

“A few humble thoughts ... from a humble place”
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA
13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462
Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939
May ... 2019

Dear Friends ...

She just moved back ... came to church, and said --- “Pastor Don, seems like the church is getting a little smaller.” Wasn’t sure exactly how to react.

I’m like most of you ----- I take a lot of pride in “my work.” And, I also take a lot of “pride” in what you-all do for a living. I have such respect for your work ethic. Every Sunday ... when I look-out over those of you gathered here ... I am always amazed by all the different things you do and who you are: veterans, care-takers, teachers, cooks, custodians, office managers, business owners, bankers, clerks, musicians, lawyers, engineers, artists, nannies, aides of all kinds, factory workers ... amazing!!

How do you measure success? How do you know if you are meeting your own expectations and/or the expectations of others?? So often ----- “numbers” and finances are the measuring stick ... and they need to be. Sales, business, education ----- you have to have numbers and money to survive and take care of those who come to work every day. The church is no exception. Church attendance and income are definite signs of whether or not we are effectively doing our job.

Honestly ... attendance has declined a bit. Somebody recently commented on how we used to have to add chairs on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. We haven’t had to in the recent past. We’ve tried to meet our financial goal --- having our “offering income” cover budgeted expenses. We are falling a bit short of doing this. Along the way ... I’ve learned some important lessons. It’s easy to focus on the “half-empty” part of the glass. It’s easy to become pre-occupied with what we don’t have.

It doesn’t have to be this way.

*It’s about what we do have.

*It’s about who is here.

*It’s about our spirit and our soul.

On the surface ... we might be a bit smaller ... whatever that means.

But ----- something is larger: our heart? our soul? our heartsong????

Sunday I get all choked-up seeing the “angels among us” disabled young people ... singing “Build a Better World” before the 11:00 service. AND THEY SANG ALL 7 VERSES!!

I see so many of you stopping by the “love bucket” ... contributing to a young girl you don’t even know.

I see the way you embrace “God’s little people” who come forward for the kids’ sermon.

I see the way you reach-out to a so-called “stranger” walking in the door for the first time.

Our church is pretty simple.

There are some words just inside the door of the hair salon that opens its heart to our friends from St. Coletta’s a few times a year ----- for “no cost haircuts.” The words are from Leonardo Da Vinci: “Simplicity is the ultimate Sophistication.” Keeping religion simple. Living-out the simplicity of a humble carpenter named Jesus. Kindness. Gentleness. Openness. Acceptance.
The building blocks of a “success” that can only be measured by our “spirit.”

love and joy to you Don

****In an effort to be more efficient and communicate in a way that is best for you ...**

Beginning next month ... we'll be sending our newsletter (and other announcements) via **EMAIL**.

I know many of you like this idea. Also ----- if you prefer getting your newsletter via the post office we will happily do this, too. If we don't already have your email, please send us an email or call us ----- and we'll put you in the "email bank." Let us know, too (email or call the office) ... if you'd like the newsletter via regular mail. We want to keep in touch in whatever way is best for you!!

We have a few PROJECTS IN MOTION.

*We have a well-kept and physically pleasing building here. We want to keep it looking nice and inviting. We are currently having the entire exterior power-washed and painted. Some of our wood needs to be replaced ... and they are doing that, too.

*Our church sign needs work. First of all ----- we need to "raise it" about 4 feet. Since LaGrange Road is finished ... the wall and railing are blocking our sign and making it hard to read. Also, the sign is 30 years old and needs to be "freshened up." We are working with a sign company ... and we do have to go through the village for approval. Hopefully the whole process won't take too long.

The cost of the painting is approximately \$26,000 ... and the cost of the sign re-construction will be around \$10,000 (the sign must be removed and then put back). Lots of money, but needs to be done. The other "issue" we're keeping an eye on the boilers. Our boilers (for keeping the church heated) have been around a long time. Thanks to Ed O'Malley ... our heating and air-conditioning units serve us well and work well. But we know these units don't last forever. To be continued thanks, Ed.

Maybe this letter has been filled with more "nuts and bolts" than you'd like. But ----- we take pride in the way our place looks ... and we work hard to keep our church strong and vibrant and welcoming.

****We have a three SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE at All Saints. Applications are here at the church.**

*One is to any graduating senior in high school ... who will be attending college, junior college, or trade school this fall. Only requirement? ---- be an active member of our church.

*The CHARLIE FUND scholarship ... to a student entering at least their 2nd year of college ... and studying to work with kids with special needs. *And our CHOIR scholarship ... for high school students who want to sing in our adult choir. Talk to Doug Klang (708-945-2188) for details.

****On Memorial Day weekend (Sunday, May 26) ... we move to our summer schedule ... worship at 8:30 and 10 ... and continuing with Thursday evening worship, 7:30 (outdoors when possible). Attendance usually goes down during the summer ... BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO. On my personal "bucket list" is to have a summer when attendance just "rocks"!@!!! ---- is it ok to dream???**

****OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SEASON closes on May 19 ... with a special performance by Scott Czubernat and Patti Ummell ... with their new game show: KNOW IT ALL. It's a lot of fun. This will happen about 9:45 in the gym come and enjoy. Even if you are not involved in the Sunday School ... come and celebrate the joy our Sunday School staff brings to our kids.**

THIS SUNDAY IS MOTHER'S DAY

We have our annual PLANT SALE ... thanks to the generosity of Jim Melka and family ... and his staff at the garden center. The money benefits our kids ... most of all ----- it's just fun to see the colors of spring. Plants ... moms ... and love ----- a great combination for a fun SUNDAY!@!!