



# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

## SEPTEMBER 2020

Greetings to God's fellow workers in this corner of the kingdom,

Recently there has been a lot of conversation about the year 2020 being one to forget. In fact I heard yesterday that 2020 can be used as a disparaging remark in your conversations. You can use it to say something bad about someone or something without incurring the wrath of more genteel ears. I suppose that a year filled with Covid-19, derecho, riots and other mayhem would be one to forget. But, before you that remember years like 1929 and following with the great depression or 1941 and following with Pearl Harbor and WWII or the following September 11<sup>th</sup>. Focusing in on only the bad will give you a vision which includes only the bad.

Your Lord invites you to re-focus your vision and your life and to then look beyond the pain and darkness of this year. God invites you to look upon the world around from His eyes, seeing what He sees. This is an appropriate time to do just that, look at the world through the eyes of the divine and describe what is seen. This might be what you

see as you look out into this world.

There is number of people who need to experience the love of God lived into their lives. They need you in word and deed to wrap them with God's love which He has first given to you. You will see people sitting alone in life who need the breath of life breathed into them. There are those who need your voice speaking into their lives with the word of forgiveness and grace. You have been called to speak words from God which you first heard in the waters of baptism and then at the table of forgiveness; that is Holy Communion. If you look you will see people sitting in great darkness who need the light of God to shine upon them. Remember the words of our Baptismal Rite; "Let your light so shine -before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (ELW page 231)

It is true, 2020 may go down as one of the most unlivable years in recent history. Nature has tossed almost everything at us, except maybe the proverbial "kitchen sink" and yet we are standing. We are a people who have been changed as our response to Covid-19 has been to

step away from our relationships, put on masks which often times hides the pain of loneliness and have learned to 'keep our social distance' from one another. This has led to some distancing themselves from the house of the Lord in worship and fellowship. Others have re-focused their visions and lives finding new ways to LIVE in the midst of, dare I say it; 2020?

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So here is my formula for re-focusing upon the Lord our God. Turn with me to the worship book of ancient Israel, the Book of Psalms. There you will find any number of words to help you not survive these days, but words given to help you thrive in these days. When you feel crushed under the weight of this world and you sense yourself beginning to look down remember these words from Psalm 121:1-2; "I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." After letting those words settle into your being for a while read the rest of that Psalm and grasp hold of the promised assurances God makes to you.

If you are unable to find relief from the struggles of today remember that 2020 will end and with it the troubles of this year. If that doesn't cheer you up believe the final promise Jesus left His disciples and you with; "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) "Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 6:24).  
Pastor Mike

## Rethinking Contentment

I have been wrestling with the concept of what contentment means for me as a Christian in light of recent events in my own life when I ran across an article by Michelle Van Loon on Bible Gateway that addresses that very issue. The following is inspired in part by that article.

I must admit that I definitely desire contentment. I would really love to settle back in my recliner, secure in the knowledge that I have everything I could ever need. But I live in a consumer-driven culture that tells me there's always one more thing to want, and hungry, restless and relentless voices that whisper to me that contentment is something I can master...or, at the very least, something I might eventually purchase.

Even from the Church I hear the word "contentment" used as sort of a mark of sacrifice in responding to consumer wish lists: "I really wanted a new bigger screen TV, but God is helping me learn to be content with the smaller one I have instead." We drain contentment of its meaning when we treat it as though it is a consolation prize or a place-holder for the thing we really want. Contentment is not about settling for a less-fancy version of something we've seen advertised on basic

cable.

I Timothy 6:6 tells us, "Godliness with contentment is great gain." I suspect Paul, who wrote these words to his young protégé □ Timothy, would be very confused by the way in which we Christians often use the word "contentment" today. The Greek word for contentment in this verse is – I think – *autarkeia*, and it means that a person is resting in a place of safety and security in their lives. The context for this verse is a discussion of the greed of false teachers and the lure of our own selfish desires. Godly contentment says "enough" instead of spouting Christianized versions of "I want more", when the only "more" we should desire is more communion with God.

I certainly don't have contentment all figured out. I used to think of contentment as a description of a super calm emotional state, something like the turkey-fueled feeling that follows Thanksgiving dinner. I have slowly learned that contentment has little to do with my emotions, but instead with choices. When Paul was commending his friends in Philippi for their concern for him, he assured them he was more than fine no matter what his circumstances were: "...I have learned

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to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:11-13)

The last sentence in this passage is often applied to overcoming the challenges we may face in our lives, but Paul’s words in context are specific to cultivating faithful contentment in every circumstance. Making the choice to rest in the security of a trusting relationship with God is changing my previous understanding of what true contentment would look like. Temporary comforts such as a full stomach and a safe place in which to watch my big screen TV are not His goals for my life. They are not the final destination for my faith. He is.

There was no fame or fortune offered to Peter when Jesus told him He’d make him a fisher of men. There was no promise of earthly success, peace or security when God spoke to Abram and told him to leave the comfort of home and family. Both men’s lives—and the lives of most others highlighted in the Bible—became far less comfortable and more uncertain after God called them.

So, what is the bottom line here. Just follow Jesus, no matter what. Contentment in all circumstances doesn’t mean accepting everything, good or bad, hard or easy, harsh or peaceful, with a plastic smile pasted on my face. It means not trying to figure out why these things are happening to me, but instead asking myself, “Can I trust Him even when I don’t understand why these things are happening? Will I follow Him even though it hurts? And do I have eyes to see His perfect care and abundant provision for me through it all?”

True Biblical contentment can and does transform each one of us into pilgrims, committed to following Jesus, no matter where we live, what challenges we face, or what size our TV screens may be.

#### Quotes of the month:

“Grief never goes away. It just changes. At first, it’s like molten-hot lave dripping from your heart and hollowing you from the inside. Over time it settles into your bones, your skin, so that you live with it every day. It isn’t the foot prints in the snow. It’s the empty spaces between. From “The Wolves of Winter” by Tyrell Johnson

And, “Just go the extra mile. It’s never crowded.” Peyton Kretzmann / Unknown

Peace, and with the Beginnings of a True, Faithful and Spiritual Contentment, Hap

*Hap Kretzmann is a member of Our Savior Lutheran and a regular contributor to this newsletter.*

## Outreach Board

We held our annual car event on Friday, July 31st, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. It was well attended with about 45 cars!

It turned out to be a very enjoyable evening for all as the weather was perfect for them to be able to show off their cars. Thanks to Danny's suggestion on having a Thrivent Action Team, we were able to shop and purchase "goodie bags" for people that brought cars to the event. They were not too disappointed that we were not having the hot dogs. They enjoyed just meeting and getting together with one another. I was really pleased with the turn out of care and hope that next year we'll have even more! I would like to thank Barb & Ken Rasmussen for getting the water and ice and keeping everyone supplied with the water and "goodie bags," etc. The girls really pitched in as always and did a lot of shopping and getting things ready for the event. A big thank-you to Barb, Linda and Shirley Gregor. Also to Joe and Jim for coming and helping out! Thank you also go out to Barry and Danny Nelson for getting the parking lot ready and getting the cars all parked. Also a big thank-you goes out to Tina and Danny Nelson for all their help. Tina did a good job with the Thrivent T-shirts and advertising. I feel so

blessed to have such good workers.

Thanks everyone!  
Janice Browne

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## Second Quarter Giving Jug

The Second Quarter Giving Jug monies will be donated to Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI).

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America).

Lutheran Services in Iowa offers training in parenting, decision making and life skills development. It provides adoption, as well as employment services. The organization also conducts seminars in team building, interpersonal relationships, leadership and communication.

Thank you for your support of Lutheran Services in Iowa for the Second Quarter!

## Worship Board

Worship Board will meet Wednesday, September 2, at 5pm. We will be discussing ideas for holding worship service when we can no longer be outside. If you have ideas or needs please let Linda Whaley or Amy Mills know. We pray that you are all well and look forward to

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## Thank You

What a pleasant surprise it was to look out our windows here at the church and see 2 CIRSI employees and 2 CIRSI residents picking up sticks. We had not yet seen them this year. They were having such a good time helping Danny & Barry pick up brush from the wind storm. And we offer them many thanks for helping us clean up.

Pastor Mike and Carol

On Sunday, August 2nd, 2020 at 5:00 pm, the youth of Our Savior Lutheran Church were able to come together to stuff the Blessing Bags that will be distributed through Youth and Shelter Services. Each bag included: dish soap, shampoo/conditioner, body wash/bar soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste, granola bars, fruit snacks, bottled water, feminine products, wash clothes, socks, Thrivent t-shirts & notepads, face masks courtesy of Alyson Hicks, and an OSL trifold brochure. Following the bag stuffing, the team of workers enjoyed dinner provided by Pizza Ranch.

The following people were in attendance for this event:

Current Youth: Megan Sills, Kellen Ruddick, and Clayton Ruddick

Previous Youth: Zach Sills and Jillian Hicks

Youth Board: Joanna Ruddick and Alyson Hicks

Additional: Maurice and Shirley Ruddick, Pastor Mike

A very big thank you goes out to all in the congregation who donated many of these items! Also, thank you to Tina Nelson and Shirley Ruddick for helping this event be funded by a Thrivent Action Team card to pay for the remaining items for the bags that were not gathered via donation, as well as the Pizza Ranch gift card which paid for feeding the event workers.

Looking forward, we would like to do another round of Blessing Bags in the winter when YSS holds another homeless count event in January. With that being said, we would like to put an "all call" out to congregation members who would be willing to donate any of the following items to get a head start on the next event:

- \*mittens
- \*scarves
- \*stocking hats
- \*handkerchiefs
- \*small blankets or fleece to make lap blankets
- \*hand warmers
- \*travel size tissues/Kleenex
- \*throat lozenges
- \*reusable water bottles
- \*hand sanitizer



Although we have plenty of time and there is no rush to find these items immediately, if anyone comes across any of the above items, feel free to bring them to church and we can place them in one of the back Sunday School rooms as we did before.

Again, thank you all who donated, participated, and/or supported this event!

In Christ,  
Joanna Ruddick  
Youth





## Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives, especially during the extra challenges surrounding COVID-19 t h i s y e a r .

One way LSI empowers Iowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up Iowans with disabilities as they find the confidence and independence they need to thrive. In recent months, our DSPs have been dedicated to the people we are privileged to serve, adding extra safety measures to continue supporting individuals in our 24-hour facilities and providing new activities to keep everyone entertained and busy when leaving the house was not safely an option.

This high-quality care is possible because of you – thank you for lifting up your Iowa neighbors in times of crisis! If you would like to learn more

about how you can support crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

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### We are Still Here: LSI's Services for People with Disabilities

LSI Team Leader Ada works at Harmony House in Muscatine, a 24/7 care facility provided through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. The home provides consistent care to five Iowans with intensive disabilities and medical conditions. Ada and her team assist residents with most parts of their day, from movement around the home and hygiene routines to medications and meals.

Because of COVID-19, the

residents at Harmony House have not been able to safely see their families or participate in the volunteering or work they love, as some are able to do. But Ada and her team are there to offer a familiar face and structure when everything else feels uncertain. On days when clients feel scared or unsure, Ada and her team provide support and comfort.

Throughout the pandemic, Ada and her team have worked long hours to ensure they follow additional safety precautions, protecting both themselves and the clients they serve.

“We are an essential part of their daily life, regardless of whatever storm lies in front of us. My work is needed for my clients to survive,” Ada says. “But they are essential to me and the other staff. They are the reason we do what we do.”



The Emergency Food Box will continue with its adjusted schedule through the summer months. The open hours are 1:00 - 4:30 Monday through Thursday. If you have friends or family who are struggling due to job loss, reduced hours, or increased food needs due to college students who are now home, please inform them we are here to serve anyone for whatever reason.

Marshall County families can be served once a month. They only need to show a valid ID. The Emergency Food Box address is 109 S. 3rd Street, Marshalltown. Phone number if you have questions is 753-0486.

Beginning June 1, we will begin accepting food donations once again, during open hours. Suggested foods are canned fruit and vegetables, soups, peanut butter, pasta, Mac 'n Cheese, and cereals.

Monetary donations are always appreciated. It is suggested they be sent to Emergency Food Box, PO Box 391, Marshalltown, IA 50158. The Emergency Food Box especially wants to thank the community for its generous support during the past couple of months.

**THE WEATHER IS CHANGING  
NEW ITEMS NEEDED**

**Caring Center  
132 W. Main St.  
Mon. & Wed. 10-1**

**We need:**

Men's tennis shoes and work boots.

Socks of all sizes

Men's jeans size 38, 40 and 42

Misses jeans in size 4,5,6,7,8

**Any household items including:**

- toasters
- coffee pots
- silverware
- plates
- drinking glasses
- pots and pans
- curtains
- sleeping bags (for the homeless)

Donna Patton

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**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!**

Kenna Scott	09/04
Jamey Hutcheson	09/08
Jim Pepper	09/09
Hugh Fuhr	09/11
Rhonda Herschberger	09/22
Ann Erickson	09/26
Michael Sills	09/27
Regan Mazour	09/28

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**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS!**

Kellen Ruddick	09/11
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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!**

Jim & Beth Carlson	09/02
Jerry & Deb Duder	09/02
David & Linda Whaley	09/04
Tom & Lonnie Ethington	09/06
Jamey & Mindy Hutcheson	09/09
Floyd & Ella Harthun	09/14


SEPTEMBER 2020

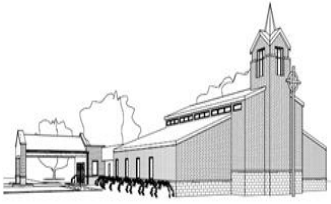


**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
Balance Sheet  
as of 07/31/2020

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
<b>Assets</b>		
1000	Checking	\$41,011.52
1005	Debit Card Account	\$627.81
1007	Thrivent Fixed Settlement Option	\$18,103.74
1010	Fern Thompson Scholarship	\$44,802.38
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$104,545.45</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
2600	Federal Withholding Taxes Payable	\$118.00
2602	State Withholding Taxes Payable	\$40.06
2604	Social Security Withholding	\$114.58
2606	Medicare Withholding	\$26.75
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$299.39</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
3000	General Fund - Fund Balance	\$-2,901.22
3100	Building Fund - Fund Balance	\$13,229.57
3101	Ice Cream Social Fund Balance	\$1,496.56
3102	Fellowship Fund Balance	\$871.40
3103	Memorial Fund Balance	\$14,403.34
3104	Bible Fund Balance	\$100.00
3105	Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund Balance	\$11,903.54
3108	Riverside Scholarship Fund Balance	\$221.75
3109	Alter Flowers Fund Balance	\$699.39
3111	Fern Thompson Scholarship Fund Balance	\$44,802.38
3112	Bonnie Riemenschneider Fund Balance	\$18,058.35
3114	Quarter 2 Giving Jug Fund Balance	\$40.00
3117	Lenten Offering Fund Balance	\$1,171.00
3118	Lawnmower Replacement Fund Balance	\$150.00
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$104,246.06</b>
<b>Total Liabilities + Total Equity</b>		<b>\$104,545.45</b>



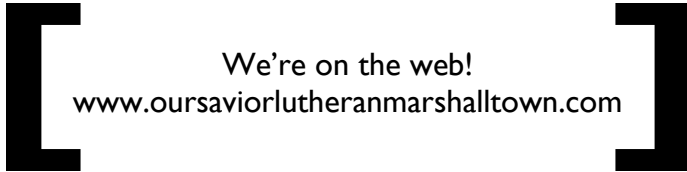
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 8:30 am Men's Bible Study	<b>2</b> 5:00 pm Worship Board Mtg. 7:00 pm Bible Study	<b>3</b> 1:00 pm Dominoes & cards	<b>4</b> Church Office Closed	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 am Worship	<b>7</b>  Church Office closed	<b>8</b> 8:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Book Worms	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Bible Study	<b>10</b> 1:00 pm Dominoes & cards	<b>11</b> Church Office Closed	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00 am Worship	<b>14</b> 5:00 pm Service & Mission Board Mtg 6:00 pm Outreach Board Mtg. 5:45 pm Council Mtg	<b>15</b> 8:30 am Men's Bible Study	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Wednesday Wonders 7:00 pm Bible Study <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	<b>17</b> 1:00 pm Dominoes & cards	<b>18</b> Church Office Closed	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00 am Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Book Worms	<b>23</b> 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:45 pm HeBrews	<b>24</b> 1:00 pm Dominoes & cards	<b>25</b> Church Office Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 am Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:30 am Men's Bible Study	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm Bible Study	<i>September 2020</i>		



## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Michael Herschberger  
3001 South Sixth Street  
Marshalltown, IA. 50158  
Phone: 641-753-4108  
Email: [oslpastor@outlook.com](mailto:oslpastor@outlook.com)

**Address Service Requested**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

9:00 AM Worship

### **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

Secretary: Carol Fuller  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Office: 753-4108

Email:  
[oslmtown@outlook.com](mailto:oslmtown@outlook.com)

*September*  
**2020**