



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

of Stanwood, Washington

27201 – 99th Avenue N.W / P. O. Box 370
Stanwood, WA 98292
360-629-3767 / www.oursaviourschurch.org

June 24, 2020 – Congregational Letter #10 regarding COVID-19

Dear Friends and Members of Our Saviour's;

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ **teaching** and to the **fellowship**, to **breaking of bread** and to **prayer.**” Acts 2:42

Last Sunday was a great day! We had our largest turnout for Drive-In Worship as we celebrated our graduates and Father's Day. Steve Stogner brought a powerful message of encouragement and hope as he shared his testimony of faith with all of us. Thank you, Steve!

Drive-In Worship and Online Services will continue throughout the summer. Rather than rushing back in doors of our sanctuary for worship services, we are going to continue to take baby steps in adding elements to what we are already doing.

Two weeks ago, Children's Church and the Vine took the step to begin meeting in the church building. The children are meeting in the newly remodeled fireside room. When parents bring their kids to the door – their temperature is checked, hands are sanitized, masks are worn and social distancing is observed. These protocols are followed for the older youth as well – but the Vine location will vary depending on the weather. They might meet upstairs, outside or in the new fellowship hall depending on weather and the number of kids attending. Alex will direct the kids on Sunday morning.

Adults, if you want to bring a lawn chair and sit in front of your car, that will be fine as long as you social distance from one another and wear a mask. You can also bring your lawn chair and/or picnic blanket to the grassy area north of the Youth House. If you gather on the grass, you need to social distance. You are welcome to bring food, coffee and snacks – but we ask that you not share with others.

Fellowship Time after Worship. This Sunday, June 28th, we want to begin to provide a short time of fellowship on the grass for anyone who wants to stay after the worship service. We will provide Hope Coffee in individual cups, safely served by one individual masked and gloved and set out on a table for anyone who would like it. You can also bring your own drink if you would like.

If you stay for the Fellowship time:

1. Please stay in your car until all the other cars that are not staying have left the parking lot.
2. Wear a mask, while not drinking
3. Observe social distancing
4. Coffee will be served in individual cups and set out on a table for you. Cream and sugar will be set out in individual serving containers- please discard any used containers immediately in trash cans.

I am so grateful how our church has responded so positively to our Drive-In Worship. Last Sunday, over 160 people were in attendance. Perhaps by the end of summer, we might hit 200 – remember to invite a

friend. We understand that many of our people will not want to stay for the fellowship time and just drive home after worship. That is totally understandable. Our highest priority is that everyone feels safe. But some people have asked about the opportunity to visit for a few moments with fellow members. We believe that we can provide a safe place for a short time of fellowship. Our intent is to provide many options and opportunities from which you personally can decide how you want to worship and participate. Again, our number one priority is your safety. Please do not participate in anything that makes you nervous or concerned.

As we move further into the summer months, heat could also be an issue. We do not know how hot you will get sitting in your car. We are planning to set out a few chairs in the new fellowship hall – six feet apart – so that some of you have an option to get out of the sun. If you come to the building, your temperature will be checked, and you will need to wear a mask. This option is to be seen only as an overflow option. Please let us know if and when you are noticing that heat is becoming an issue. We could look into setting up additional canopies if needed. Perhaps running you're A/C is an option too, but we are not sure how it will be if many people are running their engines. All these strategies are a work in progress. Much of this is by trial and error. We hope that you will give us the benefit of the doubt – that our top priority is your safety, while also trying to provide a worshipful experience and add to that a touch of community connection. We welcome your feedback.

Also, I'd like to give a shout out to all those who participated in the **Floral Project for Josephine**. Last Saturday, June 20th, many of our members arranged over 160 individual bouquets of flowers as gifts to every resident, nursing station and even several public places at Josephine. What a generous gift of love, faith and compassion during this challenging time. Thank you for being instruments of Christ's love for so many people that can so easily be forgotten – especially during this time of isolation.

Thank you to all of you for the love, service, giving, praying and support of one another that is taking place during this pandemic. God continues to hold us in his hands and will continue to lead us through to a brighter day. In the meantime, let us stand resolved to trust in God's faithfulness and the Holy Spirit's ability to lead us.

God Bless You All!

Looking forward to seeing you in the parking lot! Don't forget to invite a friend – go public - the more the merrier. Amen (honk, honk!)

Pastor Mark

A note of thanks from the family of Lou Jonson:

We extend our heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of support, cards, meals, flowers gifted to our family during the recent illness and loss of our husband, father, and grandfather Lou (Luther) Jonson. He was overwhelmed with gratitude for the blessings in his life as are we.

Dee

Doug and Amy, Lucy, Tobey, and Andrew

Nick and Alyssa, Gabe and Cara

Please pray the following members and friends of Our Saviour's:

Dee Jonson and family; Bill Williams; June and Carroll Gilbertson (June is sister-in-law of Annette Bowden); Lois Samson (mother of Peggy Land and Kathy Slack); Mike Olson; Marybeth Sande; Elsie Wietzke; Tina Wallin; Cindy and Ron TD; Dale and Barbara Tetlow; Ingeburg Paul and her son, Hugo Paul; Robin Erickson; Shary Richards; Beverley Klatt; Dave Matthewson; Marylee and Leon Sams; Gary Aldinger; Ryker (grandnephew of Judy and Paul Anderson); Koreen Guillermo (niece of Jon and Jane King)

Prayers for both parents of a local family, with young children at home, who cannot work due to having COVID-19.

Financials:

OSLC 2020 Budget \$501,377.00

June 14, 2020 Offering Report

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Weekly offering	\$ 6,730.00	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$ 17,865.00	\$ 19,284.00
Year to date	\$208,791.35	\$231,408.00

Fellowship Remodel Deficit	\$2,958.35
Building/Remodel pledge offerings	<u>\$1,935.00</u>
Loan Balance	\$1,023.35

June 21, 2020 Offering Report

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Weekly offering	\$ 8,063.65	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$ 25,928.65	\$ 28,926.00
Year to date	\$216,855.00	\$241,050.00

Fellowship Remodel Deficit	\$1,023.35
Building/Pledge Offerings	<u>\$2,935.00</u>
Building Fund	\$1,911.65