

"A dash of hope ... moments of love ... movin' into a new year ..."

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH "Oasis of Joy" USA

Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939

Ministers: "all of us together"

Mid – January 2018

Hello, friends ...

I think of all that has happened this past year. The moments. The causes. The people.

I think of all the "stuff" punctuating your journeys and mine.

I walk out back ... it's grey. Cloudy. A bit damp. And yet ----- there is a "beauty" to the greyness. Grey is often the color of life. We all have times that can be dark ... black. Times when our life is turned upside down ... and we wonder how we'll get through it.

Hopefully we all have times, too ---- when the color is bright, and we feel like shouting "alleluia." Grey is kind-of in the middle. It's where we live much of the time. Trying to make a living ... providing and sharing with those who depend on us ... taking life a moment and a day at a time.

I think of my buddy Jack Mitchell. Jack died at the age of 17 ... two years ago. He was an incredible young man ... with a beautiful family. His physical heart was fragile ... his "spiritual heart" filled every room he entered. He loved wearing grey "all saints" t-shirts. Whenever I saw Jack wearing one of those shirts ... I was reminded of what our church is all about ... at least what we try to be "all about."

We are about acceptance.

Accepting each other ... in all our experiences. From the black-colored lows ... to the bright-colored highs. Knowing so much of our lives are spent in the greyness of those "ordinary moments."

We are about kindness.

Yes, we are human ... imperfect ... and our church certainly doesn't meet the needs of everyone. But ---- we believe in the power of kindness ... we believe "being kind" is the best medicine for a world that can be way too noisy and harsh.

We are about forgiveness.

Forgiveness isn't about forgetting what happened or pretending it doesn't hurt to be hurt.

But we believe in empowering others to move ahead ... so we don't become prisoners of our imperfections and mistakes. Sometimes the hardest person to forgive is ourselves.

Most of all ... we are about the simplicity and magic of God's spirit.

It's all around us.

In our "black" moments ... it's there.

In the "bright-colored-alleluia" moments ... it's there.

In the "greyness" of ordinary days ... yes, God's spirit is there.

I think of people like Jack every day ... who, in the midst of the fragileness and unpredictability of their human journey ... they make the best out of every day. And when they leave us they leave behind a legacy of decency & kindness & "amazing grace."

I am so honored to be your "pastor" ... thanks for being so accepting and kind.

"lovin' that color grey" ... with joy and love ...

"rev"

My gentle “challenge” to all of you ... and to myself ...

Please do your best to support our “humble enterprise.” Your regular financial commitment ... your attendance here when you can ... your spirit and prayers ----- they all add-up to keeping our church on sound spiritual and financial footing. Each of you makes a difference ... thanks for caring and sharing.

It is “spaghetti time” Saturday, February 24 ... 6:00

The spaghetti dinner has been a part of our landscape for around 25 years. It’s our only “big” fundraiser ... and it’s a lot of fun. Tickets are \$20 (actually ... less than 10 years ago) ... and our evening features a cash bar with wine, beer, pop, water ... and the auction, taking place after dinner. The success of the auction is dependent on donations from the connections you have. “Things” donated need to be new. We appreciate donations of ---- tickets, gift cards, services rendered, staying at your summer place ... we have been blessed with the generosity of you and your friends. This is an adult evening ... and please ---- invite family & friends.

“PACK THE HOUSE” is this Saturday, January 13 ... maybe too late for this mailing.

For the last few years ... we have supported this basketball tournament ---- supporting south suburban special Olympics ... and especially our buddies ---- Ben Fritz and Henry Krickl. Doors open at Marist High School at 12 noon ... opening ceremonies at 12:30 ... Ben and Henry play around 1:00 PM. Our church is one of the sponsors ----- proud of Ben and Henry proud to be a part of this.

FIRST BINGO OF THE SEASON ... FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 6:30

These Friday nights are fun adult evenings. Hope you can join us. Sponsored by our men’s club. All proceeds go to outreach ... and this month our thoughts turn again to our veterans at the Illinois Veterans’ Home in Manteno. All the money we raise will go towards our bingo with the veterans on Sunday, February 18. They love it when we come there. We bring new hats ... lots of prize money ... and, most of all, love and respect for their service to our country. So ---- please rsvp for our bingo we need a great turn-out. Let us know, too, if you’d like to come to Manteno on February 18.

We have a wonderful group of young people at our church ...

The YOUTH GROUP (7TH – 12TH GRADES) has some “good stuff” coming up. We meet every Sunday between services ... we do special events like bowling on January 28th ... visiting our older friends at Sunrise Assisted Living ... a wonderful retreat this spring. If you’d like to get regular emails re. our events ... please fill out the registration form at the church,.

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

Dan Micek is recovering from major surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital. *Walt Schillinger has moved into assisted living at Lombard Place in Lombard, IL. *Linda Ruisz continues her treatments and tests for her journey with cancer. *Pat Gow is still at a re-hab facility in Naperville. *Nancy Manning’s brother – Rich Schroeder – passed away this week. *Mavis Carlberg has been pretty much confined to her home ... we miss you in church!! *Prayers for Becky Smith’s mom --- Caroline Gilgenberg. *Madalyn Duerr’s niece Harmonie and Jeff ---- they lost their 6-month old “Baby Cade” at 6 months. *Firefighter Lt. Clint Sanders continues to improve, following his serious injury fighting a house fire. *We said “good-bye” to John Brunell here at church last week. *Matt and Laura Rauba have a new baby – Michael Landon. *Pastor Mark Mollgren (Jen Fredrick’s dad) is now home!! *Roger Kirchhoff (Kelly’s dad) may be moving to assisted living. **The gentle power and comfort of the prayers we share.*

