

**“WE KEEP ON TRYIN’ ... YES, WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER”**

**All Saints Lutheran Church “Oasis of Joy” USA  
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**Post – Easter ... 2018**

**Dear Friends ...**

“Stuff” is different today. I like the word “stuff” ... it encompasses a lot. Communication is different ... churches are different ... our schedules and the way we go about daily life --- it’s changed a lot. And I must admit ... personally ... I’ve struggled with a lot of this. Hey, I’m a “dinosaur” ... and many of you don’t hesitate to remind me of this.

I’ve always hoped ... always wanted ... still do more than ever ----- yes, I want “the church” to be a constant in peoples’ lives. THE CHURCH is more than a place ----- it’s a way of looking at the world and people. It’s supposed to be a reminder and a symbol of what’s important in life, and good about life. The church needs to be a safe place ... a welcoming place. It’s an open door ----- a door to acceptance, and hope, and the quiet courage to face what life brings our way.

I know our “humble temple” is far from being all you may want it to be. Our church, I’m sure, doesn’t meet all of your needs and expectations. Our “imperfections” start with the “guy” whose name is on the sign!! And ... we are the “ultimate” volunteer organization ----- coming to church, how much you give ... it’s all up to you. We are very dependent on your goodness and generosity.

Even going to church on Sunday (or Thursday!!) isn’t what it used to be. We send our newsletter to 500 families, and yet on most Sundays, we have less than 300 folks in church. Then I remind myself ----- life is not about numbers ... it’s about a depth of spirit, measured in acts of kindness and grace.

I know ... ultimately ... religion (Jesus’ kind of religion) isn’t about going to church ... it’s about “going” the extra mile ----- reaching out to others and making “our little corner of the world” a bit better and kinder. Always, I hope-beyond-hope ... that walking into our humble church gives you the “spiritual-boost” you may need to get through whatever meets you when you walk out the door!!

As we move into the “post-Easter season” ... as we await the arrival of spring and nature’s invitation to enjoy the beauty and warmth of more sunrises and sunsets ... no matter how often you come or don’t come to church ... I hope each of us (including me!!) will make an effort to be constant in our support of our church. I know it’s naïve ... but if all 500 of us families do the best we can ---- well, we can make lots more dreams come true!!

Quietly ... and so often behind the scenes ... we touch a lot of lives. People know our door is open. And, even more important, our hearts are open. This happens because of the consistent support and generosity of many of you. When all of us are on board ---- it really makes a difference. Yes, a lot of “stuff” is different today ... and there are changes all around us ...

One thing I hope never changes ...  
what we stand for ... who we are ... & being a “humble temple” making a difference.

with joy and love  
“rev”

### **OUR LAST OUTREACH BINGO OF THE SEASON**

Friday, April 20 ... doors open at 6:30 ... first call at 7:00. This Sunday (April 15) is the last chance to rsvp ... or you can call the church (708-448-2939) to make a reservation. We need no less than 50 players to make bingo a bit "profitable" for our outreach ... otherwise, we'll have to cancel. Our men's club does some wonderful things for people because of your support of bingo: from scholarship money ... helping people going through a tough time ... supporting our veterans and St. Coletta's ... responding spontaneously when tragedy hits.

Thanks for your support ... and thanks to our men's club for their generosity and unselfish outreach.

### **OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ST. COLETTA'S CONTINUES**

Anita Delgau and some of her co-workers from Salon Davinci and a few other salons ... they give free haircuts to the developmentally disabled adults from St. Coletta's several times a year. The next event is Monday, April 23 at Salon Davinci from 5:00 – 7:00.

Then ... in mid-June ... our weekly Tuesday evening barbeques will begin --- stay tuned!!

Oh, by the way ---- our music director, Doug Klang, is the choir director at St. Coletta's ... I am one of the worship leaders ... salary??? ... "priceless"!!

### **THE NEXT LADIES NIGHT OUT CONTAINER GARDEN WORKSHOP**

Wednesday, May 16, 6:00. Enjoy an evening of wine and refreshments ... while learning to bring "drama" to your summer containers ----- with foliage, eye-catching color, and texture. Jim Melka's amazing staff will assist you with design and planting ... no talent required. (These are not my words, as you can probably tell ... especially the "drama" and "foliage" parts!@!!) Limit of 25 ... you can sign-up with a \$10 deposit beginning Sunday.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY ...**

\*We are having our annual MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE ... on Mother's Day, May 12 ... all morning.

\*Sunday School runs through Sunday, May 20. We will have a special closing program (parents and families invited) in the gym ... led by Scott Czubernat and Patti Ummell, featuring their new game show.

Thanks to Kathy Ruiter and staff ... for their commitment to our kids and families.

### **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SERVICES ... MAY 27, 8:30 AND 10:00**

This is when we move into our summer schedule ... with worship at 8:30 and 10 ... and Thursday evening worship OUTDOORS, weather permitting ... otherwise, we are indoors.

Try Thursday nights once-in-while ... same loving spirit ... a bit more informal ... we share the Lord's Supper ... coffee and wine afterwards, if you have time.

### **THE PRAYER CONNECTION**

*\*Memorial service for Randy Mitchell ... this Saturday, April 14, 11:00 at the church.*

*\*Tom Bach ... brother to Richard Jensen ... is living with cancer --- at Manor Care West. \*Kathy Fredrick's brother Don's nephew Paul died last week ---- he served 3 tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq.*

*\*Linda Buikema lost a good friend last week --- Ron Rogahan. \*We continue to pray for Vern Bock, Linda Ruisz, and Cindy Johnson ... in their long and courageous journeys with cancer. \*We continue to pray for Debbie Buglio, as she lives with cancer. Her grandson Jayson Leo Blaschek is being baptized here on Sunday, April 22. \*Elizabeth from Heartland Children's Home is back after major surgery.*

*\*Charlie Ryl-Kuchar is recovering from open-heart surgery. \*Our prayers are with Juanita Janish and family ... we had Mike's funeral at Colonial Chapel on March 31.*

*Blessings and Prayers to all ---- mentioned here and in our hearts. Hope to see you "in the humble temple."*