

Crossroads



Volume 33, Issue 11

November 2020

From the President —

Thanksgiving Blessings!

Thanksgiving is our annual holiday to celebrate the harvest and blessings we have received over the past year. This year, due to COVID, we may be forced to celebrate a bit differently than in the past.

“Due to COVID” is a phrase we’ve had to use much too often in 2020. Our blessings may seem to be less eventful, less noticeable, less impactful “due to COVID”. Our lives have been up-ended, our normal life schedules changed, whether from virtual school, working from home, food and meal deliveries (we have discovered curbside), vacations cancelled. “due to COVID”.

Everything seems a bit surreal. How can we celebrate a holiday so steeped in tradition?

Do we have a roof over our heads? Do we have the means and ability to put food on our tables? Do we have enough clothing? Do we have employment or school? Do we have entertainment to relax, books, TV, video games, puzzles (oh so many puzzles!) Go ahead and make the green bean casserole and pumpkin pie for the smaller, more intimate meal?

We can “zoom call”, “facetime”, text, or even just make the phone call to connect with family and friends. No, they are not physically with you, but the connection is still there. Be blessed that family members are not affected by the virus as are so many in our communities.

It is expected that the football games will still be televised. You won’t miss the afternoon nap in front of the TV following dinner.

For our church family, we have been blessed to assemble twice this year since March. We continue to do the church’s work, to support those organizations we have always supported, just on a smaller scale. Perhaps instead of the large family meal you won’t have, you choose to serve the community in different ways. Donations to charitable organizations of food items, time or money are always welcome. A different type of blessing.

Know that it is normal to feel disheartened, to feel discouraged and lonely. Especially during the holidays. Please reach out to someone. You may be dealing with issues and concerns that seem overwhelming until shared with others.

Working together we can continue to count our blessings. We can continue to help those that may just need a word of encouragement. We can continue to share our lives. We can continue.

May you and your family have a wonderful, albeit a bit different, Thanksgiving holiday.

Pam Meek
ASLC Council President

*thankful
AND
grateful*

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**

Council News—

October has been a challenging month for us. Due to weather concerns we postponed our worship for 10/25. We hope to reschedule before the end of the year, as we know how important it is to all of us to meet.

As you may have heard, Pastor George fell down stairs at his home October 9th and fractured some vertebrae in his back. He is recovering, but it will be a long, slow process (3-6 months) and he is regretfully terminating his covenant with us as transition minister. The synod is working with us regarding other options we have available and Rev. Dave Whetter will be spearheading the transition process going forward. More news on that will be available as it is finalized.

In the meantime, we are working on a different type of stewardship drive for our congregation. Two separate, but equally important events will be occurring over the next few weeks. A letter from council is being sent out the week of 10/26, along with the 2021 pledge card, for you to offer your financial commitment to ASLC for the coming year. We ask that it be returned to the church office by 11/9/2020 so we can prepare a budget for consideration before the end of the year. This will most likely be held virtually over Zoom and the invitation will be sent mid to late November.

The second event is spearheaded by Nancy Cramer, and is a virtual silent auction. This is expected to occur the first week on November. Instructions will be forwarded via email and the auction items will be shown on our website for bidding purposes. Proceeds from this event will go to benefit those affected by the derecho, hurricanes, floods and fires throughout our nation.



Parish Council News

We encourage you to share the auction information with others in the community to raise as much money as we can to help those devastated by these natural disasters.

We have multiple special dates in November as well. All Saints Day is November 1, where we recognize those that are no longer with us. We grieve with the friends and family members and know our loved ones are now with the Lord.

Election Day is November 3rd. Please vote. If you expect difficulties getting to the polls on that day, please let us know. There are those willing to offer transportation on that day as well. This election is too important to not exercise your right to vote.

We celebrate our veterans on Veterans' Day, November 11th. We recognize your service and sacrifice and thank you for both.

And finally, Thanksgiving. Our church office will be closed on that day, but we all understand the importance of acknowledging the blessings we have, even with the difficulties we may endure.

As we enter what is normally a busy holiday season, we wish each of you the peace that passes all understanding. May we all stay safe.

If you prefer not to access the video portion of Zoom, you can always participate by phone only.

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.

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<https://aslcb.org>
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Sunday Services
(currently online at aslcb.org)

2020-2021 Church Council

President	Pam Meek
Vice President	Ron Easton
Secretary	Sara Meyers
Treasurer	Doug Neeb
Member	Nancy Cramer
Member	Carla Girkin
Member	vacant

Program Ministries

Witness/Marketing/

Advertising Ron Easton

Learning/Youth Carla Girkin

Property Pam Meek

Service/Stewardship

Nancy Cramer

Community Life vacant

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.



Church Leadership Opportunities—

It is becoming imperative that we find a church treasurer, as Doug and Tammy Neeb will begin their move to North Carolina in December. The other option is to hire an outside accountant to handle this duty. Please think prayerfully about your abilities and consider sharing your time.

We also still have an opening on council as a representative of the congregation. Any council member is happy to discuss these positions. If interested, please contact Pam Meek. Thank you!



Condolences—

We offer our condolences to Jim McDonald and his family on the death of Karen McDonald on October 9, 2020. Karen was a long time member of ASLC, and passed after a long illness. We pray for all those missing her presence peace and comfort during this time.

Welcome Back—

We welcome back our church secretary, Jean Meroni, after her accident in September. She has recovered and will be back at her desk in the church office on Monday, November 2.

Birthdays and Anniversaries—

We regret that these milestone dates weren't available to us at press. We will get this information published with next month's newsletter.

Blue Springs Community Services League Update

Good job All Saints Lutheran Church. We have delivered 139 food items to the Blue Springs Community League on September 30th. Also delivered were 63 school supplies and 11 personal items. The Community League appreciates your involvement in taking care of your neighbor.
Thank you.



Food Collection

The Season of thankfulness and giving is upon us. We give thanks for all that we have. We share by giving during not only this season but every season all year long. A time of thanksgiving to God. A time when a great many people are thankful for the gifts of food you share with them through the Blue Springs Community Service League.

Many don't know where their next meal is coming from and if weren't for the gifts you take time to share—that can of green beans, box of cereal or pasta many would otherwise not eat. With this holiday season coming consider items for a holiday meal. A box of potatoes, vegetables, cranberries, canned hams or chicken, brownies or cake mix. Be that blessing for others. BSCSL is very grateful you all you do in caring for your neighbor.

The church is open M to F / 9 to noon. Please leave your donations in the grocery cart. Items are sorted and delivered to the league at the end of each month.

The church building is open from 9 am-12pm, M-F, for you to drop off donations.

MLM Christmas Store

MLM Christmas Store is upon us. With the pandemic, a tree will not be put up this year. If you have already purchased gifts, you can bring them to the church and leave them in the Sunday school room prior to 11/15. The youth will transport them to MLM at that time.

Other ways to help are: Go to the MLM website and find the link to donate online, or you can send a donation to the church and a separate check will be sent to MLM after 11/15 so the organization can purchase the items they need for those families participating in their store this year.

Thank you for your support of the MLM Christmas Store!



NOVEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12 Council Meeting (via Zoom) 6:30pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Thomas Ultican Elementary PTA	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Project Comfort 9am-noon
29	30					

Church Group Schedule—

The church building is open with the current guidelines listed on page 3. Please refer to the building use guidelines, and inform Jean at the church if your group will want to utilize our building, and if so the dates and times, as well as a contact person to keep on file. Please note that if your group is new to utilizing our facility, it does need to seek council approval to prevent conflicts. Contact any council member with that request.

Thank you!