

SAINTS

All Saints'

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ALIVE!

August 2026

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are compelled to demonstrate compassion to one another and to the world in which we live.

In This Edition:

- From the Pastor's Desk
- President's Letter
- Council Corner
- Call Committee update
- Homeless Care and Support
- Fun, Faith, and Fellowship
- Homeless Care and Support
- ♥ With a Grateful Heart
- This Quarter's Benevolence

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I remember years ago, my son Joshua, after school one day, telling me a story at the dinner table about a conversation he had with a classmate. Apparently, the person in the conversation knew I was a pastor and he asked my son, "So what does your Dad do all week since all he ever has to do is preach?" My son told me he started to laugh, basically at how naive the question was. Nonetheless, he did seek to elaborate on the office of the pastor, indicating everything from hospital visits, to staff meetings, to pastoral counseling, to teaching responsibilities, and so forth. Well, it would seem he made an impression with the additional responsibilities of the pastor, because his friend responded, "I had no idea."

Perhaps it is true that many do not know or even care what the pastor is doing beyond preaching, but the "as needed responsibilities" are vital to the office and to

the life of the congregation. In the traditional call language, in the Call paperwork that we sign in fact, it says we are called to "preach, teach, administer the sacraments and visit the sick." While the listing of the primary responsibilities are vital, they in no way encompass all the duties of the office. Indeed, I have often felt a conflict in the ministry between competing essential pastoral needs. The question of prioritization weighs heavily on the heart of the pastor.

As a congregation in the midst of a call process, I hope you will ponder the role of the pastor in your midst. I hope you will consider the immensity of the responsibility along with the recognition that pastors are human beings who will make mistakes. I also hope that as your permanent pastor arrives on the scene, whenever that is, you will continue to pray for her or him, not just as the call process unfolds, but day to day and week to week as the pastor seeks to remain faithful to the preaching of the Gospel , and yes of course much more.

-Pastor Vaswig

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Psalm 139:14

As most of you know, I have just returned from the 13th Triennial Gathering of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA), in Des Moines, Iowa. The above verse and logo were the theme for this year’s event. They remind us of God’s promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division. By repeating the phrase, “I am worthy,” we can recognize the Holy Spirit’s ongoing work in our lives. This practice of self-affirmation opens up opportunities for healing and restoration within ourselves, our church, society, and the world. So do it now! Look in a mirror and say “I am worthy.”

Just over 1,000 women from all over the country attended to hear speakers, pastors, and bishops. Our new church-wide bishop, Bishop Curry, was there. We worshipped, shared communion, participated in Bible study and small group sessions. We shopped in the exhibition hall, had the opportunity to quilt, bid on a silent auction, put together Lutheran World Relief Kits, some did a 5K walk/run, we ate lots of good food, did some sight-seeing in Des Moines, and had a blast.

The impact of this event is large. Some stats:

- Registered Participants: 1,078
- In Kind Offering in the form of Gift Cards: over \$16,000 to local food banks
- Gathering Offering: Over \$42,000, of which
 - 25% will go to Lutheran World Relief,

- 25% to Des Moines area food banks, and
- 50% to the Women of the ELCA where needed most.
- Silent Auction raised over \$7,000 for the Women of the ELCA where needed most.
- Vintage Store Proceeds: over \$7,000 to the Women of the ELCA where needed most.
- 5K walk/run: over \$8,000 for Raising up Healthy Women and Girls.

Now is the time to start thinking about attending the next one...in **Louisville, Kentucky** in July of 2029. Preregistration is open until September 1st at the really good rate of \$295. I'm registered, and I hope you will join me. YOU ARE WORTHY!

-Beth

COUNCIL CORNER

Our Outdoor Free Food Market nourishes our community and our volunteers with HOPE

Sunday, July 12th, our volunteers kicked off the fifth summer welcoming our neighbors with access to fresh produce, dairy, baked goods and pantry items all at no cost to them. How cool is that? We greeted over 60 people that day, and we will be ready to welcome them again, along with their friends and neighbors, on August 9th and September 13th thanks to our strong partnership with Praisealujah Food Distribution Center in SeaTac and our faithful, generous volunteers.

This ministry is designed to put a dent in food insecurity and just as importantly, to foster community connections. I cannot imagine how difficult it must be to seek out and accept free food, or free anything, for that matter. What goes through my mind whenever I see an opportunity for something free is "Someone else needs it more than I do," or "What's the catch?" No doubt, you have experienced a time in your life when you've felt that way, too. I suspect our volunteers offer HOPE to members of our community that we meet through this ministry, who also may be a bit skeptical. We seek to offer hope through our welcoming smiles, our eagerness to offer another bag or two to carry more home, our compassion, and our lack of judgement for whatever brings people to our parking lot that day. Our neighbors are feeding us, too; they are feeding our

hearts and our souls. I feel that so deeply. It's a warm, fuzzy feeling and, I urge you to experience it with us.

Our partnership with Pastor Kelly and Praisealujah is such a reward and a blessing. It was a "God thing" that brought us together, our last HOPE. A partnership that this year, our fifth year, finds them bringing our selections for the market TO US on Sunday morning. Thank you, Jesus.

Pastor Kelly wants to enhance his partnership with All Saints' and our feeding ministries so that we can reach even MORE of our neighbors with food. But that's a story for another newsletter in the very near future. Stay tuned.

Debbie Mc

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues to our work, and we look forward to interviewing candidates soon! We conducted a "Mock Interview" with a synod pastor so that we could test our questions and get a feel for the process. It was a great experience, and we updated a few questions as a result. Now, we are ready to go! The Associate Bishop is in the process of notifying interested candidates that we are ready to start interviews. Scheduling will be in August and September as we work around schedules.

Debi D.

FUN, FAITH, & FELLOWSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS



August Event: Rainiers Baseball Game in Tacoma

Where: Tacoma Cheney Stadium

When: **August 11** (Tuesday), game starts at noon

Cost: \$15.50, payable to Karen or Lael, by Sunday Aug 2, gets you a ticket, hot dog, snack and water!

Meet at ASLC 10:30 am to carpool to the stadium

Please sign up on Sign up Sheet in Narthex, so we know how many tickets to purchase!!!!

Questions? Contact Karen or Lael

Homeless Care and Support

We made sandwiches in the Narthex the month of July and although it is not as nice as Jean's home, it worked :-). Not only did it work, but Cheri and Margaret experienced their first attempt at making sandwiches for our Friday ministry and they did a FABULOUS job. In fact, Margaret had so much fun making sandwiches that she volunteered to help us the entire month of July. She brought a cookie scoop from home and uses it to put the correct amount of nut butter on the sandwich. We learned something new! So we had 3 volunteers making sandwiches; 2 volunteers to make the sandwiches and 1 volunteer to put them in bags and then into the boxes for transport. By having 3 volunteers, we were done in an hour instead of 2 hours. Welcome to the sandwich making team, Margaret and Cheri.



Be sure to check out our website at aslcauburn.com, or scan this QR code. Thank you, Val, for getting it up and running.



WITH A GRATEFUL HEART



- ♥ **Dick G.**—for planting and faithfully watering the containers on the patio in front of church. They add much happiness!
 - ♥ **The Kling Family** – for always having a Thrivent card ready when the sandwich ministry needs something.
 - ♥ **Val B.** – for covering for Ann while she was on vacation.
 - ♥ **Carol F.** – for filling in on the piano the first couple Sundays after Casie's departure.
 - ♥ **Bill Z.** – for filling in for Mark Lindell getting the sound system up each Sunday and recharging the cameras while he was on vacation.
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THIS QUARTER'S BENEVOLENCE



Our 3rd quarter (July -Sep) Community Connections Benevolence is **Bread for the World**. From their website:

Help Bread for the World fight to continue funding full SNAP benefits and keep families fed.

Bread for the World is working with lawmakers to make sure the 42 million Americans who rely on food assistance every month are always a priority! But we can't do it without your support.

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization dedicated to ending hunger. Our CEO, Rev. Eugene Cho, leads Bread's mission of combining faith and advocacy to urge our elected leaders to advance policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and across the world.

You can donate on Sunday morning (just make a note on your envelope that you are giving specifically to this), or you can make a donation using Tithe.ly on ASLCauburn.com. Find the link under the "Donate" tab.

ALL SAINTS' OUTDOOR MARKET 2026

ALL FOOD IS FREE, ALL ARE WELCOMED



FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES & MORE

SUNDAYS

**11:30AM
(UNTIL
FOOD IS
GONE)**

- **JULY 12TH**
- **AUG. 9TH**
- **SEPT. 13TH**

**BRING
YOUR
OWN
BAGS!**

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