

September 16, 2020 – Congregational Letter #15 regarding COVID-19

Dear Friends and Members of Our Saviour's;

We are beginning a new season. Summer is behind us and fall is just about to begin. Smoke is clouding our vision and choking our lungs but time continues to march on. Thank you for your perseverance and resilience during this time. Thank you for your encouragement and support. We have tried to maintain consistency through our Drive-In Worship and recorded services online. We have tried to stay connected through regular devotionals and most recently, written by a handful of our members. We have tried to keep you informed through regular communication and letters sent by email and snail mail. Calls, emails and prayers by our Care Team have been instrumental in keeping us connected. This summer we also took intentional steps to open up opportunities for our youth to meet together in the building as well as children's ministry on Sunday morning. All the activities have been well received and with safety measures followed, we have not received any news of any illness up to this point.

As fall begins and schools, businesses and communities are trying to find reasonable and safe ways to further open – we too are looking into ways to safely open up our ministry.

Some churches are beginning indoor worship services this week. As our Drive-In Worship has been so well received, we are planning to continue outdoor services for another month or so. I think we will be able to continue through October, but Council has appointed a team to determine all the details involved in moving worship inside and also Live Streaming our service - and point to a start date. We will give you more information in the coming weeks. As long as we are doing Drive-In Worship, I will be leading and preaching outside, on the platform. If I can survive driving rain and wind storms in the wilderness, certainly I can handle some smoke and drizzle on Sunday mornings. But for the worship team and special music = voices, instruments and electronics is another deal – that decision will be made on a week by week basis.

The Council agreed at the August, 2020 Council Meeting to give the green light for our Preschool to open up. Teachers, parents and students have been eager and excited for the opportunity to begin. We are in our first week, and our Preschool Director, Jaimi McCall, and her teaching staff have been working diligently to make our school safe for all the students and all involved. Regular cleaning and sanitizing measures will be followed throughout the day. Temperature checks, plexiglass dividers on tables, and mask wearing in the halls will be observed. Classes will remain isolated from one

another and extra activities will be limited during this time. We have also ordered an atomized sprayer that will be used to help sanitize the entire church.

As we begin this new step, our office secretary will primarily be working from home. Linda will be checking voice mail regularly each day and will be immediately available by church email at oslcstanwood@frontier.com. As we begin this new phase, during the week, the church facility will be limited to youth and children activities and our Preschool. If you need access to our facility- please call me (425-293-1974) – so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

We are trying to be strategic, intentional and thoughtful as we begin opening up our ministry and facility.

Alex is excited to begin teaching Confirmation again this year. Confirmation is scheduled to be held on Mondays from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the new remodeled meeting room. First day of class will be Monday, October 5th. He will continue to follow the procedures for all youth activities to keep kids safe. They will be following a confirmation curriculum that will give the students a thorough overview of the Bible in 30 lessons. The class is for 7th and 8th graders. They do not need to be members of our church – all are welcome and they are free to invite friends. Contact Alex at oslcstudents@frontier.com.

As time moves on, if all continues to go well, we might consider opening up the fellowship hall for one-hour small group studies or gatherings – with masks, sanitizing and distancing following the example of our Church Council meetings. But we are taking one step at a time.

Please pray for each of these steps - that we keep people safe, are able to find ways to carry out ministry, and meet the ongoing needs of our congregation and community.

Thank you to all who participated in the Food/Money donation to our local Food Bank. We had a wonderful response and will surely help many in our community.

I hope you enjoyed the devotions that were written by our members over these past few weeks. I am planning to resume writing a devotion at least once a week – but if you feel led to be part of an ongoing group in our church, that would write devotions to our members, based in scripture to bring hope and encouragement – please reach out to me. This could be a wonderful ministry. And as I mentioned in an earlier letter – I am also hoping to assemble an Advent Devotional from our members this year.

Please continue to pray for our community and nation as we battle our way through so many challenges. Illness, fires, hurricanes, flooding, protests, political unrest, unemployment – just to name a few. But let us remember that we have a God who is mighty and strong and will lead us through every single challenge.

God Bless You All,
Pastor Mark

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

The family and friends of Maury Edlund; the family and friends of Jim Dahlman (neighbor of Gard's and Pastor Mark); Carolyn Belfield; Mick Hanson; Robert MacNeal; Samson, age 6 (grandson of Grant and Phyllis Gard); Leif and Pam Larson (friends of Gards and Marvel Graham); Ramona Brodland (sister of Del Fox); Lynn Baskin (friend of Barbara Whitaker); Judy Anderson; Amy Thompson; Marlene Schuster; Dean (son of Lorri DeFelice); Bill Williams; Howard Wangness; Jessica Sande; Bruce Richert; Les Stahley; Michele Kunzman; Margaret Berk; Gary Rygg; Mardi Jorgensen; Elsie Wietzke; Tina Wallin; Cindy and Ron TD; Robin Erickson; Shary Richards; Beverley Klatt; Dave Matthewson; Marylee and Leon Sams; Gary Aldinger; Nastassia (daughter of Joyce Zeigen); Lois Samson (mother of Peggy Land and Kathy Slack); Ryker (grandnephew of Judy and Paul Anderson); Stephanie (no last name)

Prayers also for:

Our school district: schools, preschools, and daycares; administrators, teachers, support staff, students and parents.

All those suffering from the effects of COVID-19, Fires, Hurricanes, and Flooding.

All those suffering physical, emotional, and spiritual anguish due to ongoing isolation and overall pandemic stress.

For our national and community leaders: President, Congress, WA governor, Stanwood mayor and others in leadership.

OSLC Budget 2020 \$501,377.00

August 31, 2020 Offering Report

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 5,332.35	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$ 35,392.10	\$ 48,210.00
Year to date	\$311,323.88	\$337,470.00

Building Fund Balance 8/24/2020	\$15,306.02
Building/Pledge offerings	\$ 750.00
August Memorial interest	\$ 28.41
Payment Fellowship Hall Blinds	<u>\$(4,946.31)</u>
Building Fund Balance 8/31/2020	\$11,138.12

September 7, 2020 Offering Report

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 7,576.00	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$ 7,576.00	\$ 9,642.00
Year to date	\$319,499.88	\$347,112.00

Building Fund Balance 8/31/2020	\$11,138.12
Offerings/Pledges Received	<u>\$ 1,064.43</u>
Building fund Balance 9/7/2020	\$12,202.55

September 14, 2020 Offering Report

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$ 14,576.00	\$ 19,284.00
Year to date	\$326,499.88	\$356,754.00

Building Fund Balance 9/7/2020	\$12,202.55
Offerings/Pledges Received	<u>\$ 2,570.00</u>
Building Fund Balance 9/14/2020	\$14,772.55