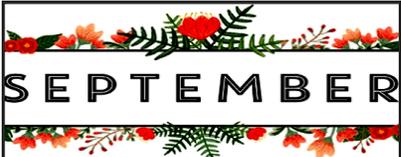


Our Savior Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume XXXX, Issue 9		<p><i>Our Savior Lutheran Church</i> 1105 W. Fern Ave. McAllen, TX 78501</p> <p>Worship with us every Sunday.</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>	Our Savior Lutheran Staff:	
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		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		

Pastor's Notes

Greetings as the summer starts to come to its unusual close, with an unusual fall drawing near – especially our normal startup of two services, Sunday School, etc. The church council met this last week and agreed that we will have to continue with the online service only for the immediate future. That means we will not be going to two services the first of September for now. That also means not employing two musicians per Sunday. At this point, we will make the First and Third Sundays of the month our traditional style worship with Holy Communion. The Second, Fourth, and occasional Fifth will be contemporary style worship. We will just use one musician at each. The council also discussed the possibility of an outdoor worship at the start where you would bring your lawn chairs, masks, etc. We will keep you posted. We are happy to report that the council also formally received new members to our community – to be publically received when we are back to in person worship. They are the Schlusser family – Van, Sara, Damian, Zuri; and Michael Minor, best known as our drummer. We give thanks to God upon receiving them and pray for the day we can welcome them all together.

(continued on next page)

(Pastor's Notes continued)

Sunday School classes will also begin online for the two younger classes. We haven't firmed up the Jr. High and High Schoolers at this point regarding Sunday School. We will be communicating with them for online LOST chats. . . . On a sad note, we lost another member to the Covid 19 – Gracie Wendel, who attended primarily at contemporary services. Her son, Justin, is arranging the Memorial experience, which likely will be this month. . . . On a personal note, I have been taking off the last two weeks of August for vacation. I will continue my in person therapy sessions during this time. I am presently transitioning from the walker to a cane. It has been a long haul, starting with a wheelchair. My appreciation to so many who have assisted me during this time, but especially to my wife, Tonia, and my two daughters, Diana and Jessie. It's good to be loved. . . . RGV Conference-wise, my two year term of being Dean expires the first of this month. Pastor Ann Schlossnagle, of Harlingen and Bethel, Lyford, will take over those duties. . . . May the Lord be with us as we continue into these uncharted territories, hoping for guidance on decisions made and health for our world with all its trying times right now. –*Pastor Steve*

PRAYERS

The last four years I have been very ill so I have several different doctors. Last month I was speaking with a couple of my doctors who were telling me how bad it has been in the hospitals and with the pandemic which is why they do 'teleconference' with patients instead of office visits. Each doctor told me 'Stay home' very emphatically. One of my doctors asked me to pray for him and all the other medical personnel. I assured him that I am and will continue to do so. This all lead me to thinking about prayer. What exactly do we pray for and why?

I asked a few people how and what they pray for. One person said that he prayed for the Lord's will to always be done. Another said he makes a general prayer for everything but not specific people or things. Yet others thoughts are as follows: health, home, family, thankfulness, praise, protection for loved ones, friends, for the sick, hurting, dying, prosperity, Jesus and how he dies for us, self-confidence, inner peace, and that everything goes well.

Does God always remember our prayers? I heard once that He does but sometimes the answers can be No, Yes, Maybe, and Wait. David calls out to the Lord in anguish and prays in Psalm 6. Psalm 6:9 says that the Lord heard him and accepts his prayer. He asks help to protect him from his enemies. We have enemies too; disease, depression, financial and health worries. We need to call out to the Lord for everything. I think the Lord listens very well because HE loves us and wants communication with HIM. Not talking to God is like us ignoring family members. We are HIS children and HE wants to hear from us. Take even the silliest things bothering you to HIM—HE misses us. Let us talk more to God so HE knows we love HIM.

Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer because it covers all we need to say. First in the prayer we tell God we honor and love HIM because HE is holy. We ask for HIS will because it is perfect. Next, we ask for our needs and forgiveness. Protection from evil and our own behaviors follow. Finally, we acknowledge that everything is HIS; kingdom, power and HE deserves all the glory.

The bible has many places, especially Psalms and Proverbs, which can guide us in prayer. Psalms call on the Lord for everything. Therefore, pray whatever you want, need and wish. Remember to tell God how much you love HIM. –*Marsha Erps*



In observance of the Labor Day holiday, our office will be closed on Monday, September 7th.

Almighty God, Creator of the world, we give you thanks for the gift of stewardship and work. Deliver us, in our various occupations, from the service of self alone, that we may do our work in truth and beauty and for the common. God of justice, we pray for all workers, that they would receive fair compensation and treatment in their labor.

For those who seek work, provide jobs — both citizen and immigrant alike. For those who cannot work, provide sustenance. Make those who lead the industries and commerce of this country responsive to your perfect will. Build up in the leaders of our country a respect for all labors. Deliver us, Lord Jesus, from the maligning evils of greed, sloth, and gluttony that we may lead lives of holiness in service to you and our neighbor.

We ask all these things for our good and your glory. Amen.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Elayne Nelson	9/4
Michael Day	9/8
Jean Haverstick	9/8
John Dirickson	9/13
Delroy Neubauer	9/19
Bob Thompto	9/19
Seth Reyes	9/20
Christina Ruiz	9/22
Kathy Herzberg	9/23
Sam Milligan	9/23
Andrea Valdez	9/23
Gaylene Moorehead	9/25
Judy Peterson	9/28

SCRIP INFO

Scrip orders will be placed on 9/20/20 for delivery on 9/27/20. 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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS LABOR DAY RETREAT

For Families, Singles, and Couples
September 4-7, 2020 at Camp Chyrnalis

Games bring families together! Whether it is a camp game, board game, a video game, an arcade game, or a party game, games can bring families together. Jesus brought people together too. Learn about who Jesus brought together as well as what they gathered around. Arts and crafts, swimming, canoeing, worship, Bible study, and activities designed for all ages will be a part of this retreat.

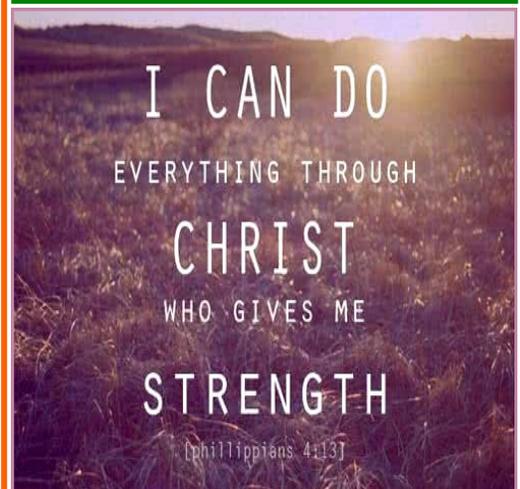
Families will live in their own air-conditioned cabin with a private bathroom. Also, new policies and procedures have been put in place for fun and safety at our retreats.

Cost for this retreat is as follows:

Adults and Youth in grades 7-12: \$170
Youth in grades K-6: \$145
Preschool Youth: Free
Household Maximum: \$680
Registration Closes: August 21st

Registration can be done **online here.**

Or contact Cross Trails Ministry by emailing: info@crosstrails.org or by calling 830-257-6340



FINANCIAL SUMMARY JULY 2020

Income for July was \$15,560 and was higher than planned for by \$3,521.00 Year to date Income was \$149,665 and was less than the planned income by 17,568. Expenses for July were \$18,154 and were less than the planned expenses by \$3,114. YTD Expenses were \$148,551 and were less than the planned expenses by \$14,868. July income of \$15,560 less July expenses of \$18,154 means we took in less money than we spent by \$2,594. YTD income of \$149,664.89 less YTD expenses of \$148,550.75 leaves us with a positive balance of \$1,114.14. All in all, we are hanging in there. Thank you all for mailing in or dropping off your donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



STEWARDSHIP — STEWARDING THE COMMON GOOD

Jesus taught, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." –Matthew 22:38

In Genesis 4, God asks Cain the whereabouts of Abel, his little brother whom Cain has just murdered in a jealous fit. Answering God's question, Cain snarkily retorts, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The correct answer for Cain is, "Yes, you are your brother's keeper." And the principle applies to us, too. Woven through Scripture is God's clear priority that we love and care for one another. The imperative finds clearest expression in the life and words of Jesus, who repeatedly teaches us to love everyone – friend, family, neighbor – even enemy. *No exceptions.* Love for neighbor is a stewardship issue because we are responsible to care for all that God has entrusted to us, including community, relationships, and the welfare of others. Stewarding the common good is an essential component. As North Americans, we haven't done a very good job of stewarding the common good because our culture teaches us to "look out for number one," as opposed to looking out for everyone. Consider how much of our political division and brokenness in criminal justice, education, healthcare, economics and government results from our thinking "what's good for me," rather than "what's good for everybody." Stewarding the common good often involves giving up some measure of what would be good just for us. We sacrifice out of love to provide what is good for our neighbor. Is anything more Christian? This year, especially as politics and division has embroiled and divided our country, study how the theme of loving our neighbor and stewarding the common good is woven through Scripture. What does it mean for you and the church? Think. Pray. Act. --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.thestewardshipquy.com

Lives are changed.

Love is felt,

Where God is seen,

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