

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume XXXX, Issue 8		<p><i>Our Savior Lutheran Church</i> 1105 W. Fern Ave. McAllen, TX 78501</p> <p><i>Worship with us every Sunday.</i></p> <p>Due to the unforeseen circumstances regarding COVID-19, all services are cancelled until further notice.</p> <p>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').</p> <p>Please stay tuned for further updates in the future regarding the reopening of our church.</p>	<p>Our Savior Lutheran Staff:</p> <p>Ministers All People of OSLC Pastor Steve Herzberg Office Manager Irene Gonzalez Office Admin Vicki Drews Music Director Kenneth Rivens Pianist John McLeod Youth Director Dawn Everson</p> <p>Council Members:</p> <p>President Vice President Jason Milligan Treasurer Bill Mauck Secretary Dawn Garcia Fellowship Paula Cheever Evangelism Alie Hiles Learning & Youth Jason Milligan Property Norm Frey Stewardship Worship & Music Nina Long Social Concerns At Large Donalee Vamramshorst</p>	
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Pastor's Notes

Greetings on another month gone by during this pandemic which we have compared to our exile experience. It has been a long one and appears that it will continue that way. Who would have dreamed that we wouldn't be more out of the woods by the beginning of August and the startup of public school and our own fall church season? Keep wearing your masks and doing the precautions necessary in this extraordinary time. The virus became personal again this past week as member, Olga Rios, lost her son in Reynosa and has a second son there who is on oxygen after testing positive. We don't hear as much of the situation across the river, but it appears to be even more dire there due to the lack of resources and hospital space. We pray for Olga, her family, and our neighbor to the South as well... We were so close to beginning public worship the early part of July. The sanctuary was prepared and the guidelines were in place. Then So we continue with online worship and zooming of several other activities – Thursday bible study, council meetings, orientation class, education committee meeting, worship committee meeting, Hombres' gathering, and RGV Deanery meetings. It is exile from in-person life as we knew it before. But in spite of all that, the Church continues on. Thank you for being the church where you are. Thank you for the financial donations you continue to send in.

(continued on next page)

(Pastor's Notes continued)

Thank you to the property committee members who work every Tuesday (don't know about now), to our treasurer, Bill Mauck, who comes every Monday morning to count the donations with Vicki Drews and deliver it to the bank, to usually six or seven volunteers who come in on Fridays to tape the Sunday service, to Sonia Lebron who still cleans the campus three days a week, to Irene Gonzalez who runs the office and gets Sunday services up on the PowerPoint, to Alie Hiles and the Evangelism committee who send out cards, make phone calls, etc., to Blanca Olvera, Olga Rios, and Norm Frey who continue to stock and distribute food through the neighborhood pantry, to Frank and Janice Zezulka who off and on have contributed to Emily's Meals preparation and distribution on Mondays (are in a shutdown again right now), and the list goes on. In exile, God continues to be with us in new ways. We pray for patience and don't give up heart. It may mean we won't start public worship or Sunday School classes the first of September. It may mean if we do start again by then, we will only be able to do one blended worship due to the numbers of people who might attend. It is an uncertain time. It reminds us of the saying "We don't know the future, but we know Who holds the future." One last item: It is time to consider taking communion again, even from home. Likely, we will include the liturgy for communion on the first and third Sundays of August in our online services. That means you can be prepared at home with cracker and wine/juice to take communion there at that time in the service. You can also come by the office during the week and pick up little communion kits that have the grape juice and a wafer in a sealed container to take home. If you are not able to watch our online services during this time and want to take communion, call the office, and we will see how we can take the communion kits to you with the liturgy (partly dependent on whether we are in a complete lockdown again or not). We pray for God's guidance and strength in all of this. He is our Rock. He is our Fortress. *—Pastor Steve*

EVANGELISM AND OTHER CHURCH NEWS

The Evangelism committee continues to reach out to our congregation by making phone calls and sending out birthday, anniversary, sympathy, and thinking-of-you cards. Thank you to everyone who contacts our church friends and family to share concerns and give encouragement during these trying times. The Food Pantry volunteers help out with bags of groceries to neighbors who need them. Thanks to today's technology, we are still able to connect for Bible Study every Thursday morning via Zoom with Pastor Steve. The church council is thankful for you, your support, and your prayers.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." -Romans 12:12



Scrip orders will be placed on August 23rd for delivery on August 30th. You can stop by the office during the week to place your orders or contact Vicki Drews if you have any questions.

If you plan to stop by the office, please don't forget to wear a mask. 😊



PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

If that title is true, then I have no virtue. I am one of the most impatient people I know. I cannot stand in the grocery checkout lines for more than 10 minutes before I become antsy. Waiting in line at a drive-thru is horrible, especially when you get boxed in and there is no way out except to wait for everyone in front to get their orders. When my husband and I were young (in our thirties) we had some problems with an appliance in the house, then some financial problems arose. We decided that we would pray to God and ask HIM for patience. Wrong move! After we prayed, about five more disasters happened to us. We learned how to gain patience through all those problems and we decided that God did hear us and HE taught us through adversity how to solve our own problems. So praying was not the wrong move after all. We were right about God. In Romans 5:3-4 KJV, it says, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation works patience, and patience, experience, and experience, hope." We learned the hard way that this is true. So we have to trust that God knows what HE is doing.

Today our world is in trouble. There seems to be no way out. Everyone has an opinion but it doesn't matter which way we look at something, there is really no exact answer. I know that if everyone just listened to me, it would work out. This is how many feel, including me sometimes. But God does have the answers. Our problem is that we need to trust HIM to help us solve our problems. St. Paul speaks to the people in 2 Corinthians 6:3-10: "As servants of God we commend ourselves in great endurance; in troubles, in hardships, and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine yet regarded as impostors known, yet regarded as unknown, dying and yet we live on; beaten and yet not killed, sorrowful yet always rejoicing; poor yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything." Paul summed up our present day problems in these verses. It has been said that the problems we have now have happened in the past. Ecclesiastes 1:9-13 tells us there is nothing new under the sun. What has happened before happens again. —*Marsha Erps*

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Diane Patrick	8/3
John Christensen	8/4
Michelle Milligan	8/5
Veretta Johannsen	8/5
Marcia Cherland	8/6
Dick Rohloff	8/6
Donald Peterson	8/7
Bob McLaughlin	8/8
Charles Hopkins	8/9
James Holloway	8/11
Gracka Herzberg	8/14
Enriqueta Geiszler	8/20
Burdell Hammel	8/20
Kathy Salinas	8/20
Marge Hopkins	8/21
Irma Shafer	8/23
Janis Sommer	8/23
Maynard Kreidler	8/27
Amy Zuniga	8/28

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Base & Sandy Huston	8/2
Steve & Liz Peters	8/6
Ron & Marcia Cherland	8/8
Roger & Shirley Johnson	8/8
Joe & Elayne Nelson	8/12
Steven & Tonia Herzberg	8/27
Bob & Lois Thompto	8/28
Ralland & Lois Harrison	8/29
Bill & Betty Mauck	8/30

GOD IS OUR
peace

FINANCIAL SUMMARY JUNE 2020

Income for June was \$13,780. This was less than planned for by \$9,943.47. June expenses were \$19,813.26 and were less than the planned for expenses by \$1,047.44. Monthly income less expenses was a -\$6,033.59. YTD income in June was \$134,104.65 and is less than the planned income of \$155,194.14 by \$21,089.49. Of that \$21,089.49, \$13,676.06 is the amount we are short in the other income which is the renting out of out facilities. YTD expenses in June is \$130,396.92 and is less than the expected expenses of \$142,151.25 by \$3,707.73 but is less than the planned positive amount of \$13,042.89 by \$9,335.16. July so far is looking better than June. Thank you all for your support and for mailing in or dropping off your contributions.

STEWARDSHIP — STEWARD OUR FUTURE CHURCH

For clarifying our thoughts and helping us to reset priorities, there's nothing like a crisis – whether it's a job layoff, a death in the family, social upheaval or a health emergency. With Covid-19 we've witnessed plenty of all of these, and more! Despite our natural resistance to change, we're learning new ways to live. *As a disciple of Christ*, what thoughts have clarified for you? *As a follower of Jesus*, what personal priorities have you reset? The questions arise because you are the church, we are the church together and stewards of the church. We will pray the Holy Spirit will guide us to a “new normal” of holy living as both disciples and community that will be different – and better – than what we've known.

What might that look like? Here are some questions to pray over and discuss:

- When your church suspended in-person worship, what ways did you find to stay connected to God? To one another? What did this teach you about holy living? About being church together?
- Covid-19 forced us to “be church” without buildings. What has this revealed about the nature of community? About the value of buildings? As we go back into our buildings, how can things be different? Why must they be?
- In light of what we've learned, what values, ideas, traditions, habits should we let go of? Which should we keep? What really matters? And why?
- How can your insights, strengths and gifts help to shape the future of your life as a disciple and follower of Jesus? Of your congregation? What can you give to the future church in time, talent and treasure?

Covid-19's crises are still teaching us. As stewards of God's church, we can renew and restructure our church to fulfill God's mission. With God's guidance, we will. --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

Lives are changed.

Love is felt,

Where God is seen,

Post Office on July 23, 2020
This newsletter was taken to the

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www.oursaviorinmcallen.org

email: oslca@aol.com

Phone: 956-631-6121

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