

“56 YEARS AND COUNTING ... but who is counting??!!”
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA
13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor “all our folks” ---- the ones who make it happen!!

October ... 2017

Dear Friends ...

It hit me last Sunday in church.

The American flag on the bulletin cover ... gracing the front porch of Heartland Children’s Home.
Seeing Jose and his wife Meryl in church ... coming to say “thanks” for the \$1000 we gave him for his family
in Puerto Rico. Nilsa’s name in the prayer book ... she is from Puerto Rico ... she has family there.
The hand-written note on our bulletin board ... from a pastor in Texas, who received our “love-bucket” money
from two weeks ago.

As I’m leading the service ... looking out at those of you who are here ... later, as I see you coming up to the
altar to receive the gifts of bread and wine ... my heart gets full ... my soul is going in all kinds of different
directions ... I realize anew how real God’s spirit is.

As imperfect as we are and can be ... God lives in the very fiber of our being.

As small and as imperfect as our church is ... in the cosmic stream of things ... God lives
and breathes in the small acts of kindness we bring unto others.

As crazy as the world is ... as much sadness and heartache as there is on our planet earth ...
there are also incredible moments of goodness and grace ----
coming alive in ordinary folks in ordinary places.

I had a funeral yesterday afternoon ... for a lady who leaves behind no family.

The only people there were a few of her neighbors and friends ---- maybe 15 people.

Her “best friend” comes up to me before the service. She asks me ---- “I’m sorry there are so few people
here. And you didn’t even know her ... what are you going to say?”

I smile ... give her a gentle hug: “Don’t you worry. I’m the minister of a church ... where the people teach me
what to say, just by being who they are. Besides ... she had a friend like you ---- it’s gonna be ok.”

I shared these words with the “gathered few.”

*“When through one woman a little more love and goodness ... a little more light and truth ...
come into the world ---- then, that woman’s life has had meaning.”*

We have a good place here.

Good ... far from perfect ... but a place graced with folks like you ----- who deeply care about each other,
and the wider human community. This is what life is all about.

I wish more of you would come on Sunday or Thursday night.

I wish we would “pack the house” every Sunday.

But most important ... we “pack the house with love.”

We sing and pray and laugh and cry ----- because God’s spirit is so real. It lives and breathes in the journeys
we share ... in the moments we too often take for granted.

Sunday during Communion ... we are singing “Kum Ba Yah” ----- someone’s singing, Lord ... someone’s
crying, Lord ... someone’s praying, Lord ...

Got a few goosebumps, hearing this often-made-fun-of song. What’s really good is knowing ... as we sing,
and pray, and cry and even laugh and sing “alleluia” ... there is an amazing God who sings
and prays and cries ... right along with us. **love and joy to all “rev”**

56 YEARS ... ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ... NOVEMBER 5

1961 ... gathering in an ordinary school building ----- now Park School on 143rd St.
Folding chairs in a school gym.

Then in 1962 ... buying some property along LaGrange Road ... a dusty road, only 2 lanes.

And now??? ----- well, it ain't fancy. But we are blessed with a place to worship and call home.

**We will remember and celebrate these 56 years with two regular services at 8:30 and 11:00. We invite you to give us names of those in your life "who have gone before" ... we will light candles in their memory.

On the evening of November 5 ... we gather at Silver Lake Country Club (5:30) ... appetizers, some dessert, a cash bar ... a bit of music ... and our theme this year is HONORING OUR 20 PARTNERSHIP with Heartland Children's Home in Boerne, Texas.

The "matriarch and patriarch" of Heartland – Ruth and Mike Schwartz – are joining us and hopefully many of the "kids" who have been part of our mission teams ... they will come and have fun reminiscing. The cost is \$25 ... half –price for youth group age and for "Heartland alums" ... and you can get your tickets anytime at church. Let's fill the place with people and love!!

A COUPLE OTHER REMINDERS

OUTREACH BINGO ... we had a festive and generous "bingo" this past month ... raising \$2100+ for hurricane relief. Not a big crowd ... but a crowd with a big heart. Symbolic of the evening was the lady who won the \$170 cover-all (a big pay-out for our small-time bingo) ... and she gives it all back!!

Our next bingo is the annual **HALLOWEEN BINGO ... Friday, Oct. 27, 6:30**. Come in costume and get a free card. But ---- feel free to "dress" as yourself.

OUR NEXT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 ... 7:00.

Ken Konecki leads us in a study of the often-misunderstood book of REVELATION ... along with reading the book --- "When bad things happen to good people." We will have the book for you.....bring your own Bible, if you have one ... but ----- we have plenty extra. These are wonderful sessions (6 of them) ... and we end-up being very supportive of one another, as we share our views and feelings.

OUR FALL IS IN FULL-SWING

Confirmation class for 7th-8th grades ... our youth group for 7th – 12th grades ... Sunday School between services ... the ADULT CHOIR rehearsing between services ----- they are always looking for new voices, and they add so much to our worship. Call the church anytime with questions regarding anything on our calendar.

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

*Betsy Orth, whose son Nick sang in our choir, is now entering hospice care. *Gary Gow's mom Pat is at Christ Hospital. *Jose Bernaola and Nilsa Yerkovich have family in Puerto Rico. *Jim and Carol Albrecht just celebrated anniversary #50. *Kathy Fredrick's dear friend Cheryl Morg ---- her son and mom are both living with cancer. *We recently had the funeral for Liz McIntyre's nephew Andy Mikkal. *Marlene Walko's boss has family in Puerto Rico. *Two of Gaylord Nelson's employees have family affected by the earthquake in Mexico. *Carri Catalano and Jon Van Buskirk were just married. *Joe Catalano is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery. *Prayers for the Critchfield family in Puerto Rico. *Linda Ruisz is beginning yet another round of chemotherapy and radiation. *Diane Palacios is undergoing a lot of tests. *Ray Kramer is home after a long period of hospitalization. HOW ABOUT THAT CIVIL WAR BAND LAST SUNDAY!?!?!
The joy and gift of music they brought to us --- amazing!!

