

“Keepin’ it simple ... this holiday season ...”
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA
13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939

Mid-November ... 2018

Dear Friends ...

It’s “that time of the year” ... whatever “that” means. Each one of us brings into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season a journey ----- filled with all kinds of feelings and moments. Too often ... we find ourselves hurrying ... trying to please everyone (including ourselves) ... fitting everything in ---- and it’s easy to lose sight of the goodness and spirit this season is supposed to stand for. There are also many for whom this is a “lonely” time of the year. Your first holiday without that person you love ... things not being what they should be with your family.

I hope our “humble temple” can be a place where the “true spirit” of the season touches your soul.

We’ll keep it simple ...

We’ll focus on the intangible spirit of giving ... bringing us together ...

Speaking of giving and the “circle of life” ...

Sunday still touches my soul ...

**We recognized our veterans ... Veterans’ Day. You symbolize sacrifice and giving. You stand for freedom ----- yes, freedom’s gentle power at the foundation of the Statue of Liberty.

**We had the privilege of sharing in the baptism of 3 young kids ... whose journeys are just beginning.

**Our prayer-book is full of so many folks ... who need to know they are not alone.

**And then there’s Joel and Jennifer ... whose 17-month old son died last week. They just recently started worshipping with us. They came to church Sunday morning ... and the way you reached-out to them will forever be embedded in my heart. His funeral was here on Monday ... he is being buried this week at the church where he was baptized in Rantoul, Illinois. After the service here ... family and friends gathered in Charter Hall ----- to share an informal lunch, which you so generously paid for with our ever present “love bucket.” I go to Papa Joe’s afterwards to pay for the food ... and find-out some “anonymous” person has already paid for it!@!

It’s stuff like this ---- renewing our faith in the goodness of the human spirit ... and the amazing presence of God’s spirit ----- in random acts of kindness: often changing lives, and inspiring us to be the best we can be. Yes, life is a circle ... and there are times when the circle seems to go “backwards” ... when we can easily doubt our faith and wonder “why?” Yet ---- in the middle of all this ... we come together, we do our best to embody Jesus’ quiet-yet-powerful spirit ... giving us the courage to face another day.

I must admit ... I’ve been a little discouraged with our attendance lately. And we’ve fallen a bit behind in our goal of having our “regular offerings” cover our budget. But ---- such is life. I know how important the church is to most of you. And I know, too ----- our lives go in many directions ... and often church is on the back-burner. We have a good place here. And we will keep sharing a message of hope and goodness. This past Sunday ... something special was “in the aire.” That amazing collision of our spirit and God’s spirit.

Thanks for all you do ... hope to see you “in the humble temple.”

With joy and peace ...

Don

THANKSGIVING DAY

10:00 worship (no evening service) ... followed by serving a "Thanksgiving feast" for our friends at St. Coletta's. We invite those clients and staff who cannot be home for the holiday. We appreciate your donations of food ---- you can sign-up on Sunday. Please bring your dish READY TO EAT!!

DECORATING THE CHURCH

Saturday, December 1, 10:00 AM. We decorate our trees and get the church lookin' good for the Advent-Christmas season. You can bring something simple to share for refreshments. Most of all --- come & enjoy.

ADVENT WORSHIP AND SUPPERS

Already? ... almost!!

On December 6, 13, and 20 ... in addition to worship at 7:30 ... we have supper around the tree at 6:30.

Very informal. Just come and enjoy. Please rsvp so we know about how many to expect.

If you would like to help host one or more of the suppers ... please sign-up on Sunday. But ... you don't have to bring anything ----- just your appetite and a loving spirit!!

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Our "love bucket" for the next few weeks is dedicated to our Christmas outreach. We help approximately 20 local families who are going through tough times ... and also 6 of the group homes from St. Coletta's.

We will have the names and "wish lists" available soon ---- if you'd like to adopt someone to shop for.

The money in the "love bucket" goes for buying food and buying extra things, where needed. Your generosity really makes a difference.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Sunday, December 23 ... regular schedule (8:30 and 11:00) and Sunday School.

*Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) ...

4:00 ... Sunday School shares their service of the spirit.

8:00 – 10:00 Peggy and Don host an open house at the church.

10:00 --- Candlelight service.

*Tuesday, December 25 ---- Christmas Day worship at 10:00 AM

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

*Paul Triezenberg is facing a stem-cell transplant in December. *Jean Wirth died recently ... we had a nice good-bye for her here. *Good seeing Ruth Vogel back in church. *George Naujokas is recovering from another knee surgery. *Jessica Welling (she grew up here) and her long-time boy friend lost their home to a fire in California ... we will reach-out to them. *Pat Martyn's sister Minnie and brother Tom are both going through treatments for cancer. *Our prayers are with Denis and family ----- he has been in re-hab since his encounter with one of God's angels on a running path. *To 17-month-old Jackson ... we know you will be in your parents' hearts forever. Jen and Joel --- we with are with you. *Ken Kozik's mom Judith died this week. ... her funeral was on Tuesday.

*Bev Flambouras is having back surgery on the 29th. *Greg Burns is at Loyola Hospital. *Jim Fitzpatrick had a procedure this week, in his courageous journey with cancer. *Erin Miller (Ralph and Nancy's daughter-in-law) is recovering from a car accident. *Andy Gray – brother-in-law the Fritz family – is facing brain surgery. *Danny Kruse is home after surgery. *Our prayers continue to be with Vern Bock and Linda Ruisz. *Veterans Bob Magnuson (88) and Harry Huddelston (94) celebrate birthdays. I know there are many omissions ... please know we are all connected and care!!

joy and peace Don

