

Some humble happenings in a humble place
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH "Oasis of Joy" USA
13350 S. LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 6462
Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939

Mid-March ... Lent ... 2020

Dear Friends,

There sure is a lot going on in the world --- much of it rather un-settling.
So many folks affected by the coronavirus ----- physically, spiritually, financially.
So much is un-known ... and it's hard to live with uncertainty. Sunday morning ... it felt so good to
be together. To sing and pray ... laugh a little, cry a little ----- we need a safe-and-good place to
gather and hopefully All Saints can always be that kind of place.

Speaking of gathering. I sure don't know the answer.

Between the email version and postal service version ... we send out about 500 newsletters
to families and individuals ---- that's good ... we need to stay connected.

And yet on Sunday ... we barely had 200 people in church.

80+ kids in our Sunday School ... I wish more of these "young souls" would be here for
worship with their families.

Part of it, I'm sure ... is just a "sign of the times." Peoples' plates being too full? ... is the church and/or
the minister losing touch? ... "stuff and life" just getting in the way??

Whatever it is ... our "humble temple" will always be a place of openness ... grace ... hope ...
committed to the quiet power of kindness ... and the spirit of a loving carpenter.

It's who we are ... it's who we always will be.

This is our church together ---- always has been, and we need to keep the fire burning!!

Yes ... we will do our best to be sensitive to the issues surrounding this virus.

Lots of hand-sanitizer in our building. The minister washing his hands before church ... using sanitizer
during Communion. Not using the common cup/chalice for now. Encouraging more verbal greetings
during the "welcome" before service starts ... understanding why many folks are weary of
hand-shakes and hugs. It's all about listening and being supportive of one another.

Blessings and love to all of you ...

hope to see you "in the humble temple" ----- rev

IT IS LENT.

A good time to step back ... do a bit of reflecting ... maybe trying to "give back" to others ----- helping to make
another person's world a bit kinder and gentler.

**Four more "Lenten Suppers" ... March 12, 19, 26, April 2. These informal gatherings are relatively small ...
comfortable ... and the food is "beyond good." We begin at 6:30.

And, of course ... we have worship every Thursday evening at 7:30 ---- very peaceful and spiritual.

**OUR NEXT BINGO IS FRIDAY, MARCH 20 ---- a "post-St. Patrick's Day" theme.

Doors open at 6:30 ... "first call" at 7:00. We will take the money we raise to the Veterans' Home in
Manteno. We are doing bingo with them on April 19. We leave after the 2nd service ... let us know if you
would like to come and help.

HOLY WEEK AT ALL SAINTS

**Palm Sunday, April 5 ----regular schedule 8:30 and 11
First Communion service 2:00 ... for those receiving Communion for the 1st time.
(I have the "first Communion" class the week prior: March 29 at 12:15 ...
please rsvp at the church. One parent must attend.)

**Holy Thursday worship, April 9 7:30
**Good Friday service of darkness ... "the 7 last words" of Jesus on the cross
April 10 Noon and 7:30

EASTER SUNDAY (April 12): *almost sunrise service 7:00
worship at 8:30 and 11:00
Youth group hosts breakfast from 7:30 – 10:30

WE ARE HOSTING A REVIVAL WORSHIP NIGHT

on Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 ----- lead by the "Voices of Praise Gospel Choir"
from North Central College. This is an incredible group of college students ... and I am hoping for
a good turn-out. No tickets ... just a sign-up, beginning Sunday. I asked the director (a sophomore
at the school) --- what kind of numbers do we need to guarantee??? --- He smiles: "We've sung for
5 people and for 500 ... we just enjoy praising the Lord!!" How Lutheran is that!@!!

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 ... 1:00 – 4:00

We are having a VIOLENCE PREVENTION event at the church ---- focusing on strategies for keeping
our church safe ... and what to do if we are in a life-threatening situation. Churches (like ours) are
some of the most OPEN places for people to gather. And we want to keep it that way. Mike
Zegadlo – director of security at Lewis University – leads a very respected program for communities
like All Saints. Anyone is welcome. This will be especially important for members of our church who
are visible and present a lot of the time. You can begin signing up this week ... fliers are available.

A FEW WAYS TO HELP

**We really need more folks to USHER for our services. You play an important part ---- passing
out the bulletins, directing folks for Communion ... "setting the tone" with a warm welcome.
Gentlemen and ladies ... please call the office (708-448-2939) and let us know which service is best
for you. We appreciate this.

**Also ---- folks to help me with Communion.

**And a few more to be greeters as folks come in for worship. Just call the office, and
leave a message if we aren't here.

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

*Cindi Johnson is home ... her journey with cancer continues. *Marilyn Palm is now at a re-hab
facility in Crete --- St. James Manor. *Kim and Peter Guse have a new son --- Reid Michael.
*Bob Johnson's partner Tencha McKinsey has been diagnosed with cancer. *Ann Epting-Schillinger
is recovering from a broken shoulder. *Mary Schoenhoffen (one of our Sunday School teachers) ---
her sister died this week. *Peggy Sullivan's dad Tom continues to be in re-hab. *Elinor Lalick
is now at Lexington in Orland Park. *Karen Kruse is home from the hospital. *Bob Gename's dear
friend Dan Arp continues "to hang in there." *Jean Petrow from the Orland Park Cultural Center ... her
grandson Levi died recently. *Tom Kasper is now living at Franciscan Village.