best way to reach the school from our farm it would take you 5 miles north, 5 miles east and 5 miles back south, when in fact it was almost a straight line between the two. My mother, knowing the terrain, took a farm-to-market gravel road to another cutting the distance in about one-half. A farm-to-market road is a road that connects farmers to a paved road that will eventually take them to a market where they can sell their crops and animals. The one negative to using this mode of travel was if there had been rains the night before some of the creeks would flood the road and few if any bridges were built. I can remember several times my mother and I would venture through water in our red Ford. These were times we both said silent prayers. Occasionally we would have to turn around and find a different route to school. But school had to go on with only one teacher.



A few other unique things. No indoor plumbing so we had a privy on one side of the school house for ladies, and a privy on the other side for gents. The only water was from a well on the property. With only 15-20 students in the whole school everyone had recess and lunch at the same time. Amazingly, during recess, the children played together such games as Annie Over and Red Rover. Many children rode bikes to school during nice weather as there was no bus service in place. My mother would pick up a couple of kids who were on our way to school.

In the next installment, a look back at an epidemic in 1952 Kansas City that was as alarming as the current pandemic is. Stay safe, and keep the faith.

A Bit of Humor—

During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned about how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's ribs. Later in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless: "Mom, I have a pain in my side—I think I'm getting a wife."