

“Sharing the spirit ... in this very room!!”
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA
13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939

The journey of Lent ... 2018

Dear Friends ...

I’m reflecting on the number of “newsletters” I have written over the past almost-44 years. There are a few of you who have put up with most of them. I never know quite what to say ----- maybe for fear of “boring” you ... saying the “same thing over-and-over” again wondering if maybe you see the envelope and think --- “Oh, another Don letter ... wonder if he will mention the “love bucket” and the “sunrise”!??

I know last month my letter was rather personal. I shared some things about my personal journey over the past year ... shared a few thoughts about being your pastor (and hopefully “friend”) for all these years.

I say this honestly and sincerely ----- being your “pastor” is an incredible honor.

Not sure I always live-up to that honor.

I never take it for granted.

And ... unlocking the door of the church each day it touches my heart and soul.

The one thing I’ve kind-of worried about lately is church attendance. January and February have been “tough” months ----- post-Christmas, the flu, bad weekend weather. So, I understand. I didn’t know what to expect this past Sunday. Well ----- the church was pretty full. Gerry Dignan (our Irish friend) shared the gift of music.

Karri Nussle Brady (Mark and Lori’s daughter) is in from out-of-town ... and she spontaneously sings “Softly and Tenderly” ... Doug and the choir “hit a homerun” ... Mike at the piano and organ, with Kathy leading way in the back ----- wow, it was fun, spiritual, and uplifting. Not to mention another “cutting edge” kids’ sermon ... with a Peter, Paul, and Mary song these young ones never heard of!! Remember a week ago, when little Charlie pipes up ... “Hey, Pastor Don ... do you make this stuff up??”

I’ve often said ... and maybe I shouldn’t ... “religion ultimately is not about going to church.” (OK, Don ... you said it!!) ... “religion is about how we carry ourselves, when we walk out the door.”

I’ll be honest ----- I would love for the church to be a bit fuller each Sunday.

I wish more of you would come.

I want so much for Sunday morning or Thursday night to be moments ... adding “something” to your soul and spirit so when you walk out the door, you feel a sense of hope and joy ... and maybe look at your world with a bit more hope.

Yes, “religion” is about what we do when we walk OUT the door ... but we also need you to walk IN the door ----- supporting our humble enterprise, supporting and caring for each other ... reaching out to those and praying for those who need to know they are not alone.

Our journey continues.

We share it together. Your being here makes a difference ... I hope it makes a difference to you.

There are times when “I make stuff up.” How much I am thankful for each of you ...

this is one thing I never make up or take for granted.

Joy and peace ...

“rev”

****How about that spaghetti dinner????**

So many of you shared so much to make it all happen. We paid special tribute to our men's club president --- Alan Facius. And Alan is the first one to say ----- it's about everyone: sharing and doing their part. With all our bills paid ... we end up making just over \$20,000. How important is the auction? (live and silent) --- \$14,000 of the total wow!!

FIRST COMMUNION FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS.

I have a brief one-hour class on Sunday, March 18 (after 2nd service) ... for any of our young people 3rd grade and older ... who do not yet receive the Lord's Supper. At least one parent needs to be present. Please rsvp no later than this Sunday. You can also call the church to get your name on the list. On Palm Sunday, March 25, 2:00 PM ----- we have a nice service, where the kids receive their 1st Communion.

This is such a special moment!!

BIBLE STUDY ON THE MIRACLES OF JESUS ... A FEW MORE CLASSES ...
Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21 ---- 7:00. Just come and enjoy and learn.

A FEW MORE LENTEN SUPPERS (6:30) ... AND, OF COURSE, EVENING WORSHIP (7:30)
March 8, 15, and 22

HOLY WEEK AT ALL SAINTS

*Palm Sunday, March 25 ... regular schedule: 8:30 and 11:00, with Sunday School & Breakfast Club

*Holy Thursday, March 29, worship at 7:30 (a remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples)

*Good Friday, March 30 ... service of darkness --- Noon and 7:30
(we remember Jesus' 7 last words on the cross ... a service of quiet reflection)

EASTER SUNDAY ... an "almost sunrise" service at 7:00 am ... services, too, at 8:30 and 11:00

Breakfast served by youth group and sponsors ... 7:30 – 10:30

(No Sunday School)

EASTER FLOWERS ... we always enjoy your donation of flowers for our worship on Easter morning: tulips, hyacinths, lilies. Plants are \$22 ... please try to make your rsvp within the next week or so.

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

*Brad and Peggy Wind's brother-in-law Pete is beginning his cancer treatments. *Lindsay (Len and Sandy Wcislo's daughter) and Greg Parr ---- expecting. *So is Pastor Don's daughter Casey and husband Alex (end of May) ... and Jennifer and Kory Breudigam (also end of May) *David (Brad and Peggy Wind's son) and Marisa Wind just had their little boy--- Vincenzo.

*Caitlin (Greg and Cheryl's daughter) and Fidel Mendoza are expecting twins!! *Jerry Weyer is having surgery this week. *Bob Magnuson is undergoing tests. *Marie Lloyd (a friend to several of us in church) just had major back surgery. *Fire-fighter Clint Sanders is having a tough journey with breathing issues ... he was injured fighting a fire. *Kathy Fredrick's brother Don Kremer is recovering from major surgery at Loyola Hospital. *Jeff Greenway (friend of George and Linda Driggers) is slowly recovering from a double-lung transplant and heart surgery. *Debbie Mallin's niece is doing well. *Jim Vogel (Ruth's son) is recovering from back surgery.

Sorry for any omissions ... prayers keep us connected.

A blessed, meaningful, and spiritual Lenten-Easter season to all ...