

“Filling our humble temple ... with goodness, kindness ... and lots of YOU!!”

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA

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Beginning of Lent ... 2019

Dear Friends ...

Happy Lent!@!!

Well, maybe this is not the best use of words. To some extent ... Lent is a time for a bit of self-denial ... a good dose of self-sacrifice ... and taking some time to reflect: about life, our lives, our purpose ... and what’s really most important to us and those we love.

I am so grateful for this humble place. For you. The spirit we share. Being able to make a difference in some small measure: one person, one family, one moment at a time. Oh, yes, we fall short ... and that includes the guy whose name is on the sign. But our community is the sum-total of incredible “acts of generosity and kindness” that so often go un-noticed. And that’s the way most of us want it.

You give ... because “giving” is who you are.

You share ... because a “humble carpenter” has entrusted his spirit unto us.

You know ... in your heart ... that together we can do so much more than trying to go it alone.

As I look down the road ... and, yes, it’s still fun to look ahead and dream a bit.

I do worry about a few things.

I know “the church” may not be as central to your lives ... as it once was. Or as it was for our parents and grandparents. I’m sure ... that for some ----- maybe our church doesn’t speak as clearly as you’d like ... to what you are going through. Many of you ... who are younger than me, for sure ----- you have so many obligations: kids’ traveling teams, working two jobs, juggling your career and child-care ... by Sunday morning, you are bone-weary.

I hope each of us will take a moment or two ... and think about what this “humble temple” means to you. It’s not about being here every week. And I’ve probably said too often ---- “Religion is more than just going to church.” But this building is here for a purpose. Paying our bills has purpose. The money you give has purpose. Without this building ----- there is no “love bucket,” or a place for our St. Coletta’s friends to dance to our music, or an open door for weddings and funerals and 1st Communion or a place for our “younger friends” and us “older folks” to learn about the power of love and goodness.

It’s been a tough winter ... in many ways. Our attendance has suffered a bit ... our offerings haven’t been what they need to be. Now, as Lent begins I hope we can “re-group.” As one of you said to me after church on Sunday ---- “I need to re-boot my church attendance!!” Re-boot: a good way to put it. The bottom line is:

THE CHURCH NEEDS THE CONSISTENT SUPPORT OF EACH OF US.

It’s like Jesus feeding the 5000. It began with a little boy offering up 5 loaves and 2 fish. The disciples’ first reaction ---- “it’s not enough.” Jesus doesn’t see the amount ... he’s sees an act of giving. He blesses what there is ... and somehow, someday ... in the end ---- there is more than “enough.” We can only do what we can. But when we all do it ... together ... it’s amazing what can happen.

Each of us makes a difference. Thanks for caring and sharing.

Joy “rev”

LENT HAS BEGUN ... WE HAVE WORSHIP EVERY THURSDAY EVENING ... 7:30.

(The only exception is this week ... with Ash Wednesday on March 6 ... so no Thursday worship on March 7) **LENTEN SUPPERS BEGIN THURSDAY, MARCH 14 ... 6:30.**

They continue through April 11. Informal, in Charter Hall ... a nice way to spend some time, meet people, and get a break from your regular routine. Please rsvp when you are here on Sunday.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY BEGINS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 7:00 ... AND GOES UNTIL HOLY WEEK.

We meet in the big classroom in the gym ... the title is: "Do not live afraid" ... and we use a book by the same name. Ken Konecki does a great job ... leading wonderful discussions. You can sign-up Sunday, or call the church office to save a spot.

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 3RD GRADE AND OLDER, WHO HAVE NOT YET BEGUN RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER.

The one hour class is SUNDAY, APRIL 7, AFTER THE SECOND SERVICE. Each young person needs to be accompanied by a parent. The "first Communion service" is on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2:00 PM.

Please rsvp beginning Sunday ... call Don if you have any questions.

"ANGELS AMONG US" is a wonderful outreach to developmentally disabled young adults ... meeting here twice a month on Thursdays. If you are interested in getting involved ... call LuAnn Walsh at 708-699-7978. Crafts, music, worship ... and a whole lot of love!!

OUR FINAL OUTREACH BINGO BEFORE SUMMER IS FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 6:30

We dedicate this one to our veterans at the ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME IN MANTENO. In fact ... we are going there on Sunday, March 31 ... if you'd like to join us. We play bingo with them, have refreshments, and give away lots of money (thanks to you!!).

WE ARE OFFERING TWO DATES ---- FOR A CPR/AED CLASS.

We have an AED defibrillator at church ... and, of course, knowing CPR can be a life-saving thing ... remember Tom O'Brien's story?? The classes are both on Sundays ---- April 28 and May 19, 1:00. We will have early rsvp's ... because we want the instructors (retired fire-fighters and licensed to teach) to know we have enough to justify them saving the dates.

WE REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS ... to our Sunday School staff for a wonderful "Winterfest" for our kids and families last Sunday ... and to so many of you for your generosity in making our spaghetti dinner such a success. Lots of fun, full house, and \$22,000 to help the finances of our church. We are blessed!!

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

*Marilyn Kasper has been struggling with some heart issues ... looking forward to you coming back!!

*Danny Spoerl (Karen Weyer's brother) ... good to have him back in church!!

*Craig Ruisz's dad – Matt – is at Ingalls Hospital. *Cindi Johnson faces more tests and possible surgery for her continuing journey with cancer. *Linda Ruisz and Vern Bock --- always in our prayers.

*Marissa Meyer's uncle Paul died last week. *Walt Schillinger has been in and out of the hospital a couple times this past week. *George Driggers had successful cataract surgery this week. *Sally Sappenfield's sister – Wendy Starita – has been a long-term patient at Christ Hospital. *Tom Murphy's mom – Hazel – died this week. *Maribeth Murphy is gradually improving at home hope to see you soon!!

*Tom Hohbach's dad – Don – is doing much better at his home in Arizona. *Annemarie Harbison – one of our Charter members – died recently. She and her family did so much for our church! *Linda Buikema's cousin John Dubey died just over a week ago ... he's been in our prayers for a long time.

