

"For all the saints"
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH "Oasis of Joy" USA
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August 11, 2020

Hello, Friends and Family

It's been a long time since we've sent out a "hard copy" of what's happening in the "humble temple." The last 5 months have been a "life-changer" for all of us. As your pastor ... and as your staff ... we have tried hard to stay connected. I hope it's working. Your feedback and support are so important.

**Every day ... Monday through Saturday ... we live stream a "thought for the day." We do it at noon. It goes directly to our "Friends of All Saints" Facebook page and to YouTube. After it is done ... it is loaded onto the church's web-site: allsaintsjoy.com.

Our Sunday services at 8:30 and 10:00 are also live-streamed to Facebook and YouTube ... and then put up on our web-site.

June 28 we began having services in the church ---- 8:30 and 10:00 Sunday mornings, and 7:00 Thursday evening. Thursday is outdoors, weather permitting.

We ask that you rsvp if you are coming Sunday --- using the app on the web-site ... or you can call the church. It's important that we wear a face-covering when coming to worship.

Understandably ... most of you continue to worship with us through our on-line service. I'm so very thankful for the team putting our services together. Remember, too, the church is open every day.

You are welcome to come by just to say "hi" ... to come in and pray ... and to walk out back --- in the peace and beauty of our outdoor worship area and dedication walk.

Many of you have asked how our church is holding up financially.

We are doing ok. Our bills are paid ... the door is open. Many of you have been very consistent and generous.

Mailing your offerings in ... stopping by to drop them off ... going the "extra mile" as we try to reach out to those in need. Most important for each of you ----- is taking care of yourself and your family. I'm sure many of you are facing financial challenges. To keep on going and staying healthy as a church during this difficult time ... we're hoping more of you can help by doing what you can financially. If we increase our base of support ... we can take care of our obligations and stay healthy. Most of all -- family first ... and whatever you can share with our "humble temple" is greatly appreciated.

We have made a few decisions regarding our Sunday School and youth programs.

The opening of Sunday School is being delayed until at least October 25. The staff will meet again at the beginning of October to assess whether or not it's safe to open. So, please stay-tuned, and we will keep you informed. However, we would like you to register for Sunday School, confirmation, and youth group right away ----- so we can plan for our eventual opening.

Sunday School is for kids who turn 3 by September 1 through those in 5th grade. This year we are including the 6th graders in our confirmation and youth programs ---- I'm excited about this.

Like last year you can go to our web-site and register on-line. (We will also have hard-copies of the form at the church.)

Here are the links:

SUNDAY SCHOOL ----- <https://forms.gle/C34WEi1eHeFEP18S6>

CONFIRMATION ----- <https://forms.gle/h2QzaFeZGf1heQwK8>

YOUTH GROUP ----- <https://forms.gle/bCiABGj2HQoQCuVh8>

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A COUPLE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROJECTS

for the kids to work on while we are non "in session." September's theme is "Jesus the Rock." October----- "sewing seeds of kindness." We will have "the stuff" available here at church ... where you can pick it up. You can bring it back anytime, as we build our "rock garden" ... and I will work all this in with kids' sermons. More information to follow ... but we will stay CONNECTED, for sure!!

We have some "unfinished business" to take care of ... since many things had to be cancelled when the "shut-down" began in March.

Please ---- call if you have any questions.

****Our 3rd graders didn't get to receive their "first Communion."**

This will happen ----- hopefully this fall. We will see "where the wind blows" ... and make it nice and meaningful for you and your families. Will let you know soon.

****Our 8th graders need to be confirmed.** It was supposed to be during the "11:00 service" on September 20. We will push this 'til a bit later ... and the confirmation service will probably be a separate service for the students and their families. Hector and I have some ideas ... we will share them soon!!

We are working hard to keep our facility safe and clean.

****We will be replacing the original boilers that service the sanctuary, charter hall, and the nursery area.** Before this pandemic began ... we had already set aside \$25,000 to make this happen. It's important that we get this done prior to the winter season ... so, it will happen.

****Because Sandburg High School students will be going fully remote until at least September 21,** we will not have students parking here --- at least for a while. And if and when they do park here ... it won't be every day. Parking has always a helpful income source for us ---- about \$20,000 per year. Yes, we'll miss the income ... but we've always enjoyed meeting the students and their families.

****We have a lot to think about as we move forward ---- holidays, outreach, even the spaghetti dinner (which has always been a great fund-raiser).** For now ----- we are doing all we can to keep our community connected and vibrant. Thanks for all of you ----- for giving, sharing, caring, and praying!!

****We are here every day.** If you need to talk ... if you need some prayers ... don't hesitate to call. We undoubtedly need each other and the church now more than ever. You have the church phone number ... my cell phone is always on the answering machine.

Our church council and staff we are committed to keeping our "humble temple" as open and as safe as possible.

Love and Joy to all

Don

