

“Sending some CHRISTMAS LOVE your way”  
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH “Oasis of Joy” USA  
13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462  
December ... 2019

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Dear Friends ...

I've been doing some reminiscing lately ---- about Christmases “gone by.”  
My grandparents' bungalow: bubble lights on the Christmas tree ... candy corn in dishes all over the  
place ... the plastic covering on the living room couch ... Swedish coffee boiling in the kitchen.  
It seemed pretty simple back then ... but that's through the eyes of a child, who could just enjoy  
what was going on around him.

The message of Christmas is simple.  
A child. A miracle in the midst of an ordinary world.  
The gift. Unexpected, and life-changing.

And yet the “simplicity” can easily get lost.  
If you are doing through a tough time in your life ... this can be a season filled with stress.  
When your “plate” is too full ... and you find yourself running from one  
obligation to the next ----- maybe the “Christmas spirit” can get lost.  
Often loneliness and grief and weariness ----- yes, those feelings can run deeper this time of the year.

This is also a very festive time of the year ----- to celebrate, give thanks.  
Hopefully our “humble temple” is a place ----- where you can “connect” with the true spirit of the season.  
You can laugh and cry. You can be crabby and tired. Worn-out or refreshed.  
You can be religious or not every religious. Having a good day or a bad day.  
Most of all ---- you can be you!!  
You can step back and know: Christmas is about the birth of a child ... who goes into a gentle  
savior ----- who brings to us a message of peace, goodness, and love.

Over the next few weeks ---- We will receive lots of gifts ... and probably give lots of gifts to others.  
Most of all ... we will be on the receiving end of gifts money can't buy: freedom and goodness,  
love and grace, hopefully a good dose of kindness.  
And whenever you give back these gifts ... especially to someone who needs an extra dose of strength  
and compassion ... we at All Saints will remind you:  
THIS IS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT.

Lots of joy and love to all of you ...

from a grateful pastor

The year 2020 isn't far off.

Part of what we do as a church is plan for what lies ahead.

We talked at our council meeting this week ---- what is the best way to encourage and inspire our folks to continue to support our ministry financially??

Our consensus: keep doing it the way we are doing it. Don't be obsessed with raising money ... just keep reminding us how important our consistent and regular support is. Having enough money is what makes it possible to pay our bills (including an over-paid pastor!@!!) ... and money does somethings else: it enable us to reach-out, and make a difference in the lives of others ----- one person, one family, one moment at a time.

I've always felt this way ...

The best way to encourage folks to support the church financially ... is to be a church that is WORTHY OF YOUR SUPPORT!!

I hope we are.

I've said so often. We are far from perfect. I'm flawed ... we all have flaws ... our church can sometimes fall short of what we should be.

But ----- we are a caring and loving place. Time and time again ... I have seen you go the extra-mile to help folks you don't even know. You inspire me and other every day.

When our church is healthy financially ... it frees us up to be a spiritual and giving place.

At the bottom of this page is a PLEDGE FORM.

We encourage making a pledge. It helps us gauge what to expect in the new year. Please know ---- your pledge is confidential ... and can be changed at any time. Most of all ---- thanks for caring and sharing.

A FEW REMINDERS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

\*\*Advent suppers (6:30) and worship (7:30) ... December 5,12, 19  
(we have Thursday night worship throughout the year)

\*\*Christmas Eve worship ---- 4:00 and 10:00 (both end in candlelight)

\*Open House in Charter Hall on Christmas Eve: 7:30 – 10:00

\*Christmas Day worship at 10:00

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COMMITMENT FOR 2020

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our contribution for 2020

\_\_\_\_\_/week (indicate if you are paying other than weekly)

Thank-you for your support.

You can mail this to the church, bring it on Sunday, or email to our comptroller

Kathy Klang at [allsaintsklang@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allsaintsklang@sbcglobal.net)