

“Coming together ... in the humble temple”
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA
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Mid – August 2018

Dear Friends ...

A lot hit me this week ... driving east on 131st St. ... early Sunday morning ... coming to get things ready for worship ... my favorite morning cup of coffee in my hand. The sun rising over Lake Tampier ... a couple folks already fishing in the early morning. I’m thinking about yesterday the day beginning with a Baptism --- a young boy, whose grandmother’s funeral I had not long ago. Later on I officiated a wedding. A graceful young couple, who – at least for now – don’t have any church roots. Then capping-off the day with a funeral ... for a relatively young lady, whose marriage I performed 18 years ago.

I’m reminded every day ... where God lives.

This incredible circle called LIFE. Full of all kinds of beginnings and endings. Journeys laced with love and goodness ... but also laced with our human frailties and weaknesses.

And somehow ... in the middle of all this ----- well, this is where God lives.

In you. In me. In the circle

When the circles moves frontwards ... we are the recipients of the joy life brings us.

But we all know, too, when the circles seems to go “backwards.” A dream that doesn’t come to fruition. Saying “good-bye” to someone we love. An unexpected event ... and life will never be the same again.

This is why we are here.

Hopefully we can be an “oasis” for you ----- inside your life’s circle.

It’s why we cut the grass ... mop the floors ... pay the bills ... ask you for support.

The open door. The coffee we enjoy complaining about. Hopefully a place you can be proud of.

I’ve learned a valuable lesson this summer. Don’t mean to “bore you” with my stories ... but our stories are what connect us. I sometimes worry about all the empty chairs ... wishing more of you were here.

I want to make sure we stay solid financially. To say the least ----- this place is a “team effort.” We need everyone ... all of you ... to keep us strong and healthy.

But I’ve learned and re-learned ----- life is not about who “isn’t here” or “what we don’t have.”

LIFE ... THE CIRCLE ----- it’s about who “is here” ... it’s about what we do have ...

It’s about caring for each other: one person, one moment, one miracle at a time.

This morning I turn the key to open the front door ... I make a pot of coffee ... I walk out the front door and look at the flag ----- I say a “prayer of thanks” to our service men and women ... to all our veterans. I walk into the sanctuary ... and say a “prayer of thanks” for all of you --- the journey, the circle we share together.

It’s good. “It is what it is.” ----- “my cup runneth over.”

Joy

“rev”

“on a personal note” ... maybe too much information ... but needs to be shared ...

Some of you have asked me ... some comments have come my way ... just so you know (since we are “family”).

Peggy Sullivan and I have been together for over a year now. It’s been about 5 and a half years since Jude passed. I officiated at Peggy’s and Mike’s wedding about 8 years ago ... and sadly did his funeral about 2 and a half years ago. Peggy has gone through two years dealing with breast cancer: surgery, chemo, radiation ... and now some “after care.” She is now cancer free. We have bought and share a house ... we are engaged and intend to be married – the sooner, the better!! But if we do that now ... she will lose her insurance ---- which has been well-used and tested with all her medical expenses, and they still continue. We are deeply committed to each other ... and we both have loving kids and grandkids ... who share our journey. Praying and hoping you all understand, as we work together to keep our humble temple a loving and caring oasis.

WE CONTINUE WITH OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE ... THROUGH LABOR DAY WEEKEND.

On Sunday, September 9 ... worship moves to 8:30 & 11 ... with choir, Sunday School, and youth-group breakfast club between services. REGISTRATION FORMS for Sunday School (3 year olds thru 6th grade) ...

CONFIRMATION (7th- 8th grade) ... and YOUTH GROUP (7th – 12th grade) are available at the church.

OUR ADULT CHOIR would enjoy having you consider being part of their music family. They rehearse Sundays, between services. We also have a scholarship program for high school students who would like to sing in our choir. Call our director Doug Klang (708-945-2188) if you have questions.

“STITCH AND SEW” KICKS-OFF A NEW SEASON

with a pot-luck on Tuesday, August 28, 6:00 in Charter Hall. A wonderful group ... working on their own personal projects ... but also reaching out to those in need. You can rsvp here at the church. And please call Jane Miller (708-448-2642) if you have questions or want more information.

OUR FUN-FEST SEASON WITH ST. COLETTA’S IS WINDING DOWN.

On August 14 we will prepare our last supper for them. Then ... on August 21 ... everyone from St. Coletta’s comes here ... they bring the food as a “thank-you” to us for what we’ve shared this summer. Depending on the number coming ... our August 21st event will probably be in the gym. We begin each Tuesday at 5:30.

LADIES’ NIGHT OUT AT MELKA’S GARDEN CENTER ... Monday, September 10

Creating your own fall container. There are only 25 spots ... so, please rsvp no later than August 20. All you need is a \$10 deposit ... which goes towards the cost of the container you choose to make.

BINGO AT THE ILLINOIS VETERANS’ HOME IN MANTENO ... SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.

Such fun ... and so meaningful. We bring lots of “singles” ... “hats” ... and refreshments. We leave after the 2nd service.

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

*Kathy Clasby’s sister – Pam Condon – is living with breast cancer. *Daine Palacios’ sister Karen is living with MS ...and Karen’s husband Keith is now living with cancer ----- lots of prayers comin’ your way!!

*George Hoffman (one of our Charter members) died recently ... his wife Joan is now living with their daughter Debbie Ferrero. His memorial service will be September 15, here at the church. *Richard Rogich died this week ... his funeral was on Monday. Special prayers for Anita and their family. *Loretta Innocenti is in hospice care at her home . *Frank Bugaris’ dad (Frank, Sr.) died this week ... his funeral was here on Tuesday.

*Ron Smith is coming home this week, after 2+ month of rehab. *Lee Risser is recovering from a broken leg.

*Jan Peterson is very ill ... but well-taken-care-of at home. *Sharol Marciniak’s nephew Bryan is facing chemo and surgery ... but the outlook is good. *Pat Martyn’s sister Minnie is living with cancer.

