

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Volume XXXX, Issue 5

May 2020

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Notes (continued)	2
Evangelism	3
Easter Lilies	3
May b-days/anniv.	3
Scrip News	3
Financial Summary	3
Stewardship	4



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 OS LC
PASTOR	STEVEN HERZBERG
OFFICE MANAGER	IRENE GONZALEZ
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	VICKI DREWS
MUSIC DIRECTOR	KENNETH RIVENS
PIANIST	JOHN MCLEOD
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR	CONNIE LAUMANN
YOUTH DIRECTOR	DAWN EVERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	DONALEE VANRAMSHORST
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	

Financial reports and minutes are available in the Narthex.

Pastor's Notes

Greetings to the family of Christ in this place,

It's mindboggling to see how much things could change in such a short period of time. It was mindboggling for Jesus' followers to see the changes they saw – the crucifixion of their Lord and then his resurrection – in less than a week. We face such a time today – one that will require the faith of the disciples as they were filled with God's Spirit in that upper room. We like them in our own way are hidden in our upper rooms/our homes. We need Jesus' presence to fill us with his peace, commission us for continued service, and be given the power of his Holy Spirit to eventually get back out there and influence our world with the things of God's kingdom. . . . Yes, we have gone forward in new ways of ministry. We are taping worship services now with the help of various individuals, including our staff musicians. Those services are listed on our Facebook page and YouTube site – Our Savior Lutheran, McAllen. We have moved to various ZOOM meeting possibilities, which allow us to see each other in group settings on the computer or the phone. Some of those meetings have included the council, Thursday adult bible study, HOMBRES fellowship, and conference leader gatherings.

(continued on next page)

We have just started a home Sunday School online using the resources of Sparkhouse, the publisher that we use for our Sunday School already. They have offered eight weeks of their lectionary study to congregations at no charge (for now). The copies of 'Our Daily Bread' for June—August have arrived in the office. You are welcome to come by and pick one up, or if necessary, call the office and leave your info to have one mailed to you. The office hours are still 9am—2pm, Monday through Friday, myself at least from 9am until 4pm. That is time spent on the phone, our computers, and seeing people who stop by the office. The food pantry is by a come by the office on your own as needed. The Sharing and Caring Committee went ahead and pre-packaged many food items to be distributed in that way. Our Office Manager, Irene Gonzalez, is working out of her home on the computer most of these days, but also comes in a couple times a week to get us up to snuff on the PowerPoint for the worship service and get the monthly newsletter out. Vicki Drews comes in daily for accounting. Sonia Lebron, our cleaning person, comes in three times a week. Presently, the council has determined to keep all those individuals on payroll (including the musicians) until the next council meeting in May when we reevaluate our financial situation again. That makes your regular offerings – by mail, in person, online – so important in this time. It literally until now has allowed us to continue to keep everyone on staff. The utility bills should be less, but keep coming in. There are no longer donations from the outside groups for building usage. The mortgage and insurance payments are also required each month. Vicki and I have also worked hard on applying for a SBA Loan as part of the PPP of the National Cares Act passed by Congress. This in affect would be more like a grant due to the Congress' action. Unfortunately, for the last week, we have run into obstacle after obstacle in completing the documents in the way the government would like them. Each time we jump through one hurdle, we are presented with another. The latest update is that we did not get in on the first round, but we should be able to get in on a second round of stimulus if Congress passes one. All said, thank each and every one of you for the donations you have made and we hope you will continue to make. We literally take things one week at a time right now, but continue in ministry in the same way you each continue in ministry in the settings where you are at. You are the church, not this building at 1105 W. Fern Ave. It has been heartwarming to hear from so many of our Winter Texans who came by before heading North to say goodbye and leave off additional offerings for the church's work. Thank all of you and may God bless your renewed lives in the North and all that encounters. God is our refuge and strength. His Spirit continues to come to us as Jesus came to those first disciples so long ago. Through the Spirit's power, disciples (learners) became apostles (sent out). We are both yet today. We follow our Lord and Master. We pray for our world and its people.

†

-Pastor Steve

Evangelism

Psalm 62:8 *“Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.”*

Our Evangelism committee continues to work and grow. In reaching out to your congregation, we continue to send anniversary, birthday, thinking-of-you, and sympathy cards as well as postcards of encouragement, and make multiple phone calls each week. Thank you for contacting your church friends to share concerns, as well as give one another encouragement during this time of social distancing. We are the living church, not just a building. ‘God’s work, Our Hands’, that’s our theme! Follow Our Savior Lutheran Church—ELCA on Facebook for uplifting thoughts, scripture and information. We look forward to corporate worship as soon as the health situation allows it.

Information flyers with our church name and address, times of services, and scripture in both English and Spanish are included with Emily’s Meals, and shared with food pantry recipients. Both ministries are taking a little different shape in the present. The pantry is still active with individual walk-ins, but no large group session.

We are about sharing God’s love and care to our church body and beyond. ❤️

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Greg Danielson
- 3 Sandy Bauer
- 3 Esther Olson
- 3 Korby Von Rosenberg
- 5 Gene Goede
- 6 Vicki Drews
- 9 David Askins
- 11 Jon Flores
- 13 Marge Varner
- 15 Wanda Nebiolo
- 17 Zane Juncker
- 17 Nicholas VanHee
- 18 Aric Eason
- 18 Jay Pena
- 18 Lois Thomas
- 20 Lois Harrison
- 22 Vi Greenwald
- 22 Ramsey Reyes
- 23 Earline Dirickson
- 24 Shari Chisholm
- 26 Bev Marsh

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Robert & Dawn Garcia
- 6 Russ & Phyllis Sandry
- 9 David & Sally Askins
- 9 Charles & Marge Hopkins
- 20 Bob & Sandy Bauer
- 28 Les & Lynne Watkins
- 31 Bill & Verles Emry

EASTER LILIES

In Honor of

Dudley & Ethel Hiles
Eric Ilang
Diana & Jessenia Herzberg

Given by

Mike & Alie Hiles
Wally & Zondra Gunnink
Steve & Antonia Herzberg

In Memory of

Howie Simonson
Judie Paulson & Hattie Gunnink
Kathleen Lois Dart
Kent & Sheila Johnson
Lyl & Amy Johnson
Mildred & Frank Donner
Joe & Grace Knollmaier

Given by

Karen Simonson
Wally & Zondra Gunnink
John & Lois Dart
Dan & Faith Meurrens
Mike & Alie Hiles
Joe & Fran Knollmaier
Joe & Fran Knollmaier

To the Glory of God, given by:

Dave & Sally Askins
Alex & Heather Merkau

Treasurer Quick Summary March 2020

Income for March was \$30,727. Actual was lower than planned for by -\$1,366. March expenses were \$24,005 and were less than planned for by \$3,036. Year-to-date income is \$76,112 which is less than planned for by -\$12,786. Year-to-date expenses were \$72,184 and were \$6,419 less than planned for expenses of \$78,604. March income of \$30,727 less expenses of \$24,005 = difference of \$6,722.



Funny Name. Easy Fundraising.

Please place your Scrip order by May 17th. You can mail in your order or drop it off in the office. Your order will be available for pickup by Wednesday afternoon, May 20th.

Thank you! -Vicki Drews

2020 CENSUS

It is of *great importance* that everyone completes the 2020 Census! Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year. If you haven't completed your census by mail, you can complete it online by visiting 2020CENSUS.GOV or by phone by calling 844-330-2020. You can also visit the following links to learn about financial assistance for veterans.

<https://penfedfoundation.org/apply-for-assistance/coronavirus-emergency-financial-assistance/>

<https://rgv.americaserves.org/rio-grande-valley-veteran-assistance/>



Be counted!!

STEWARDSHIP

Will COVID-19 help us become better stewards?

Toilet paper. Seriously. Will we ever take lowly “TP” for granted again?

Toilet paper is just one of the countless everyday blessings that the pain of COVID-19 has taught us to savor – along with worshiping beside loved ones, going to work, getting paid, shopping, going to the movies, and on and on. (What’s on your list?)

Pain teaches us, focuses us, molds us. Pain strips away pretensions and defenses. Pain shows us what’s real, what’s true, what’s valuable. Pain cleanses our spirit and draws us closer to God.

Easter reminds us that our faith journey is all about death and rebirth. Explaining baptism in *The Small Catechism*, Martin Luther taught that baptism’s waters must *daily* drown our old sinful self, so that *daily* we may be born anew. As we walk in God’s sanctifying light, parts of us should be dying *daily* and being reborn.

Pain? It serves as midwife in our death and rebirth.

And COVID-19 has given us pain aplenty, far beyond the shortage of bathroom supplies. Many have lost loved ones, jobs, security, healthcare, homes, retirement, wellbeing and relationships.

Pain will be long with us as we slowly inch back towards normalcy. But “normal” will probably look much different than what we’ve known. A “new normal” is already emerging. Do you sense it? That the pandemic has changed you? Us? Forever?

With the Holy Spirit’s help, may COVID-19’s pain prune from our lives what needs to die in order for us to be reborn as God’s people in this “new normal.” May the “new normal” find us better stewards of our lives -- less greedy, less self-focused, less preoccupied with silly things, and more centered in Christ, more loving to our neighbor, more generous, more hopeful and more tolerant. -*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.

*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 April 23, 2020.

DATED MATERIAL

Phone: 956-631-6121
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www.oursaviorchurch.org
Need to send a fax? Call the office.

U.S. POSTAGE
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MAY 2020

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
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