

**“For everything a season ...”**  
**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA**  
**13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462**  
**Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939**

**“almost June” ... 2018**

**Dear Friends ...**

It's seems like an ordinary phone call ----- asking me to do the funeral for a gentleman, whose family has no church home. It's something we do for those who need a place comfort, in a time of need. And whenever this happens ... I realize anew: it's because of YOU that we can do this. Your openness ... your acceptance ... your spirit of goodness and grace.

I call the deceased's wife ... talk to her about her husband. I can feel the heaviness in her heart and soul. She shares some of his story. 67 years old. Vietnam vet. Exposed to Agent Orange. Many health struggles over the years. Proud to have served his country.

The focus of Memorial Day is specifically remembering those who died in service to their country. But my conversation with this Vietnam veteran's wife flashed me back to spending time at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the World War II Memorial ... not to mention the “silent memorials” to all those who have died serving our country in the Middle East conflicts.

What have I done for my country lately??

These men and women gave their lives. The ultimate sacrifice.

What have I done for my country lately??

The gentleman whose funeral I will share in tomorrow ----- he didn't die in combat ... but he came home a young man, whose life would never be the same. It took us 20 years to give the thanks and honor they so desperately needed and deserved.

What have I done for my country lately??

Service to our country comes in many shapes and sizes.

Going to work everyday ... giving our best ... taking care of those who depend on us.

Holding up those ... who cannot do it by themselves.

A church with open arms ... a banquet table where our humanity is the only ticket for admission.

Standing up for what is right and just ... combined with human hearts and spirits, believing in the power of forgiveness and 2<sup>nd</sup> chances.

Giving unto others ... from the very depth and fiber of our humanity.

Pausing and taking time ... to honor those who have gone before.

Looking at all the ordinary and everyday moments gracing our footsteps through this journey called life ... and saying “thanks” ... especially this weekend ---- to those who “gave it all.”

What have I done for my country lately? ... well, probably not enough.

But I hear the words of the prophet Isaiah in the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson for this coming Sunday:

“Here I am, Lord --- send me!!”

I don't always know where I am going ... but thanks to those who have given it all ... we have the freedom to make the journey.

Hope to see you “in the temple” ...

with love and joy ----- rev

### **THE SUMMER SEASON IS UPON US.**

It's a good time ... because we use our "favorite liturgy" ... and there is a kind-of relaxed informality as we gather. If there is a "down-side" ... it's that we don't see as many of you. What we do need is your support. Try to be here when you can ... and please: support us financially on a regular basis during the summer ... even when you are not here. Our goal always has been ---- we want our "regular offerings" to support our expenses and budget. We are falling a bit short in this department. In general ... we are on sound footing.

But your consistent support is critical. Please do what you can ... it matters a lot!!

### **THIS SUNDAY, MAY 27 ... WE BEGIN OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE: WORSHIP AT 8:30 AND 10.**

We celebrate and recognize what Memorial Day stands for: remembering those men and women who died in active military service. If you have a friend and/or family member who died in service to our country ... please call the office (708-448-2939) or you can give me the person's name when you come on Sunday morning.

### **WE CONTINUE TO HAVE THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP AT 7:30.**

This Thursday, May 24 ... our evening worship will include the BIKE BLESSING, in memory of Patrick Mackey. We also begin worshipping outdoors (in the back) ... weather permitting.

### **SUMMER FUN-FESTS WITH ST. COLETTA'S BEGIN TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 5:30 – 7:30.**

We have hosted these weekly picnics for our friends with developmental disabilities for the past 30 years. Some music ... sports for those who are able ... just "hangin' out" ... doing nails for the ladies ... it all makes for a fun evening. We provide burgers, hot dogs, and drinks ... you can bring a side-dish or dessert to share if you'd like (it's not necessary). Most of all ---- just come and enjoy the spirit.

### **THE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR CAME A JOYOUS CONCLUSION THIS PAST WEEKEND.**

We need you to register your son/daughter for next fall as soon as possible. If you haven't already done so, we have registration forms here at the church. We have classes for kids who are 3 by September 1 through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If you have any questions, call our superintendent Kathy Ruiter: 708-218-1127.

### **WE HAVE 3 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.**

*\*\*The graduating-high-school scholarship for any of our high school seniors who have just graduated ... and are attending college, junior college, or trade school. The only qualification ---- being a moderately active member of our church.*

*\*\*The "Charlie Fund" scholarship --- for college students (must be at least a sophomore) or graduate students studying to work with kids with special needs.*

*\*\*The Choir Scholarship program for high school students who sing in our adult choir. You can earn money that we present to you after you graduate high school and enter college.*

Please call the office if you have questions ... forms for all these are available at the church.

(Janet Block ... Charlie's grandmother ... & Jenny Lawler ... Charlie's mom ---- gave a nice presentation on Sunday about the Charlie Fund and how it has impacted young people. If you'd like to make a donation to this fund ... you can do so with the "love bucket" this Sunday ... checks payable to the church.)

### **THE PRAYER CONNECTION**

\*Cindy Johnson says "thanks" for all the prayers during her journey with cancer ... she is now 95% cancer-free.

\*Linda Ruisz continues her long journey of treatments for her cancer. \*Denise Anderson is having radiation for a brain tumor. \*Tyler Schneider just graduated from Governors State. \*Nellie DeKoning is very weak, and still at Palos Hospital. \*Elaine Kozisek is at Lexington Re-hab. \*Linda Ingenoso recently came home from Manor Care. \*Kory and Jennifer Breudigam & Casey and Alex Lisack are soon to be parents ... if they are not already parents by the time you get this. \*Jan Peterson is at home, being well-taken-care-of.

\*Nancy Crowther's brother Matthew died unexpectedly last week. ***We care ... we pray.***