

“Random thoughts ... from a random pastor”
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA
13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
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August ... 2019

Dear Friends ...

It's been quite a summer ... different, weird, spiritual, amazing, fun, sad sometimes, wondering, patriotic, concerning ... a mixed bag of “stuff” and life!!

July 7th was fun ... humbling. The new stole you gave me to wear ... made by Nancy Pierz. Like Debbie said when she presented it to me: “Don, the stole you wear on Sunday isn't aging as well as you are!!” 45 years being your pastor: we have shared some moments, haven't we??
Many more to come!!

I've learned some lessons this summer. About time, right??

*I've learned to accept a lot of empty seats on Sunday morning. Going to Sunrise and Marian Village ... sharing the Lord's Supper with 8 or 9 people ... I realize life is not about how many ... it's about what's inside the heart-and-soul of those who are there at that moment

*I've discovered and re-discovered and re-discovered again and again ----- the radical JOY of giving. Giving to the church may not be glamorous. But this “hunk of brick and mortar” on LaGrange Road makes a lot of things happen ----- for people we don't even know.

*I see how ordinary people ... doing ordinary things ... they like coming through our door. My gosh ---- when the Fed-Ex guy came by ... after our wonder-dog Harley died ... he said: “I've been on vacation ... where is Harley?” I told him. He cried.

*I've seen Jesus “come alive” in some of the humblest people I've ever met ...
... the care-giver for an Alzheimer's friend ... the lawn guys, the painting crew
... a retired preacher who sits in the back row on Sunday morning

*I've learned, too ----- that “perfection” and “being in control” are highly over-rated. One of the best gifts we can give to those around us ... is to be true to ourselves. Our humanity – laced with a good dose of humility and gentleness – is one of the best gifts we have to offer.

*I've come to discover ... thanks to so many of you ... the joy of SIMPLICITY.
Jesus' message is simple.

I want some of that “simplicity” to be more a part of who I am ...
and how we treat each other.

I hope you can enjoy what's left of the summer. Summer doesn't last long enough.

In the meantime ... we are here.

The door open. The coffee on.

Lots of good seating ... and lots of “love in the aire.”

Peace and joy to all

“rev”

It's time to think about Sunday School, Confirmation class, and Youth Group.

The registration forms for each of these opportunities are at the church. You can also register on-line, if you'd like. **If you get the hard copy of the newsletter ... you have to type in the link yourself.

If you get this via e-mail ... you can click on the link.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL (for kids age 3 by September 1 through 6th grade.

<https://forms.gle/biCKPaweBP4vyh598>

**CONFIRMATION/CATECHISM CLASS (7th and 8th grades)

<https://forms.gle/hs56qZWCpCTU6hyS9>

**YOUTH GROUP (7th through 12th grades)

<https://forms.gle/64SpVffxBXqbF8UCA>

OUR FALL SCHEDULE begins Sunday, September 8 ... with worship then at 8:30 and 11 ... and Sunday School and Youth breakfast club at 9:45. Also, the adult choir begins rehearsing. How about considering joining the choir? ... and high school students --- there is a scholarship program if you sing in the choir.

Questions? --- give our music director a call ---- 708-945-2188.

THE BIG BAND (directed by Doug Klang) is having a "big band pizza party" on Friday, August 9 here at the church --- 6:00 – 8:30. Tickets are \$25 ---- this includes soft drinks, beer, wine, salad, and dessert --- plus half of a made-to-order Jefee's 12" pizza. You can purchase tickets on Sunday ... or email Doug at dklang@sbcglobal.net.

We need some help in a few areas. As always ---- we enjoy when you share the gift of altar flowers and the eternal light. Also ---- I enjoy having you help me share Communion on Sundays. The sign-ups for these are always in the narthex ... call if you have questions.

**We need some more junior high and high school students to work the nursery. This is an important thing on Sunday mornings ... plus, you get paid!@!!

**More folks are needed to usher on Sunday (men and women) ... and to be greeters ... and to read the lessons. Please call us (708-448-2939) and we will put you on the schedule.

IMPROVEMENTS

*The outside of our humble temple has been painted. *Our sign has finally been raised. Now it just needs to be re-painted ... this should be done soon. *A couple big dead trees have been removed ... and others thinned out. *Jim Melka's crew continues to do such a great job with our lawn and keeping the bushes and garden areas looking good. Your support and generosity makes all this possible!!

SOME OUTREACH

*We recently sent a check for \$1200 to Heartland Children's Home. *We contributed \$250 each to two pet rescue organizations ... in loving memory of Harley. *We made a \$1000 donation to Together We Cope in Tinley Park. *We contributed \$3000 (over a period of 3 weeks) to a mom and her 5 kids ... when they had to leave a very dangerous home environment. We make a lot of small behind-the-scenes donations to people and causes that touch the heart of many of you ---- thanks for sharing and caring.

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

*So many friends on their journey with cancer: Linda Ruisz, Vern Bock, Cindi Johnson, Jim Fitzpatrick, and many others. *Doug Gentry (Elaine's husband) is at Mother Theresa re-hab. *Tom Hohbach's dad is at Rush in Chicago. *Jill Garrett is in hospice care. *Kenn Block's wife Janet died unexpectedly this week. She and Kenn are the authors of the Charlie Fund Scholarship. Her wake is Wednesday from 3-8 at Lawn in Orland Park ... and funeral mass is 10:00 at Our Lady of the Woods on Thursday.

*Mandy Svehla's son Nick is recovering from serious leg surgery. *Pat Boldt's granddaughter Nicole is doing much better. *Matthew Andrews and Lindsey Hagemeyer are being married Saturday.