

# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Volume XXXX, Issue 6  
June 2020

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**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
1105 W. Fern Ave  
McAllen, TX 78501

### WORSHIP WITH US EVERY SUNDAY

*Due to the unforeseen current circumstances regarding COVID-19, all services are cancelled until further notice. We invite everyone to worship with us online. You can watch Sunday's service on our Facebook page (Our Savior McAllen—ELCA), and on our YouTube page. (You can find us by searching for 'Our Savior Lutheran Church').*

## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN STAFF

MINISTERS	ALL PEOPLE OF OSLC
PASTOR	STEVEN HERZBERG
OFFICE MANAGER	IRENE GONZALEZ
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	VICKI DREWS
MUSIC DIRECTOR	KENNETH RIVENS
PIANIST	JOHN MCLEOD
YOUTH DIRECTOR	DAWN EVERSON

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	JASON MILLIGAN
VICE PRESIDENT	BILL MAUCK
TREASURER	DAWN GARCIA
SECRETARY	PAULA CHEEVER
FELLOWSHIP	ALIE HILES
EVANGELISM	JASON MILLIGAN
LEARNING & YOUTH	NORM FREY
PROPERTY	
STEWARDSHIP	
WORSHIP & MUSIC	NINA LONG
SOCIAL CONCERNS	
AT LARGE	DONALEE VANRAMSHORST

Financial reports and minutes are available in the Narthex.

## Pastor's Notes

Greetings on yet another month gone by. At first with the lockdown time, things seemed to go so slow. But now, things are picking up once again. We only pray that we are not getting back into outside routines and activities too soon. Considering these dynamics, the council voted 'No, but Yes' this last week. 'No' to beginning public worship for at least another month or not before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June. We will have a council meeting the week before that to determine how things have gone here in the Valley. 'Yes' to allowing some of our smaller groups, such as the AA, to begin reusing our buildings. That reopening was determined by the size of their group meetings and the willingness of the groups to clean and disinfect their building space each and every time. With regard to opening up for public worship again, we have listed a section in this newsletter 'What to expect when returning to worship.' It lays out many of the steps we would like to put in place to help us reopen responsibly and safely. Know that if you choose to still remain outside of public worship that is perfectly acceptable. We do intend to continue to tape the services and make them available both to those who decide to remain home and those who have gone north for the summer. Also, since last month, the congregation received approval for the SBA loan that will be more of a grant after we complete the steps of forgiveness required after an eight week period. We thank Vicki Drews from our office staff for her extra hours of work to make this happen, plus the extra time it will take to make sure we handle the forgiveness recording properly.

*(continued on next page)*

*(Pastor's notes continued)*

This past month also saw the death of two of our former beloved members, Jim Offerdahl in Minnesota and Perry Ellefson in South Dakota. Both succumbed to the coronavirus. Our prayers go out to their families and friends. They served the Lord well in the years they had in this temporary earthly home. Finally, congratulations to all the students and teachers who were able to finish their school year under most unusual circumstances. We especially celebrate the high school graduation of Dylan Hernandez and the college graduation of Julie Rivas. We are proud of both of you. May God guide you on to future endeavors and challenges where you will be able to serve Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. "O God, strength of those who believe in you, give comfort and clarity of vision to us in this time of need. Open our ears to hear your voice and obey your will; open our hearts that true justice and wisdom may abound; and open our hands that violent resolution of conflict may cease, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen." (taken from the Day of Mourning in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnbook) -Pastor Steve

### Property Committee

In this time, the men who head up this small group in the summer months have worked inside the buildings while they have had little usage. That includes stripping, waxing, and polishing the tile floors in the gym, LFC lobby and kitchen, plus the fellowship hall and kitchen in the sanctuary building. Now, Norm Frey, their chair, is meeting with a contractor to look at retiling the floors in the office building, which has the most damaged areas in the choir room. This cost will come out of the excess funds we had from last year's income. And all of this doesn't include the many smaller projects they participate in as well, such as Gene Nielsen coming up on a regular basis to spray and kill the weeds that gather on the east side of the gym. Thank you to all the men who participate in keeping our grounds looking good and maintained.

### Education Committee

Jason Milligan leads this group of primarily Sunday School teachers. During this time of no meeting in person, we have been using an online series from Sparkhouse called 'Sunday School at Home.' It's a 12 minute video or so that our parents can use with the children through email. It has singing, projects, a lesson, and downloadable worksheets. Dawn Everson, the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher is also doing a zoom session with her students at home on Sunday afternoons. At this time, we do not know what might be possible in the summer months or if we will have some kind of summer school or not. Our eight children and youth who were signed up for summer camp at Camp Chrysalis in the month of June are still waiting to hear if that week of camp will transpire or not.

## STEWARDSHIP—STEWARD YOUR NEW COMMUNITY

Like a caterpillar emerging from a cocoon to new life as a butterfly, we can steward our congregations and communities to awaken from Covid-19 to a more excellent reality that brims with faith, hope and love. Covid-19's hardship, deprivation and grief have inspired an outpouring of kindness, generosity, selflessness, neighborliness and courageous service. Suffering has given us a glimpse of what our communities can and should be, following Christ's two principal commands: love God and love one another. Our stewardship opportunity and challenge is clear: Can we cultivate this renewed spirit of loving neighborliness as a "new normal"? As our community's central, defining ethos? The last several months have taught us much:

**Life is precious.** Everyone counts. No exceptions.

**We suffer together.** Shared pain creates strong bonds.

**Serving brings fulfillment.** Many sacrifice joyfully.

**We need each other.** We can't go it alone.

**We miss each other.** We require human interaction.

**Personal contact is sublime.** Nothing beats face-to-face.

**We are grateful.** Thank God for what we have.

**We are wiser.** We know what's important.

Covid-19 is receding, though slowly. Much pain lies ahead. Before it's through, the virus will claim more of our friends and loved ones. Many families will suffer economically. But the virus is also teaching us anew how to be loving neighbors. As Covid-19 abates, we can deepen these lessons and steward our communities to live more closely aligned with God's purposes, to discover life abundant with joy, connection, fulfillment and generosity. With God's help, our congregations and communities can emerge from our Covid-19 cocoon to a more excellent reality, centered in faith, hope and love. -Rob Blezard Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, and works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org). He blogs at [www.thestewardshiprev.com](http://www.thestewardshiprev.com)

## Zoom Bible Study Class

This has been one of the changes during this pandemic time. Our normal Thursday morning adult study time has gone online. We usually have around 15 or so attendees, including couples from Minnesota and Iowa. It has been special to stay in touch with our Winter Texans who attended the class while they were here. I suppose you could call it a silver lining from the times in which we live. It will be interesting to see if we continue to use zoom after we get back to in person bible study on Thursdays.

## Hombres Gatherings

We have also had the last Men's fellowships by zoom. No, we do not share a meal together, but we do have our beverages on hand while we have our business meeting, bible study, and fellowship. If any men would like to join us, send us your email, and we will include you on the mailing list that goes out with the invitation. If you want to see us and we you, you need to download the zoom app. You can also just call in on your telephone and participate that way with voice only.

## Evangelism Committee

Alie Hiles, the council rep here, has not rested during this virus time. She and the other committee members continue to send out greeting cards to members for numerous happenings like birthdays, anniversaries, illnesses, etc. They also make phone calls of encouragement. Thanks to the committee for that extra service to our community.

## Council

Our council began this year with one short of the desired number of members. Since then, Liz Peters (Stewardship/Publicity) has moved to Washington State. Two short of desired. Lastly, our council president, Donalee Van-Ramshorst, has needed to step down from that position due to her extensive and sensitive work at Brookridge, a senior retirement community. The council opted to keep her on the council for the time being, but we are now looking for both a president as well as one additional member. In the meantime, the vice-president, Jason Milligan, serves as chair of the meetings. If any of you feel called to help the congregation in these roles, please contact Pastor Steve or one of the other council members with your interest. Thank you and all the council members who serve, have served, and will serve in the future.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2 Kathy Bush  
2 Joan Einhorn  
6 Paul Jensen  
7 Jim Workman  
8 Briana Reyes  
8 Dick Welding  
13 Antonia Herzberg  
17 Talia Fuentes  
17 Phyliss Yardley  
19 Dorothy Case  
21 Kay Paulson  
22 Steven Herzberg  
26 Diana Herzberg  
27 Tyler Zuniga  
29 Jude Young

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

5 William & Mary Curl  
7 Robert & Karen Olson  
8 Zane & Judy Juncker  
19 Edward & Lorrie Long  
27 Rudy & Verna Losoya  
29 Dan & Faith Meurrens  
30 Gene & Joann Goede

## Thanksgiving for Offerings

As a congregation, we are very thankful for the response of all of you to our unique situation in not being able to pass the offering plate on Sunday mornings. You have responded wonderfully in bringing your offerings by the church, mailing them in, or having them withdrawn from your bank accounts and sent directly. We continue to pray that this situation will not last much longer. But in the meantime, we ask you to continue offering your donations to the Lord's work in this special way. Thanks be to God.



Please place your Scrip orders by June 21st. You can mail in your order or drop it off in the office during the week. Your order will be available for pickup by Wednesday afternoon, June 24th.

Thank you! -Vicki Drews

## Financial Quick Summary April 2020

Income for April was \$22,493. Actual was less than planned for by -\$2,117.00 April Expenses were \$19,473 which were less than budgeted for by -\$1,922.99 Year-to-date income is \$98,606 and is lower than planned for by \$14,903. YTD expenses were \$91,657 and are less than planned for by \$8,342.30. April Income of \$22,493.48 less April Expenses of \$19,472.95 = a positive balance of \$6,948.22 but falls short of the \$13,509.18 balance we had planned for by -\$6,560.96. Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to drop off or mail in donations—it is making a difference and your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## Neighborhood Food Pantry

Although we do not have the one Saturday a month where everyone comes in for a food distribution, we do have pre-made packages of food ready to dispense from the choir room. It is pretty much all non-perishable items as it is too difficult to have fresh items on hand. Normally, we shut down/slow down in the summer months as many of the pantry volunteers have gone back north or on vacation. But due to the exceptional need for food sustenance during this time, we are able to keep this ministry going with a number of our volunteer members assisting. Fortunately, we have financial resources on hand. But unfortunately, we are unable to buy in large quantities. So if anyone wants to bring non-perishable items in, we can accept them.

## What to expect when returning to worship:

*These are suggested guidelines at this point and will go through more revision as the time gets closer. Nina Long chairs the worship committee that is working on this project.*

- One person (an usher/greeter) should open the outside doors as you come in and out in order to control how many hand prints go on the knobs/handles. The inside doors to the sanctuary and the fellowship hall will be left open. So no need to touch those knobs either.
- Not quite sure at this point how to handle the bathrooms on either side. Need to think some more on that.
- As you come in, bulletins, if we use them, will be laid out for you to take directly, rather than someone handing you one.
- Communion cups and wafers, prepackaged and sealed, will be on trays for you to take the desired quantity to be used later in the service. Likely after the Words of Institution, you will take your communion in your pew. Bags for disposal will be in the back as you go out.
- Obviously, we will not share the peace by handshaking, etc., but will continue to say the words as we had done in the past before stopping public worship.
- We are requesting strongly that people wear their masks. We will hopefully have extra on hand here if persons forget to bring theirs. This includes singing as that spreads out the particles from your mouth even more than normal speaking.
- People can sit side by side if from the same family or couples. Others will separate by three seats from one another. We will also skip row by row.
- There will be no passing of the offering plate, but there will be plates/containers in the back to place your offering as you go in or out.
- We will likely usher you out one row at a time, starting from the back, to help us keep from bunching up or congregating too close together.
- In this first phase, we will not have fellowship in the hall after worship.
- We are also considering having two different services, even during the summer months, to keep the overall numbers low. That would likely mean one service on Saturday late afternoon or early evening and the other on Sunday morning, likely the 9:30am hour. One contemporary and one traditional make the most sense. That would give us plenty of time to clean and disinfect the seating spots after the Saturday service and before Sunday morning.
- Hand sanitizers will be placed in appropriate locations.



*Where...  
God is seen,  
Love is felt;  
Lives are changed.*

*If you received this newsletter in error, please  
contact the church office.*

**This newsletter was taken to the  
Post Office on May 21, 2020.**

**DATED MATERIAL**

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JUNE 2020

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