

# Crossroads



## From our Minister—

We've been asking some big questions here at ASLC lately.

What do we need to do as we look to our future?

Now that we have four main goals laid out, what are our priorities? How do we meet our goals?

What things that we've done in the past inform who we are moving into the future? What parts of our identities do we keep? What do we move on from?

How have we changed over the past couple of years, with changes in minister and the pandemic impacting our sense of community?

But perhaps the biggest questions of all, the ones that underpin everything else, are these: *What is God calling us to do in this space and place? Who is God calling us to be as a community?*

These are, in some ways, two very different questions. Think about those verbs: *to do* and *to be*. One is transitive: we must do something. We can't just do. We must do work, do worship, do leisure, do prayer, do relaxation...you get the picture. So when we talk about what God is calling us to do, there is always something. Always a what.

We have talked about communication trees, name recognition, service projects, youth programming, Bible study, help with online worship, when we'll return to in-person worship and what it will look like...these are all things to do. Some of them are internally focused, reaching in, as our mission statement says. Some of them are externally focused, reaching out. A couple of them are reaching up.

But at the heart of it all, at the center of everything we do, is our commissioning as the people of God. We were all baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and we have all been

commissioned to do the work of God. In the words of our baptism service, we are to join together in "giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world." (ELW, p. 231)

Moreover, as Lutherans, we believe that the forgiveness of sins happened once, for all, long before any of us were born. This happened through Jesus' death and resurrection. As Lutherans, we subscribe to the theology of atonement, which says, in a nutshell, that Jesus obtained forgiveness for all sins, for all time, through his death on the cross and his resurrection. This is foundational to our faith. We believe we are at one with Jesus through our baptisms. (In fact, that's exactly what atonement means – it comes from the English words "at" and "one." We are at one with Christ, in harmony with Christ, through his death and resurrection and the forgiveness of our sins.)

So why share this with you? Because of that second verb: *to be*. Who we are the very foundation of who we are as Christians, is people who are reconciled to Christ and, through Christ, with each other. We believe that we are at one with Christ, and at one with our neighbor – all of humanity. God names Godself "I am who I am." (Exodus 3:14) This is later echoed by Jesus. When the woman at the well says the messiah is coming, he responds, "I am, the one who is speaking to you." (John 4:26)

So at the center of our identity as Christians, at the center of all of our activity, all of our doing, all of our worshiping and forgiving and mission work, is a simple, profound statement of who God is calling us to be. Perhaps we could say, "As God is, as Christ is, so we are in Christ."

Volume 34, Issue 5  
May 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**

We've been meeting a lot! All for good and with good results, we are hosting bi-monthly "Transitioning for our Future" zoom meetings to bring the decision-making to all members. We need input and support from everyone, and appreciate those that have attended. We expect to continue these calls on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at 11am (although with May extra events, we are meeting just once, on 5/23). Mark your calendars!

Currently, you have determined to begin organizing and creating teams focused on the Goal 3, working together on service projects with other congregations. Identify projects, resources and how to implement; and Goal 4, improving communication within ASLC. We are still waiting for someone to step up to commit to volunteering for these teams even as a few have expressed interest.

This leads us to a major concern of council. Who is willing to step up and become leaders going forward. Not only are we looking to organize new teams for this transition, we have two council positions and the financial secretary position open and waiting for someone to offer their time and talents to ASLC.



## Parish Council News

We don't like to dwell on the negatives, we want to continue to be optimistic about our future. And there is a future for ASLC, but not without everyone stepping up to help in any way they can. Even if you don't believe you can do the job, none of these positions require prior skills. They are common sense positions. They are the "work of the people".

And we need to fill them. Can you look deep within yourselves to offer the commitment that our church needs? You will gain so much more than you will give as a representative for ALSC. A small sacrifice of time is all that is required.

We are hopeful and are planning to begin full in-person indoor worship starting 6/6. We have all been waiting so very long for this to occur.

With this in mind, and with all we are doing, we are blessed.

To join into Zoom via phone, call 1-312-626-6799. When asked, type in 846 1206 6465 for the meeting ID and 152928 for the passcode.

### May Events—

We are excited that we will be able to offer two in person outdoor worship events this month, **May 16 and 23**. Both will offer meetings following worship. On **May 16**, we will have our semi-annual congregational meeting where we will vote for two new council persons, and provide a review of the past year's church work. On **May 23**, we will offer our *Transitioning for Our Future* meeting, where we hope all will attend to continue the discussion of what the future holds for ASLC. Please come, and bring your chairs and masks.

We tentatively expect to begin holding in person worship continuously beginning June 6. As more people become vaccinated, we are hopeful it will be safer for all to gather.

And lastly, we wish everyone a wonderful Mother's Day on **May 8th!**

## ***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.

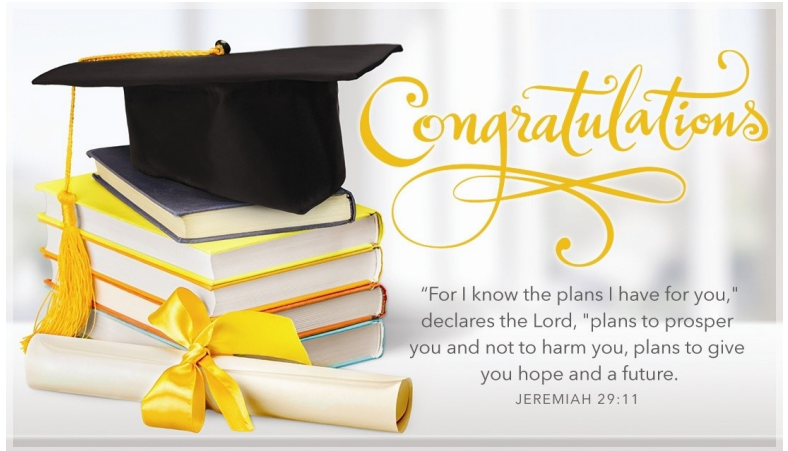
Thank you for your help.

**High School  
Graduates!**

### ***Our Seniors are Graduating!***

Congratulations and blessings to Charlie Cope-Morris, Katie Dustin, Kimberly Girkin, Katie Melton, Abby Miller and CJ Miller upon their high school graduations!

ASLC will recognize their achievements on Sunday, June 6th at worship. As this will be our first indoor worship, and with continued CoVid restrictions, we won't be able to provide a reception, but will honor them in another meaningful way.



### ***The Day of Pentecost May 23, 2021***

The culmination of the Easter celebration is Pentecost. Our risen Christ had shown himself to his disciples and then ascended into heaven, leaving them with a promise of the gift of the Spirit.

The apostles were waiting in Jerusalem for the promised gift. At that time, adult Jewish men traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Harvest. So in the middle of a great and grand harvest celebration, the streets of Jerusalem were clogged with thousands of pilgrims who had come from every point of the compass to celebrate the goodness of God and the bringing in of the wheat harvest. That means they were there to see the gift of the Holy Spirit descend on the Apostles and hear them speak in many languages. Through baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire, the Apostles were now qualified to preach the Good News to all in Jerusalem to Galilee and to the ends of the earth.

Peter preached that day. He called for repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. He urged his hearers to accept baptism and assured them that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. These moments of proclamation, repentance, faith, baptism, and life in the Spirit were fundamental to the emerging pattern created by the apostles and their successors for welcoming converts into Christ and his people, the church. This is why the events of Pentecost are often called the birthday of the church.

The emphasis on baptism makes the Day of Pentecost a baptismal festival. The liturgical color of the Pentecost is bright red, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit. The color for the Sundays after Pentecost is green, symbolizing growth in faith in response to all God has done for us.

## City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy “Mel” McDonald

In the fall of 1956, our new city home was finally finished, and ready for occupancy. We had been sequestered in the top level of an old house for a couple of months.

It would be an understatement to say that my parents and I did not adjust well to being confined. Having lived on a farm for about eight years, we always had plenty of space to navigate.

Even a little squirt, like me, was able to go to the chicken house and collect eggs. I could even go to the barn, and occasionally, when my Dad was working in the fields, I could take him lunch or something to drink. The only area that was off limits for me was around the pig pen, and the pond adjacent to the pen. To this day, because of my Mother’s fear of water, I never learned to swim.

Our new home was in a sub-division called Plateau Park. Our new home was not on the main road where all the other houses were built, but it was constructed about 20 yards off the main road. The driveway to our house was not straight, causing my folks difficulty, in the winter, getting up to the main road.

There was a large vacant lot just to the back of our property, which was never used or developed during the five years we lived there. I think one of our neighbors owned the land and was planning on selling the lot to someone to build another house or two, but as you will find out in later installments the State Highway Department had different plans.

The new school where my Mother taught, and I went to sixth grade, had about 300 students, or about 50 students per grade. Fifty students was the average size of the entire school for the other four schools I had attended.

The school had two sixth grades and three classes each of the other five grades. This was the very beginning of the post World War Two baby boom, and the first year of the boomers hitting school age. That was one year after me, which explains the classroom arrangements.

One of the sixth grade teachers was Thomas B Chinn, an icon in the history of Platte County education. The year I was in sixth grade was Mr. Chinn’s last year teaching and the kids in his class had lots of fun. Mr. Chinn would bring goodies for each student birthday. On Valentine’s day, he brought in brownies for all the sixth graders.

I got the other sixth grade teacher, for which my Mother was quite grateful. She did not believe in fun for fun’s sake in the schoolroom.

Ironically three years later a new grade school opened about two miles from our home. My Mother applied, and was transferred to Thomas B Chinn Elementary School where she taught until she retired.

Mr. Chinn’s two maiden daughters also taught at the new school, and became good friends with my Mother.

To complete this scenario, 50 years later in 2009, as part of the celebration, I was invited along with others to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion. One of the first graders was our oldest grandson, Austin James, who with his parents lived in the same house I lived in 50 years previously. Austin graduates this month from Park Hill High School.

Salutations and good wishes; remember Cinco De Mayo, and the Kentucky Derby, occur shortly so enjoy a Tequila Mint Julip.

*“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

May, a month of sunshine, flowers and to focus on moms with families in our local communities. With your monthly donation of food items consider a personal type item for mom to help care for her family. A bottle of shampoo and conditioner, shower gel, soft soap or bars of soap for bath time, deodorants, and dry laundry detergent would be helpful items along with pastas, soups, applesauce, gelatin cups, skillet meals, cereals and peanut butter to name a few.

BSCSL appreciates all you do to help those who struggle from day to day making ends meet as one in four kids still do not know where their next meal is coming from.

March Donations of 139 food items were delivered to BSCSL on 3/31/21.

Should you know of any families who are in need please direct them to the Blue Springs office at 200 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St in Blue Springs. Phone number is 816-229-0033. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 9 to 12 and 1pm to 4 pm. Friday 9 to 12.



The church office is open 9am-12pm, Monday through Friday, to drop off donations.

### *The Everything Mom*

How did you find the energy, Mom  
 To do all the things you did,  
 To be teacher, nurse and counselor  
 To me, when I was a kid.  
 How did you do it all, Mom  
 Be a chauffeur, cook and friend?  
 Yet find time to be a playmate,  
 I just can't comprehend.  
 I see now it was love, Mom  
 That made you come whenever I'd call,  
 Your inexhaustible love, Mom  
 And I thank you for it all.

— Joanna Fuchs



### Happy Birthday to:

Sharon Sawaya	5/6
Robert LeVasseur	5/8
Paul Blixrud	5/9
Ron Easton	5/14
Susan Limburg	5/23
Dee Singleton	5/29

### Happy Anniversary to:

Peter & Susan Limburg	5/4
Brian & Joyce Hoover	5/5
John & Patsy Pratt	5/21
Ron & Linda Schwantes	5/22
Martin & Sara Meyers	5/24
Doug & Tammy Neeb	5/25
Ray & Paula Melton	5/26
David & Linda Byrd	5/28

### Readers for May Worship:

We are in need of readers for April virtual worship services. They can be recorded easily and if you feel uncomfortable, you can be recorded at the church. Many thanks to those already assisting.

5/2	Betsy Reese
5/9	(Mother's Day) Katie Dustin
5/16	(Outdoor Worship) Tracy Nelson
5/23	(Outdoor Worship) Paul Blixrud
5/30	Jim McDonald

*If you would like to participate,  
please contact Pastor Sarah or Sara Meyers to learn more.*

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421 SW 19th Street  
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816-229-3633

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

**Sunday Services**  
(currently online at [aslcb.org](https://aslcb.org))

#### 2020-2021 Church Council

President	Pam Meek
Vice President	Ron Easton
Secretary	Sara Meyers
Treasurer	Carla Girkin
Member	Carla Girkin
Member	Lisa Melton
Member	vacant

#### Program Ministries

<b>Witness/Marketing/Advertising</b>	Ron Easton
<b>Learning/Youth</b>	Carla Girkin
<b>Property</b>	Pam Meek
<b>Service/Stewardship</b>	vacant
<b>Community Life</b>	vacant
<b>Worship/Music</b>	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).*

# MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	6	7	8
9 <b>Mother's Day</b>	10	11	12 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	13 PTA Meeting  Council Meeting <i>Via Zoom 6:30pm</i>	14	15
16 <b>In Person Outdoor Worship 9:30am</b> <i>Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Following</i>	17	18	19 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i>	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21	22 Project Comfort 9-12pm
23 <b>In Person Outdoor Worship 9:30am</b> <i>Transitioning for Our Future Meeting Following</i>	24	25	26	27	28 Youth Group 7pm	29
30	31 <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i>					