



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

of Stanwood, Washington

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July 29, 2020 – Congregational Letter #13 regarding COVID-19

Dear Friends and Members of Our Saviour's;

*"Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord, All Ye Lands. Worship the LORD with Gladness.
Come into His Presence with Singing." Psalm 100:1-2*

Michelle Brekhus, daughter of our former Pastor Don Brekhus, will be with us at Drive-In Worship this week, sharing about her ministry in Africa – so we'll want to make some noise welcoming her home.

We celebrate with Jennifer and Brian Larson (Leon and Marylee Sams – grandparents) on the birth of their healthy new baby girl, Julia Katherine.

It's going to be warm again this Sunday. If you want to bring a chair or blanket and sit on the grass – please feel free – wearing a mask and social distancing. Jerry Crofoot sent me a text last week (he said I could pass on his comments). He said, "For the last few weeks I've sat on the grass for the Sunday service and it's way better than sitting in a car. The sound is great (thanks, Nate) and you have your choice of sitting in sun or shade. In the car I struggle with staying focused, but on the lawn you're right there, almost as good as being in the sanctuary. Not sure why more people are not doing it." I have had others say how much they enjoy being in their car – feeling safe and comfortable. Let us know if there are other things we can do to enhance our worship together. Thank you for your continued presence and support.

As we continue in this era of COVID-19 – we are trying to limit activity around the church. If you come, there will only be one door open, you will need to sign in, sanitize, wear a mask and have your temperature checked. If you have a temperature of 100 or higher, you will be asked to leave. Linda will meet you behind a plexiglass barrier at the door. Thank you for your help in keeping our staff safe.

18 people asked me to order the Ravi Zacharias book, The Logic of God. When it arrives, we will contact you as to how best to get it into your hands. If you still need to write a check – just put "Ravi Book" in the memo - \$15. Thanks.

Sunday, August 9th – (after Worship) Community Service Project at the Stanwood Post Office. This past week, Sandy Schreiner ran into the new post office supervisor's family as they were

weeding some flowerbeds around the post office. Sandy was told that there is no money in the budget to hire landscapers. We thought it might be helpful to mask up and weed the beds for an hour or two, as a simple way to share God's love. If anyone is interested to help, contact Sandy, myself or the church office.

Alex shares the following message about what's happening with the youth:

OSLC is currently in its 6th week of resumed youth programs and our students have loved every minute of it! The first Friday night Vine gathering boasted 16 students in attendance! Our first Wednesday night Kid's Night gathering saw 10 students! It is encouraging to watch the Lord draw youth to Himself once again.

To make up for some lost one-on-one time during quarantine, Katherine and I have been hosting a weekly game night in our home. Although we limit the number of students attending, it has been a fantastic time of fun and laughter. Each week we mix-and-match students so all can attend at some point.

The upstairs elementary room has seen the start of a remodel! New paint, trim, doors, furniture, and decorations are all underway. This would not be possible without the help of Mellisa Williams, Paul Eide, and Jerry Crofoot. They have all graciously given their time and skills throughout this process. When OSLC opens at normal capacity, the room will be an inviting space for current and new families alike.

Speaking of our elementary program, we have decided to change the name of Kid's Night. Moving forward, it will now be called Branches! This change was made for the sake of youth mission clarity and identity. The Vine is based on John 15:5 where Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches." I doubt I could find a better name for our elementary program that so perfectly aligns with our mission as a student body. How fitting it will be when I explain to our elementary students how followers of Christ are grafted with Him like branches to a vine!

We have an exciting night planned for the high school girls at Elsa and Nate Schwartz's home! Activities on Camano Island will allow us to gather with up to 10 students. Bringing our Vine ladies together will be an awesome time of connection and fellowship.

For the last 6 weeks, The Vine has been watching and discussing The Chosen. This series wonderfully portrays Jesus' disciples in all their humanity. Each night as we dive into the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we recap the previous episode. Our topics of study have ranged from the encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus to the Jewish perception of the Messiah in the 1st century.

Thank you for all your support during this unique season of life. Our students are grateful for OSLC's willingness to open its doors once again!



Blessings, Alex

As we continue to move through these uncertain times, let us move forward together in the promise of Psalm 46:

“God is our refuge and strength, an **EVER-PRESENT** help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging...**Be still, and know that I AM GOD:** I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. **The LORD ALMIGHTY IS WITH US;** the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

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

Ingeburg Paul in the loss of her son, Hugo Paul; the family of June Gilbertson (sister-in-law of Annette Bowden); Lois Samson (mother of Peggy Land and Kathy Slack); Les Stahley; Michele Kunzman; Margaret Berk; Mike Olson; Gary Rygg; Bill Williams; Shannah and Dave Rodenberger; Elsie Wietzke; Tina Wallin; Cindy and Ron TD; Robin Erickson; 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); Jim Dahlman (neighbor of Gard's and Pastor Mark); Analeece Jamison; Stephanie (no last name); both parents of a local family, with young children at home, who cannot work due to having COVID-19.

Shary Richards – Prayers of Thanksgiving for completed breast cancer treatments, now on maintenance

*We have included an updated offering report please see next page.

OSLC Budget 2020 □ \$501,377.00

July 20, 2020 Offering Report

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Weekly Offering	\$ 23,748.90	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$ 45,476.90	\$ 28,926.00
Year to date	\$267,135.31	\$279,618.00

Building Fund Balance 7/13/20	\$6,859.99
Building/Pledge offerings	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Building Fund Balance 7/20/20	\$7,859.99

July 27, 2020 Offering Report

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Weekly Offering	\$ 5,615.00	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$ 51,091.90	\$ 38,568.00
Year to date	\$272,750.31	\$289,260.00

Building Fund Balance 7/20/20	\$ 7,859.99
Building/Pledge Offerings	<u>\$ 3,225.00</u>
Building Fund Balance 7/27/20	\$11,084.99