

Good News

FROM THE PASTORS

When will we reopen? That's the question that everyone is asking. It's understandable; we haven't worshipped in person since March 15th and we are all eager to start getting back to normal. Council began discussing this at our April meeting and will continue discussing it via email between now and our May meeting. If we do open in the next month or so, it will have to be with social distancing measures in place. That means wearing masks and not sitting closer than six feet away from someone not in your household. That dramatically limits how many people we can fit into the sanctuary, and also creates challenges for getting people safely in and out. It is likely that we would not be able to have Holy Communion. Things would be very different than we are used to.

It would still be risky. Governmental guidelines would still suggest that people over 65 or with compromised immune systems stay home. We are not sure how much longer the social distancing will be necessary, so it is hard to determine whether we should move ahead with reopening given the new restrictions or wait until the restrictions are lifted.

Please know that your Council members are paying close attention to news briefings from local, state, and national governments, and to guidelines put out by our synod bishop. We don't want to reopen before it is safe to do so and potentially be responsible for members' sickness and death. On the other hand, whenever we reopen there is likely to be some risk of spreading the virus.

As the Council discerns the next steps, the biggest question for them and us all will be: are you willing to live with the social distancing rules so we can reopen sooner, or would you rather wait until we can all gather together as we used to? If you have strong feelings one way or the other, please feel free to call either of us or any of your Council members.

There are no easy answers. We want to thank everyone for your faithfulness during this difficult time. We are so grateful you are finding meaning in our worship videos and are continuing your financial support. Please know that we will communicate with you in a variety of ways as soon as Council makes a final decision. Please pray for God's guidance for all of us!

Pastors Steve & Wendi

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Sunday Worship **9:30 AM**

Our congregation celebrates communion at each service.

Cancelled through
May 15 due to the
Covid 19 virus.

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COUNCIL NEWS

The Congregational Council met on April 20, 2020 Via Teleconference.

Motion was passed to have all activities at BSLC cancelled until May 15, 2020. There was some discussion and Council will meet again to discuss this before May 15th in the event anything changes. This may be continued depending on what the Governor's Office decides on the reopening of businesses and Churches.

HVAC: Chuck Jacobson reported on the progress of the project. All interior units are in, waiting on the roofing company to complete the roof before the outside units can be installed. Roof should start about 5/4/2020 and take about a week.

CARES Act: Biff Flatt has investigated the Paycheck protection program and has been told we qualify. A motion was made and passed to apply for a paycheck protection loan. D'Ann Berry will get the application complete and to the banker so that it can be sent in as soon as possible.

Other Reports: Ingrid reported that the lumber for the Pergola has been ordered and that construction will start on 4/25/2020. Richard, Wally & Ingrid will work only on weekends. Biff stated that \$2,715.00 was raised and would need approx. \$300.00 more that will come from the endowment fund.

Pastors' Council Report, April 2020

We and Marsha have been recording the worship services. We give thanks for Sergio for the beautiful trumpet playing for the Palm Sunday and Easter Day services. We have been publishing the services via email, our Facebook Page, a new member only Facebook Group, snail mail to those who don't do any of the above (thanks to Cheryl for doing this), and our website (thanks to Spencer for doing this). We have heard from many that this ministry is meaningful and sustains them during this difficult time. We believe that our members and others are being fed by God's word through this.

We have heard from the synod that the Synod Assembly has been postponed until the Fall. A new date is still being worked out.

We are in regular contact with Bishop Gronberg. The bishop continues to be supportive of the suspension of worship and activities at BSLC and all of the synod's congregations. The bishop is firmly convinced that this is the difficult but necessary, and also faithful road to take. God continues to be with his people and the world in the midst of this all.

Cheryl continues to person the church office weekday mornings. We are in regular contact with her to see how she is doing and for the church's ongoing work. A big "thank you" to Cheryl for the work she does and mostly by herself in this time of social distancing.

**Office Hours - Monday thru Thursday, 9:00AM-12:00PM, 1:00-3:00PM (closed during the noon hour)
Friday, 9:00AM- 12:00 PM**

Staff: Steve Brauner, Wendi Gordon, Pastors; Cheryl Hall, Office Manager;
Marsha Moller, Music Director;

Church Council: Biff Flatt, President; Chuck Jacobson, VP; Kendra Massey, Education/Youth;
Ingrid Owen, Fellowship, Rita De Mar Evangelism; Lorryane Vogel, Social Concerns; D'Ann Berry,
Treasurer; Keith Rosenthal, Property; Linda Allen, Worship; Laurie Dale, Secretary

Treasurer's Report March of Fiscal Year 2020

	March Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget
Income			
OFFERINGS			
GENEAL FUND ENVELOPE	20,485.50	56,312.25	62,625.00
GENERAL FUND LOOSE	196.00	450.00	437.49
	20,681.50	56,762.25	63,062.49
OTHER RECEIPTS			
BUILDING USE	317.50	532.50	312.51
MISCELLANEOUS	10.00	60.00	75.00
	327.50	592.50	387.51
Total Income	21,009.00	57,354.75	63,450.00
Expense			
Total Expense	20,904.15	63,862.09	61,370.80
Income Less Expense	104.85	-6,507.34	2,079.20

BSLC Treasurer's Summary April 7, 2020

For the month of March our income was \$21,009.00 on a budget of \$21,150.00. Income was \$141.00 less than budget for the month. Our expenses were \$20,904.15 on a budget of \$19,394.10 which was \$1510.05 over budgeted expenses. The income for March was \$104.85 more than expenses, so even with the higher expenses our income more than covered those additional costs. God and our Congregational members continue to be faithful and Good to our Church. We are very blessed!!! Overall expenses were really well controlled by everyone and your diligence is very much recognized—Thank you all!!!

I appreciate every one of you for your efforts for continuing to work on managing costs closely to be good stewards of our resources. This will be ever more important as we continue the roof repairs and replace the HVAC systems project and with the current COVID 19 crisis. Let us all pray for God to help us all stay safe and healthy and guide us and to be grateful and wise with the resources given or yet to be received to complete this project.

I am always open for questions or clarification if needed.

Let us all continue this success in keeping our church financially healthy!

D'Ann Berry



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

April 21, 2020

Dear BSLC Members,

We have now been Sheltered-in-Place for more than a month and it continues to be difficult not to be able to see each other. This is taxing on all of us. There are however, some great things to share with you all. I know you all are aware of the HVAC/Roofing repair project that is currently in progress. The first half of the payment for the HVAC units has been paid. The HVAC units have been placed and only need the condensing units to be placed on the roof after the roofing repairs are completed. The roofing work has been started, but it has been delayed due to some staffing issues because of the Coronavirus pandemic. The roofing company now anticipates they will have the project finished by mid-May. Due to this delay, we now have some additional time to pay the roofing repair costs and this will help our continued efforts to raise money.

To update you all on our current financial status for the HVAC/Roofing repair project, we projected the cost to be possibly up to \$70,000 depending on city coding updates required. The HVAC unit cost is approximately \$40,125 and the roofing repairs are expected to be \$15,700. Coding updates make up the rest of the projection \$14,175. According to an update from the Property report tonight at our Council meeting, the coding update costs will be less than projected by possibly about \$10,000. That is great news! In addition to this great news, you all that have donated to the project and so far have helped us raise approximately \$17,000- that is impressive and such a testament to our generous Members! I, along with Biff, Keith, Chuck, Pr. Steve and Pr. Wendi and all Council Members share our heartfelt THANK YOU to you!!! This Congregation truly steps up to make things happen when there is a need.

An assessment of our current funds in our Money Market account which offsets our Dedicated Accounts has been done and we have identified there are funds available that can be used to help with the costs as well. These funds will not cover all of the remaining costs, but we will be able to use some of these monies to help fund the project. And now that we have some extra time to get the final bill paid for the project, Council is confident that with the funds and continued contributions for the project, there will not be a need to borrow money or use the Endowment funds (that were approved at our Congregational meeting on March 15th) for this project. Wouldn't that be incredible and a big Blessing? Especially in such trying times we are currently experiencing.

I can just visualize us all together again and to be able to celebrate our successes with this project and in general with our Church through all our efforts to stay together as one body in Christ, even in such challenging times. I look forward to this day!!!

God's Blessings to you all,

D'Ann Berry, Council Treasurer

Luther's Small Catechism Review May 2020

We finish up this month with Luther's teachings on the Ten Commandments with commandments seven through ten.

The Seventh Commandment is *You are not to steal*. Luther writes: *We are to fear and love God, so that we neither take our neighbors' money or property nor acquire them by using shoddy merchandise or crooked deals, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.*



The Eighth Commandment is *You are not to bear false witness against your neighbor*.

Luther writes: *We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.*

The Ninth Commandment is *You are not to covet your neighbor's house*.

Luther writes: *We are to fear and love God, so that we do not try to trick our neighbors out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming to have a legal right to it and the like, but instead be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.*

The Tenth Commandment is *You are not to covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, cattle, or whatever is his*.

Luther writes: *We are to fear and love God, so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbors their spouses, household workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and fulfill their responsibilities to our neighbors.*

Luther sums up the commandments with the question *What then does God say about all these commandments? Answer: God says the following: "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God. Against those who hate me I visit the sin of the fathers on the children up to the third and fourth generation. But I do good to those who love me and keep my commandments to the thousandth generation."* What is this? Answer: *God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore we are to fear his wrath and not disobey these commandments. However, God promises grace and every good thing to all those who keep these commandments. Therefore we also are to love and trust him and gladly act according to his commands. – From the Robert Kolb, Timothy J. Wengert, and Charles P. Arand translation of The Book of Concord.*

All of these commandments are related to stealing in one form or another – stealing things, stealing a reputation, and stealing by desiring things, spouses, etc. And, not only are we to not steal nor desire to steal, but we are to help and support our neighbor to keep all of these. We are called to love one another since God is Love. Think about what a better world we would live in if we all did this. This is part of our proclamation of God's love in Jesus Christ.

On Friday, April 24, this great group met at the church to start building our new pergola. Thanks to David Cole, Wally & Karen Herpich and Richard & Ingrid Owen for the impressive work. Looks to be going up fast. You are appreciated!





*Congratulations!
High School Graduates*

2020

Ashely Jennkins
Alex Sanchez
Noah Sanchez
Dainay Hawkins

05/01	Kyndra Worley Chancie Coberley
05/04	Genevieve Miller
05/09	Lorrayne Vogel
05/13	Nancy Beatty
05/25	Kelsey Worley Karen Herpich
05/29	Eldon Kirkeeng
05/30	Andrew Berg

Together We Pray

If you would like one of the pastors to visit or call you or to put your prayer request into the church's prayers in the weekly bulletin or on the prayer chain, call the church office at 359-9483.

To join the prayer chain by email, contact the church office.



Member, Christine Edler, passed away April 6.

Dorothy Mundt passed away on April 21.

Please keep both families in your prayers.

Others are in need of our continued prayers. For a complete list of those we are actively praying for see your Sunday bulletins and/or email or weekly mail.



**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
3500 Bowie
Amarillo, Texas 79109
April 2020

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Trust in the LORD
with all your heart,
and do not lean
on your own
understanding.

Proverbs 3:5



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