

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

1105 W. Fern Ave., McAllen, TX 78501

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www.oursaviormcallen.org



WORSHIP WITH US EVERY SUNDAY

Services are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19. Stay tuned for updates.

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Our Savior Lutheran Staff:

Ministers	All People of OSLC
Pastor	Steven Herzberg
Office Manager	Irene Gonzalez
Office Admin	Vicki Drews
Music Director	Kenneth Rivens
Pianist	John McLeod
Youth Director	Dawn Everson

Council Members:

Jason Milligan, Vice President
Paula Cheever, Fellowship
Norm Frey, Property

Bill Mauck, Treasurer
Alie Hiles, Evangelism
Nina Long, Worship & Music

Dawn Garcia, Secretary
Jason Milligan, Learning & Youth
Donalee Vanramshorst, At Large

PASTOR'S NOTES

As I sit on this Monday morning in my own house and room, it is the equivalent of my old Tuesday mornings coming into the office after my day off. So much has changed. The pandemic has uprooted our lives and our schedules. Now, my ankle injury has added to the upheaval. But the one constant in it all is that God remains beside and with us. Thanks be to God. . . . The Season of Pentecost has arrived following the church seasons which lifted up the life of Jesus. Now, we focus more on the life of the Spirit and the Spirit's work in us, the Body of Christ. Note the article by Alie Hiles and how the life of the church goes on in this pandemic. Yes, we wait the startup of public worship and hope to have a specific date out to you in the next couple of weeks as a small group (chaired by Nina Long) has been assigned to get our sanctuary ready with all the new changes involved. We shared many of those adjustments in last month's newsletter. . . . My thanks to so many who have helped/thought of/prayed for me personally in my ankle travails. It has been a test of my patience. I used to say I wondered what it would be like to be quarantined for 14 days if I tested positive. Now, in effect, I have been quarantined for the last two weeks, but due to a bicycle accident. My trip to the hospital, its stay, and a trip to the surgeon's office have allowed me to see the extensive changes made in our health care facilities. I thank God for our health care workers and the extra sacrifices they are making in this time. . . . Our prayers go out for Damian Schlusser, Jessi and Becky Long this month as they head to summer camp at Chrysalis the week of the 5th. The camp has made all the adjustments that are necessary during this time. We pray their week is special in their lives and they grow closer to God and His people.

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(Pastor's notes continued)

One of our first Sundays back for public worship we will have the Senior recognition for Dylan Hernandez who graduated from Sharyland Pioneer High School on June 12th. That will include prayer, a blessing, and presentation of his special quilt from the Piecemakers. We are very happy for him. . . . I am looking forward to getting back into my office as it undergoes a remaking with a new tile floor – just like the choir room, the church office, and Vicki's office. Thank you, Norm Frey, for overseeing that needed project. . . . So many changes. So many new ways of doing things. We go forward with hope and confidence in God's grace and mercy for ourselves, our congregation, and our world. -Pastor Steve †

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

The Coronavirus has turned our lives upside down. No one knows everything about the virus, but it appears that the first thing everyone thought was toilet paper was essential. REALLY? The symptoms were a cough, fever, and sore throat. I would have thought cough syrup, throat spray and some Tylenol were what was needed. Then you get in bed and read a good book. I wondered what God has to say about this. I researched and HE says plenty. I found over 30 Bible verses under the word hoarding. These are but a few.

Matthew 6:19: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal."

1 Corinthians 10:24: "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor."

2 Timothy 1:7: "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and loved and self-control."

Acts 20:35: "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Luke 12:15: "And Jesus said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Now meat is being hoarded. Fajitas were not available the other day; neither cube steak nor hamburger, but there WAS a fifty percent special on canned sardines!! So, my husband bought the remaining seven tins. A fellow shopper was also buying foods on sale. They decided that they were thrilled that no one liked what they did. What motivation caused a run on toilet paper? Why do people feel the need to hoard? Leave some for others! What ever happened to "Be a Good Neighbor"? My husband asks, "Did I hoard the sardines if no one likes them?" This last verse sums up what all the different verses are saying:

Matthew 6:34: "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble"

So, I guess I won't worry as I eat my tomato lettuce salad. -Marsha Erps

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income for May was \$21,719. Actual was over planned income by \$5,643. May expenses were \$18,926 which were less than budgeted by \$3,757. YTD income is \$120,325 and is lower than the planned income of \$131,471 by \$11,146. YTD expenses were \$110,583.66 and were lower than the budget by \$10,707. May income of \$21,719 less May expenses of \$18,926 leaves a surplus of \$2,793 and \$6,122 over the budgeted balance. Actual YTD income of \$110,583.66 leaves us with a balance of \$9,741.32 which is under the budgeted amount of \$10,180.45 by only \$439. All in all, May was a good month for us. Thank you all for mailing in or dropping off donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

EVANGELISM AND OTHER CHURCH NEWS

Greetings to you from your evangelism chair: it's mid-June, and we are still dealing with the coronavirus, and all the ramifications of self-isolation. Because this virus continues to run rampant with increasing cases daily, our church remains closed. Hence, our team remains vigilant. We as a council work together with pastor attempting to explain and encourage each of you in your walk with Christ. It is because we care about each of you and choose to make you aware of our concern through phone calls and greeting cards. In addition, hundreds of masks have been made and given to clinics, the church office, and individuals who want or need them. Food Pantry volunteers reach out with bags of groceries to neighbors who visit the office and need a helping hand. Our faithful maintenance men work diligently to keep our buildings and grounds presentable as well as in good repair. Our fellowship kitchen is fresh and clean; some of our children are headed to camp; Zoom continues to connect Bible study participants. Pastor Steve presents the gospel via Facebook and YouTube weekly with help from several faithful volunteers. All of this and much more makes up the church as illustrated in I Corinthians 12:12-20. 'There are many parts but one body.' And, verse 27: 'now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.' That is why we reach out to you. The council is thankful for you, your support and prayers. May God continue blessing us with his wisdom, presence, and good health. *-Alie Hiles*

ETERNITY WITHOUT GOD??

God isn't finished with me yet. He wants me to share my recent experience.

Just a couple of weeks ago, I suffered two cardiac arrests. The first happened out of the blue. Fortunately, my husband was right there and revived me with CPR. My husband saved my life and my son called 911. I was in the ER at the hospital a couple hours when I suffered a second cardiac arrest. Fortunately, the doctors called a code and brought me back again. The worst part was the next 11 ½ days in the hospital. Because of the Covid-19 no family or friends could come in the hospital. My husband followed the ambulance to the hospital but he couldn't enter. He asked a nurse to see if I was alive. This was horrible for my family as well. During that time, I was alone and felt abandoned, afraid and paralyzed with fear. The people in the hospital were great and did the best for me, but that is not a substitute for family and those we love. I called Pastor and told him and I was ashamed to be so afraid because I know God is with me and if I died, I would be in heaven. I asked him, "Why am I so afraid even though I know that?" His response was perfect. He said, "You are human, and you are not Jesus." That was perfect because knowing God doesn't mean we can't be afraid. This experience made me think of eternity. If these few weeks made me feel alone and abandoned, how would it be to be in eternity without Our Lord. Jesus said, Matthew 28:20 and other places in the bible that HE would be with us forever. *-Marsha Erps*

SCRIP NEWS

Orders for Scrip Cards will be taken on Sunday July 19th for delivery the following Sunday, July 26th. Please contact Vicki Drews if you have any questions. Orders can be placed anytime during the week in the church office.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Lena Doering	(4)
Karen Olson`	(4)
Ron Hawkins	(6)
Jean Leith	(6)
Wendy Fowler	(7)
Patrick Howland	(7)
John Klein	(7)
Jason Milligan	(7)
Delia Sandoval	(7)
Verles Emry	(8)
Mildred Johnson	(8)
Delia Oberloh	(10)
Donalee Vanramshorst	(12)
Gracie Flores	(13)
Janice Zezulka	(13)
Thomas McCann	(16)
Alex VanHee	(20)
Melvin Blobaum	(22)
Evelyn Garza	(24)
Fred Varner	(27)
Suzann Nielsen	(28)
Shirley Johnson	(31)

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Terri Klein	(1)
Kurt & Pam Rosenberg	(3)
Gene & Suzann Nielsen	(7)
Javier & Jeanne Fuentes	(13)
Bennie & Margaret Mueske	(13)
Richard & Wendy Fowler	(16)
Larry & Judy Keefe	(16)
Dayle & Ruth Haaland	(18)
Sam & Michelle Milligan	(21)
Glen & Sally Visering	(30)



STEWARDSHIP – WE THE PEOPLE: STEWARD OUR DEMOCRACY

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Two sentences from the Declaration of Independence express the true hierarchy that orders our lives. At the top is God, our creator. Human beings are next, and we create government to secure our rights. So, the hierarchy is: God, people, government. This marks a dramatic innovation in Western thought. For centuries monarchs had been understood to rule “by divine right,” so the accepted hierarchy was: God, monarchy (government), people. We celebrate the Declaration’s signing day, July 4, 1776, with fireworks, family cookouts and parades. This year’s Fourth of July comes in the wake of Covid-19 and protests over the death George Floyd -- events that have brought to light many deep-seated problems. Amid economic instability, rising inequality in wealth and healthcare, disparities in criminal justice and other issues, many are asking, “Who does the government *really* serve?” The Declaration reminds us that we’re in charge, and we have the power to make changes to direct the path our government is on. It would be wise for God’s people to mark the Fourth of July, 2020, with deep reflection and renewed commitment to working to ensure a government that reflects our values and serves all of God’s people. Why is this a stewardship issue? Christian stewardship is the discipline of taking care of and using wisely all that God has given us – whether it be money, health, relationships, or even governments. God has entrusted us with a vibrant democracy. It’s up to us to take care of it. --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. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com

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JULY 2020

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