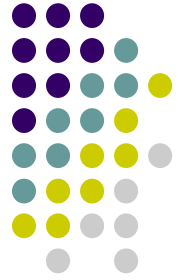


Crossroads



Volume 33, Issue 10

October 2020

From the Pastor —

Greetings to all the Saints,

We are entering October which is a banner event for us Lutherans. We remember and celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther. Most of all we reflect on the meaning of God's abundance grace. God loves us and gifts us with His presence.

The Transition Team is gathering data and using the information gathered to discover direction and areas of possible ministry. The most immediate step is to report to the congregation its findings and conclusions for the mission and ministry of All Saints Church. The format for the report is under review.

In response to the positive feedback from the outdoor service on the 20th of September we will hold an outdoor service in October. We will conduct the next outdoor service on October 25 in the

parking lot. We will honor Reformation Sunday on that day. We will observe appropriate social distancing to ensure safety and health of our congregation.

Thanks to all of you for your contributions to the Community Services League the past several months. Please continue your generosity. Remember that the pandemic has devastated many families who have never experienced the need for food assistance.

Remember Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide and Sola Gratia!

Peace to you and yours and stay safe and healthy!

William George, Transition Pastor

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—

The transition team, along with Pastor George have been working hard to outline and confirm the continuing trek through our transition. They are talking with local community leaders and over the next few months will be hosting Zoom congregational gatherings to discuss where we, as a group, see ourselves in the future.

We are so happy that our last outdoor worship was well attended and everyone enjoyed the worship time together. We received requests to do it more often, however with the change in weather coming and COVID cases spiking in our area, we are working to keep it safe for all.

To that end, we are planning the next parking lot worship for Sunday, October 25 at 9:15am. This is Reformation Sunday, and we will celebrate that Lutheran date by wearing red.

We are pleased to have Carla Girkin join us on council for this year, 2020-2021, and wish Joyce Cutbirth and Jim McDonald well as they leave their leadership roles. We do continue to search for those that may be called to be our next treasurer and second council person. The weight of leadership grows heavy when not spread among the many. Please consider these opportunities to serve ASLC.

We continue to have Coffee with Council on the 4th Sunday of every month via Zoom. Please note that *you can include yourself by calling the phone number, if you wish to not engage the video portion of the call, or if you don't have access to video capability.* The phone number is always listed at the end of the email notification of the meeting.



Parish Council News

We are very proud of Katy Melton for completing her Gold Award for Girl Scouts. She continues to put a few finishing touches on the new Sunday School room, and once finished will have a virtual tour recorded and put on our website for all to see.

We will continue to review and assess our online presence and are pleased to see those watching our virtual services is higher than the physical attendance we've seen in the past. We expect to continue virtual worship even when we are able to offer in-person worship again.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person (behind masks) on 10/25. Until then...

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.

Little Bear and the Big Shiny Quarter

A Story for Anyone Who Has Ever Been a Child

by Nancy Cramer

One morning Mama Bear scolded Little Bear for taking so long to eat his breakfast. "Hurry up, Little Bear, or we will be late getting to church this morning," she said as Little Bear took one last big spoonful of cereal.

"Are we finally going to church?" he asked. "I thought you said we couldn't go because there was a big bad bug that made people sick," he commented. "Well, Papa Bear will explain while I get our sanitizers and water bottles," Mama Bear said and hurried off to pack her tote bag with all the necessities to wipe their hands, their chairs, and anything Little Bear wasn't supposed to touch.

The Bear family drove to church and parked their car in the lot that was roped off for cars. They made their way across the gravel covered ground to where chairs were placed in small groups apart from each other. Papa Bear carried two lawn chairs for Mama Bear and himself and Little Bear's small canvas chair. A man holding a large sign waved them to a separate place near enough for Mama Bear to be able to hear the minister. Sometimes her hearing aid batteries died, and today she realized she had forgotten to change them. "Oh well," she thought, "I am sure I will be able to hear enough and Papa Bear can whisper to me what I am missing." She took out the masks she had made for all of them, and they obediently put them on. Little Bear didn't like how it fitted around his nose, but he knew he had to wear it.

The Bear family saw many of their friends they had missed all summer. Little Bear wanted to go over and talk to them, but Mama Bear said he couldn't get too close to them. That was because of the virus that was going around. Little Bear protested, "If I see the virus thing, I will just get out of its way." Mama Bear sighed and shook her head and told Papa Bear it was his turn to explain what a virus was. But just then the organist turned on his recorder, and the music signaled that the service was to begin.

Little Bear listened politely and hoped they would get to sing his favorite song, "Jesus Loves Me" when the minister announced that in large groups, singing was not permitted by the rules the City had passed. He said he was sorry, and he knew all the members missed singing, but not today. The service continued and the offering was about to be collected. Little Bear had his shiny quarter he had been saving all summer, and he wanted to hear it clink when he dropped it into the offering plate. But he was disappointed when the minister announced that offering plates were on a side table and would be used by everyone that wanted to make an offering please do so in them after the service ended. "No clinking noise from my quarter," Little Bear sadly thought.



"Are we finally going to church?"

Continued on next page

Blue Springs Community Services League Update

The following is a recap of the **1st six months of 2020** and our response to helping our neighbor with food items that have been delivered to the Blue Springs Community Service League each month

- ◆ In January we delivered 57 food items and 10 personal items to the League.
- ◆ In February we delivered 145 food items (believe youth collected cans of soup).
- ◆ In March we delivered 65 food items and 2 personal items.
- ◆ In April there was no delivery to the league.
- ◆ In May we delivered 24 items to the league.
- ◆ In June we delivered 58 food items and 5 school supplies to the league.
- ◆ A total of 349 food items.

192 food items less than the same period in 2019.

- ◆ For the month of July 2020 109 food items were taken to the Blue Springs Community Service League.
- ◆ For the month of August we delivered 59 food items.

The league depends on us, the people to help serve the people who are hurting. Food is going out of the league as fast as it is coming in. The need continues to be ongoing and growing. More people and families are finding it hard to make ends meet.

If you can find it at all in your heart to help your neighbor, All Saints Lutheran Church is open Monday to Friday, 9 to 12 every week for your donation.

We continue to collect food such as:



- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Pasta | Canned Fruits |
| Pasta Meals | Soups and Stews |
| Cereals | Juices |
| Cereal bars | Peanut Butter |
| Canned meats | Jellies |
| Canned Vegetables | |

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

From previous page

The service ended sooner than usual because there was no singing, just music the organist had recorded. He announced, "And for the children who are here, I recorded a special song. No singing please, just listen and clap if you want to." He turned the knob and soon Little Bear had a big smile on his face. It was his song! He quietly and softly hummed it to himself. "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so..." Mama Bear put her paw to her mouth and shook her head, but Little Bear was happy. Even if he couldn't make his quarter clink, he had his song.

It was going to be a good day after all. He might even make his quarter clink on the edge of the offering plate. That thought made him laugh. Mama Bear and Papa Bear looked at Little Bear laughing, and because he was their little bear, they started laughing too.

Isn't that what all bears are supposed to do?

City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy “Mel” McDonald

As the hot summer of 1954 slowly matriculated into fall, my Mother and I began our new but separate adventures. Mother’s teaching position changed, and I would be riding the bus to the school in town.

Conventional thinking would say, I should be glad to be free of my mother’s control, and to have finally cut the apron strings, but quite the opposite was true. Over the last few years, especially the times when my Father was working in Kansas City, we became good friends. As I grew older, I was able to assist with the daily chores of milking the cows, feeding the hogs, and spending quality time with the chickens, feeding them and collecting their eggs.

In previous years, to make the lonely trips to and from school palatable, we would turn on the radio and sing along with such classics as “How Much is that Doggie in the Window”, and “You Are My Sunshine”.

Although we lived only about a mile from the town school, the only time we came into town was to collect our mail at the post office, (no RFD), or to go to the General Store for items needed to keep the farm going. Seldom did I come in contact with other children.

Riding the bus to a new school, was a new experience for me and also made me the new kid in school. It didn’t help that I was the youngest and smallest kid in fourth grade.

I won’t go into a litany of negative experiences that awaited me at my new school, but it was very unpleasant. One incident I will relate, actually took place in the school room.



The teacher let the students grade each other’s spelling words. Because I sat in front of one, and behind the other, of my two main adversaries, I graded one or the other’s papers. They forced me, shall we say, to give them much better grades than they deserved. The teacher caught on, but they determined I had told on them, so the bullying carried onto the playground. Toward the end of school, the teacher would keep me in during recess,

and I helped doing odd tasks for her, for which I was quite grateful.

The only other positive thing I remember was that every day after lunch, the teacher would read a chapter from a Hardy Brothers book. The class of about twenty, which was about two-thirds male, really enjoyed these stories; not sure about the girls.

“Riding the bus to a new school was a new experience for me..”

Quilting News!

Project Comfort is coming back strong after missing 4 months due to ice and Covid. We are meeting twice a month to try to catch up with our goal of 100 quilts. We have 65 finished quilts so far.

We are in need of LARGE plastic shopping bags to store the quilts. (no grocery store sized ones) Most of us haven’t been shopping as much so our supply had dwindled.

OCTOBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Council Meeting (via Zoom) 6:30pm	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Thomas Ultican Elementary PTA	16	17
18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23	24 Project Comfort 9am-noon
25 9:15am Outdoor Worship Reformation Sunday	26	27	28	29	30	31

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!

All Saints Lutheran Church
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Blue Springs, Missouri 64015
816-229-3633

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

Sunday Services
(currently online at aslcb.org)

2020-2021 Church Council

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

Program Ministries

Witness/Marketing/ Advertising	Ron Easton
Learning/Youth	
Property	Pam Meek
Service/Stewardship	Nancy Cramer
Community Life	
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.



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.

Church Leadership Opportunities—

We continue to look for an interested person in stepping into the treasurer's role, and one council positions is still 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!

