

Crossroads

From the Pastor —

Greetings to all the Saints,

We continue our journey of transformation.

How do you see ourselves or what images do you have of your congregation?

Are you a castle, surrounded by a moat?

Are you a large building like a cathedral with great stained glass windows and a massive bejeweled altar?

Are you an armed group of vagabonds who are fierce warriors?

Are you a tribe who is on a journey to find your promised land?

Are you a fellowship club that values comfort and cozy relationships?

Are you a group of followers who seek a strong leader to take care of you?

Each image has a positive value and a negative connotation as well. The task of every organism is to define itself. The process of definition to find authentic definition is a daunting and stressful.

As disciples we are called to be the “People of God”. How does All Saints fulfil its calling as God’s People?

As I have asked you before, what is God’s preferred future for All Saints Lutheran Church? The discovery of All Saints’ mission and ministry is our journey. You will have to make decisions as part of your discernment of God’s call.

Will you make mistakes, feel confused and lost? Yes! The issue is how do you learn from mistakes and going into strange unknown places? God’s people in many situations and throughout history have faced many difficulties. You are joining the process of understanding God’s call to you in the here and now.

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE. GOD PROMISES TO MEET US IN THE HARD TIMES!

Blessed journey.

William O. George, Transition Pastor



Volume 33, Issue 9

September 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**



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.

In the meantime, as the weather begins to cool, we are happy to announce that we will have another “parking lot” worship for all on Sunday, September 20th, at 9:15am. The same guidelines will apply: wearing masks, bring your own lawn chairs (if you don’t have any, we can utilize the church’s folding chairs), sanitize, social distance and no singing.

We will follow the worship with an abbreviated congregational meeting to finish the business of the church year: thanking Joyce Cutbirth and Jim McDonald for their service on council and to nominate and vote for the incoming slate of candidates. We have one person willing to serve, but can use another to keep council at full strength. Nominations will be invited and encouraged from the floor during the meeting.

We will have a year end report of council work for the previous year as well. We do not expect any business regarding the transition process to be presented as that work is still ongoing, but will provide an update on what has currently been accomplished.

For the past month, we have continued to assess the threat COVID-19 poses for ASLC. We believe we can open (and have opened) our church building for small groups, but will continue to offer only virtual worship to prevent any possible spread to those we consider most dear.

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



Council members work to keep in touch with members individually, so as not to “lose touch”. We have met with members via Zoom for our August Coffee with Council, and continue to be encouraged with the participation.

Zoom appears to be the tool of choice for meeting with people, and it should be noted 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.

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 9/20. Until then...

Stay safe—

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.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Katy Melton has undertaken the project of remodeling our current nursery into a youth/Sunday school room for the youth in our congregation.

Katy will be working at church throughout the summer to complete her project. Please support her as you are able.

Her statement (sent to her Girl Scout representative for approval) states: *"The youth attendance has decreased over the past few years. The youth group and Sunday School groups are forced to move around depending on other events occurring at the church. For my gold award, I would like to establish a space in the current nursery that the youth can utilize for Sunday school, community service planning, and other activities. My hope is to increase the participation of the current youth at the church and create an appealing place for visitors and guests. I will also make sure that this space can still be used as a nursery."*

With the blessing of church council, Katy is now working on the project but can use your help! Her fundraising expectations have had to change, due to the COVID-19 restrictions. She had expected to offer baked good and fresh produce for a free-will donation on Sunday mornings, but as we are not currently meeting, this is not an option.

She states, "During the July and August, I will be offering baked goods and fresh produce at the church for a free will donation. I would greatly appreciate any donations you are willing to give towards this project. If you would like to donate towards a certain item or piece of furniture on the list below, you can email me at dolce.heart20@gmail.com."

The list includes;

- Bookshelves
- Comfortable seating
- Colorful wall decals
- Bench Seat (toy storage) - will maintain the nursery aspect of the room

Please feel free to contact her directly to help support her work toward her Gold Star Award and help the kids have a place of their own, once we can return to the building.

Thank you!!

Blue Springs Community Services League Update

The league is in great need of our help now. They rely on us the people. The league does not receive government grants but donations that we give from the bottom of our hearts.

During the month of September, we continue to focus on collecting all types of food.

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



During the past several months our lives and the lives of many others have been turned upside down due to the coronavirus epidemic. Many lost jobs or are attempting to work at home while kids are trying to do homework, again for a lengthy period. The number of food insecure has risen sharply to up around 40%. Many stepped up to help, including Blue Springs Community Service League. Numerous bags of food are going out as quickly as it comes in. These people have nowhere else to turn. If you can help with replenishing the pantry at the league, please leave your donations at ASLC. We continue to deliver to the league monthly.

School Supply Drive—

We continue to collect school supplies, as school dates get pushed back. We are hopeful that kids will be going back to school, however they will need school supplies whether back to classes or virtual learning at home. The Blue Springs Community Service League thanks each of you for your continued commitment to help others and your response to the school supplies drive.

A short list of some of those needed items are:

- ◆ #2 Pencils with eraser
- ◆ Boxes of Crayons (16 and 24 count)
- ◆ Highlighters
- ◆ Packages of Colored pencils
- ◆ Blue, red, and black ink pens
- ◆ Large erasers
- ◆ Soft pink rubber erasers
- ◆ Packages of multi-colored and white construction paper
- ◆ Packages of loose-leaf paper (WIDE and COLLEGE-RULE)
- ◆ Spiral notebooks (wide Rule)
- ◆ Two pocket folders
- ◆ Eight subject dividers



There are copies of a more complete list of school supplies in the narthex. It is also posted on bulletin board. Donations can be placed in the grocery cart.

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

A Visit to Old Salem Church Cemetery—

by Nancy Cramer

A small, old red brick church stands at the crossroads of Highway 24 and Atherton Road, about 20 miles from Independence, the nearest city. For many decades the old church has weathered wintry snow storms and the 100 degree heat of Missouri summers. Its early congregation, made up of neighboring farmers and blue collar factory workers, were faithful members. A small cemetery lies to the northeast side of the church, away from the noise and traffic of Highway 24. This little island of church and cemetery lies in the midst of rich Missouri farmland on which dozens of cows contentedly grazed.

The cemetery was officially founded in 1889 on the land where a few earlier settlers had been buried. Many years it was sparsely bedded with headstones. Area people who could afford a more impressive site buried their loved ones in the town cemetery. The headstones of the remaining graves were small, either plain with only name and dates of birth and death. A few others had fancy engravings of hearts and flowers with mottos like "Gone but not forgotten," and "We will meet again." There are a number of vivid reminders of World II and Korea in the form of bronze plaques that mark several graves.

It is peaceful in the old cemetery. Grass is mowed periodically and trimmed around all the stones. Those graves that had large flowering plants or commercially made wreaths in front of the headstone were periodically manicured. In the 1950's and 60's the cemetery began to change its appearance as people found pleasure in country living and began building houses in small subdivisions within the miles of vacant space between the town and the small old church.

From this assortment of family homes and apartments for seniors, came new residents to occupy the cemetery, and more modern styled headstones became the style. Because of the influx of requests for graves, more plots extended the boundaries of the cemetery, chasing the cows out of the pasture. Now there was new ground for the dead to have a resting place. The straight and narrow one-way dirt and gravel road wound around the graves and ended up back on the highway.

Although I had passed the church and cemetery many times when our family went to Atherton to visit my husband's parents, it never once occurred to me that years later, a son of mine, would be brought to this cemetery. Or that he would be buried on a pleasant springtime April day in 1975. His father had grown up in Atherton and at the time of our son's death, bought one of the plots. His own father had been buried in a nearby grave and his sister's grave was also close. The cemetery had been a part of his boyhood.

As our funeral limousine drove up, I was startled by the huge gaping hole that had been dug. It now would become the final bed for my son. After the ritualized ceremony, I took the obligatory handful of dirt and tossed it on the shining silver top of the casket. I quickly turned my head before my tears began flowing.

Despite the cemetery's distance of more than 30 miles one way from our home, I began my weekly visits to the cemetery to see his grave and tend the flowers. I often talked to him about missing him; the latest golf scores the pros; and what mischief our pets were into. Mostly, I cried. I had been drawn to the cemetery by its quiet peacefulness, and the cows lazily munching, and I told myself that they were keeping a watch on him. Most of the time I was a solitary visitor, and I could cry while the soft breeze cooled my face and blew through my hair.

Later in the year, with the harsh cold and wintry winds, I wished for a heavier coat against those winds, which were uninviting for a visit with my son. One Sunday afternoon an unannounced rain storm came up as I was driving to the cemetery. I wondered if I should turn around and head for home rather than stand in a drenching shower. The decision I made was not difficult. Rain, shine, snow. They had all been a part of my years raising and loving my young son.

(con't on page 7)

City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy "Mel" McDonald

Welcome to the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. If you're among those who really embrace the heat, you only have to go back to 1980 in Kansas City, when you enjoyed the hottest summer in KC history. The only thing as hot as the weather, was the play of the Kansas City Royals, who won their first American League pennant.

For us country folks, the summer of 1954 exceeded the 1980 sweat. In fact, about 50 miles from our farm (as the crow flies), near Warsaw, Missouri on July 14, 1954, the gauge reached 118 degrees, the highest recorded temperature in Missouri history.

A few examples of how miserable it was. My youngest cousin, Paul Dameron, was born around Father's Day in 1954, about the time the heat wave began. His older brother John, recalls that their neighbor to their North sprayed their fields with lime to reduce the acidity of the soil. The odor was so overwhelming that his folks had to close the windows. Of course, they, like almost everyone else, had no air conditioning, so their mother had to put a cold towel on baby Paul's body to cool him down.

On July 13, 1954, the day before the record breaker in Warsaw, was the All-Star baseball game. As I noted previously, we had bought a television that spring, so my cousins were excited about coming over to watch – to see Stan Musial, Ted Williams, and my favorite player, Willie Mays.

It was so hot you could stay inside for only about 15-20 minutes at a time. The rest of us sat under a tree, with a slice of watermelon. We would take turns going in to watch and giving a play-by-play to the next cousin who went in.

At night, everyone would sleep outside in a hammock. Lastly, by the middle of August, the crops were destroyed, with the grasshoppers being the beneficiaries of what little remained.



"On July 14, 1954, the gauge reached 118 degrees, the highest recorded temperature in Missouri history."

(con't from page 6)

Houses continued to surround the little peaceful little island of church and cemetery. The monuments became taller and more elaborate and of different colored stones. I once had the thought that if an angel were to come and stand by me, I would ask the question, "When will it be my turn? I am ready to join my family in heaven." Her answer would be, "You will know, my dear. We will speak your name and come get you." With a smile she flew away, disappearing in a cloud. My memory of her faded quickly, but I told my Maker, "When that time comes, I have a bed in which I can lie peacefully. It is down the hill a bit, and please could that little angel in the cloud come get me?" I thought I heard a faint "Yes."

It was here that this little piece of heaven broke off and fell to the earth and where my younger son was buried many years ago. He rests there, waiting for others in our family to join him for eternity .

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day— Church Office Closed	8	9	10 Council Meeting—via Zoom 6:30pm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Thomas Ultican Elementry PTA 6:00 pm	18	19
20 9:15am Outdoor Worship 10am Congregational Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26 Project Comfort 9am-noon
Newsletter Deadline						
27	28	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!

All Saints Lutheran Church
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<https://aslcbc.org>
allsaintslc64015@gmail.com

Sunday Services
(*currently online at aslcbc.org*)

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.*



Happy Birthday to:

Sara Meyers	9/1
Farrin Blair	9/10
David Bird	9/14
Phil Gross	9/23
Gordon Wiltse	9/24

Happy Anniversary to:

Jim & Dee Singleton	9/9
Bob & Sharon LeVasseur	9/25

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 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!

