

“A time of reflection, thanksgiving ... goodness and grace”  
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA  
13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462  
Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939

November, 2017

Dear Friends ...

I'm still thinking about Sunday morning here. Ruth and Mike from Texas ... the choir singing “Children of the Heavenly Father” --- so in tune with what Ruth and Mike do for fragile kids at Heartland --- kids coming up, with a bit of “wonder” in their eyes ... “I **wonder** what we will get in the kids’ sermon today????” ... Mike’s incredible piano rendition of “Precious Lord” ---- I can just see Cal Singletary, smiling from his “heavenly perch” up above ...

THE FREEDOM TO WORSHIP ... to laugh and cry if we need to ... sharing the gifts of bread and wine, reminders of God’s unconditional love ... reading the names of all those who have gone before ... “a humble temple” ... with the freedom to gather and “just be” ...

And then ... arriving home ... leaving our sanctuary of peace ... we hear once again of an unspeakable act of cowardice and violence ----- the innocent slaughter of people gathered for worship at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. I ... maybe more than any of you ... probably take the peace and safety of our church for granted. Every morning when I open the door and then make the coffee ... and especially in the darkness of the early morning on Sunday ----- I bask in the freedom to walk into church and get ready for you to come and share the joy, which is at the very heart of our worship time together.

Obviously ... we will pray for our brothers and sisters in this small church ... nestled in a small town ... where everyone knows everybody else. But ... we need to do more than pray.

When the storms ravaged so many homes and businesses in Texas, and Florida, Puerto Rico ... when the earthquake took away the possessions of so many in Mexico ... when Walt needed a lift ... and Kieran Conway needed support for his continued journey with cancer ----- we opened our hearts and wallets to tune of almost \$15,000. On top of this ... we just gave Heartland a check for \$3000. In the “cosmic stream of things” ... a small dent. In the souls of those who receive our gifts ----- an incredibly emotional reminder that people care for each other, and we want to make a difference.

Yes, there are undoubtedly some things we can do ----- to be more careful ... to be more vigilant ... to keep our “humble temple” a safe and caring place for all of us.

The most important thing???? ..... continuing to be an “oasis of joy” and a place of hope. Saturday is Veterans’ Day. Sunday we will lift our voices in “thanks” to those of you who have given so much, that we may be free to live and worship and work and dream. Our freedom is not “free or cheap” ... many of you have sacrificed so much. In fact, we all need to sacrifice to keep the fire of freedom burning bright. Every day we are call to GIVE from the very depth and fiber of who we are. Being free ... being safe ... being an “oasis” ----standing for what is noble and just.

God bless and joy to all ...

“rev”

**As the calendar year winds down ...** I hope we can end the year on a strong note. So many things have happened in our world ... so many lives affected ... and we have responded. We can do this ... because we have a church that pays its bills and uses your gifts wisely. Without All Saints ... there is no "love bucket" ... and we wouldn't be able to do what we so enjoy doing. Thanks for your continued support of our "humble temple." And if you've been away a while ... please come back ... "we're all in this together."

### **THANKSGIVING AND ADVENT**

\*\*Worship at 10:00 AM on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. Afterwards ... we serve a fresh Thanksgiving dinner for our friends at St. Coletta's ----- those who cannot go home for the holiday. We need your help, providing all the "fixings" for a great meal. You can sign up, and let us know what you can bring. We appreciate your help ... and so do our friends from St. Coletta's.

\*\*THIS SUNDAY will be fun and meaningful. The Sunday School kids sing at both services ... we honor our country and our veterans.

\*\*THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY (Nov. 19) --- the YOUTH GROUP shares a "pre-Thanksgiving" breakfast for all our Sunday School kids and staff.

\*\*A HOLIDAY EVENING WITH THE "BIG BAND" ----- Sunday, November 26, 5:00 in Charter Hall. Good holiday music ... right between Thanksgiving and Advent. Doug Klang and the "big band" really share some wonderful music. Tickets are only \$15 ... and this includes food and drink. Tickets are available Sunday.

\*\*WE DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS on Saturday, December 2, 10:00 AM.

We welcome as many of you as possible ... decorating our church with ornaments and love.

\*\*ADVENT SUPPERS AROUND THE TREE .... Thursdays, December 7, 14, 21 (6:30) .... followed by worship at 7:30. You can bring something to share if you'd like ... but you don't have to. RSVP'S begin Sunday.

\*\*ARTISTS' FAIRE --- Thursday, December 7 and Sunday, December 10.

### **OUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

\*Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 ... 10:00 AM 4:00 PM --- Sunday School service

8:00 – 10:00 PM Open House at the church (hosted by Don and Peggy)

10:00 PM – Candlelight worship (Communion afterwards for those desiring to stay)

\*Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 ... 10:00 AM worship

OUR HOLIDAY OUTREACH BEGINS around Thanksgiving ... when you can "adopt" an individual to help and/or make financial contributions to help us provide for families in need.

OUR MEN'S CLUB appreciates your support of our outreach program ... especially "outreach bingo." These gentlemen do "good stuff" ... and we would enjoy getting more of you involved. We have a night watching the Blackhawks (November 15) and our Christmas party (December 13) ... rsvp's at church.

### **THE PRAYER CONNECTON**

*\*Tee O'Malley's sister Beth is beginning chemotherapy. \*Cindy Johnson just had surgery for her cancer. She is having a kidney removed. \*Lynne Nelson just had hip-replacement surgery. \*Walt Schillinger was in church Sunday!! ... God bless you and Ann!! \*Karen Weyer's brother Danny is back home!! \*Laimdota Ansmits' brother Indulis is dealing with cancer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. \*Debbie Nelson's mom – Corinne Panozzo died this week ... we had her funeral Thursday. \*Jen Fredrick's dad – Mark Mollgren – had major surgery last week ... is in re-hab. He is a retired Lutheran minister. \*Diane Palacios began radiation treatments this week. \*Good friend of Maddie Duerr and family – Rae Naegel – just had her funeral this week. \*Ken Bretl is recovering from surgery for a detached retina. \*Missy Connelly is having brain surgery on Monday. \*Pat Gow (Gary's mom) continues her re-hab at RLM.*

*Sorry for any omissions ----- we pray, we hope, we care*

*\*\*Peggy and I have a new address: 11941 139<sup>th</sup> St., Orland Park 60467*

*Don Borling 708-302-5481 Peggy Sullivan 708-955-9337*