

“WHAT WOULD ALL SAINTS DO??”  
All Saints Lutheran Church “Oasis of Joy” USA  
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Mid – September ... 2019

Dear Friends,

Sunday morning after church ... there is a bag on my desk ... with some tissue paper inside --- hiding the contents. First the card ----- “Dear Pastor Don. Thanks for being you. Thank-you for our church and our wonderful Sunday School.” (It’s signed by 3 young brothers.)

Just warms my heart. I’m thinking ... “thanks for being you” ----- well, I really don’t have a choice. “Me” is all I can be. I can’t be “you” ... I just gotta be “me.” Like all of us. Each of us is a unique “package” ... We can only hope and work hard to be a “package” that when un-wrapped --- out pops a little goodness and grace.

In this bag is something I can put on my desk or shelf ... it says:  
***MAY YOUR BURDENS BE LIGHT AND YOUR COFFEE BE STRONG.***

I think of the young kids who come to our church. Coming up to the front of the church on Sunday --- listening to my “out-dated” music and probably wondering: what’s the point of Pastor Don’s story?? I see their smiles and laughter. This past Sunday ----- going from class to class ... kids sitting in chairs and on the floor ... listening to stories about Jesus bringing joy and hope into our world. I often think about how much fun it would be ----- to grow up in a church ..... where I could sit next to a lady, old enough to be my great-grandma ... bring my buddies by after school and play in the gym ... and help with Communion on an ordinary Sunday.

I’ve always wanted our “humble temple” to be a place ----- not where kids “have to go” ... but a place where “they want to be.”

Yes ---- All Saints needs to be here.

As these kids grow up ... they will see and experience lots of life ... and even death. School will start ... their gold fish could die ... they will try-out for cheerleading, the choir, maybe a soccer team ... they will see their grandparents get older ... ahhhhh, they could fall in love ... they’ll win games, lose games, and have all kinds of moments of happiness and sadness. They will attend their older sister’s wedding ... they will go to the funeral of someone they love. Baptism. First Communion. Confirmation.

I sure am glad I have a place where I can share all this!! A place where “I can be me.”

Oh, the time may come where I will “drift away” a little bit. Going to church may get put on the “back burner.” I’ll get busy with “stuff.”

But then ... you never know. I’ll see a styrofoam cup ... uncover an old toy I got on an ordinary Sunday morning. Something unexpected will happen ... and I’ll need a place to call. I’ll be in my car ... on Route 45, and see the sign.

It’s my home.

A place where God’s spirit speaks to me.

It’s still a part of me ----- forever. Joy, Don

## **SOME GOOD STUFF COMIN' UP**

**\*\*The fall schedule is here ... with worship at 8:30 and 11.**

Sunday School, Youth Group Breakfast Club, and Adult Choir ---- 9:45 (between services).  
YOU CAN STILL REGISTER for Sunday School and Youth Group. Call our office (708-448-2939)  
with any questions. Call our music director – Doug Klang (708-945-2188) – he would love talking  
to you about joining the choir.

CONFIRMATION (some call it CATECHISM) for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders begins Monday, October 7.  
We meet two Monday evenings per month. We have registration forms here at the church.

## **OUR FIRST OUTREACH BINGO IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.**

Doors open at 6:30 ... “first call” at 7:00.

We are dedicating this evening to the memory of VERN BOCK ----- loyal member, good friend, and  
Blackhawks fanatic. Feel free to wear some Blackhawks apparel. Please sign-up ... so we know how many  
to expect.

## **THE CIVIL WAR BAND IS COMING HERE FOR A CONCERT: Sunday, September 22, 2:00.**

Wonderful music from the Civil War era. They dress like it!! ... their instruments are from that time ...  
and we will have a meal together afterwards in Charter Hall. My late brother Gary started this band  
over 25 years ago ... and they continue in his memory and honor. I would be so happy if there is a good  
turn-out. They make quite an effort --- coming here from Bloomington, IL.

## **THIS SUNDAY WILL BE FUN.**

**\*\*The YOUTH GROUP is having their annual CAR WASH ----- raising money for Alzheimer’s research.**  
This is personal for many of us. They will be out there all morning.

**\*\*IT IS ALSO OUR ANNUAL “MUM SUNDAY.”**

All kinds of mum plants will grace our church. Thanks to Jim Melka and “company” for  
making this happen.

## **OUR THEME FOR THIS SUNDAY ----- “What would ALL SAINTS DO?” WWASD**

What does this mean? ----- well, come and share in the spirit!!

## **THE PRAYER CONNECTION**

The “power of prayer” is in the connection we have ---- to each other ... and even to people we don’t know  
or don’t know us. It means a lot ... it’s who we are and so much of why we are here.

\*Said “good-bye” to two long-time members and beautiful people --- Vern Bock on August 26 and Marilyn  
Kasper this past Monday. Their spirits will always be with us. \*Nancy Ellis’ son Josh continues to be at  
Salem Village ... he has a long journey with Friedreich’s ataxia. \*Great seeing Chuck and Dorothy Ellis in  
church Sunday. \*Wally Lorenzen just turned 85. \*Anita Delgau is recovering from surgery at her brother’s  
home. \*Joan Hoffman (Debbie Ferrero’s mom) has been rehabbing at Manor Care. \*Jerry Arnold’s sister  
Carol is now in hospice. \*Katie and Joshua Lucas are now parents of Jaxon James. \*Great seeing Laurice  
Kopp in church, recovering from shoulder surgery. \*Former and long-time member Larry Gunther passed  
away recently. \*Mike and Ruth Schwartz from Heartland ----- celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
\*Bob Gename has a dear friend – Dan Arp – having treatment for a brain tumor. \*Linda Ingenoso is now  
at Shirley Ryan Rehabilitation Institute in Chicago.

What would Jesus do? ... what would All Saints do? ---- SHARE THE LOVE

