

All Saints Lutheran Church

Bowie, Maryland

Ministry Recognition



“Let Your Generosity get Out of Hand.”

Celebrating Our

Ministries

August 2020

Introduction to the Virtual Ministry Recognition

Our building has been closed for months. However, All Saints Lutheran Church still has many active ministries. The Stewardship Ministry Team has invited the ministry teams and groups to highlight their present activities and outline their optimistic plans for the future.

Please take time to read these offerings. We hope you will continue to be motivated to give the All Saints ministries your continued support.

Norma Allenbach-Schmidt, for the Stewardship Team.

**Let Your
Generosity
get out of hand**



Organization of Virtual Ministry Book 2020

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>MINISTRY</u>
	<u>Gather</u>
4	Women's Book Group
	<u>Worship</u>
5	Worship and Music
6	Hosting
	<u>Learn</u>
7	Adult Christian Education Tract 1 Bible Study
7	GIFT
	<u>Serve</u>
8	Serve Team
9	Lutheran Women Prayer Shawl Ministry
9	ASLC Living Well cancer Support
	<u>Support</u>
10	Stewardship
11	Budget and Finance
12	New Connections-E Team
	<u>Committees</u>
13	Just Grace
14	Scholarship
15	Memorials



All Saints Lutheran Church Women's Book Group

The All Saints Women's Book Group offers the women of All Saints and their friends an opportunity to gather for fellowship, prayer, and discussion of a wide range of contemporary and classical literature, often including ways in which the book reflects themes such as forgiveness, hope, reconciliation, and the healing power of love and friendship. The group sessions, whether in person or online, begin and end with prayer.

Group Meetings Prior to the Pandemic

Prior to the pandemic, the group met monthly, on Saturday mornings from September through June, with a summer break in July and August. The group gathered for prayer, conversation, and breakfast at 9:00 a.m., and began the book discussion around 9:30 a.m. Discussions generally continued until 10:30 or 10:45 a.m. The Book Group met in homes of participants who volunteered to host the group. The Book Group discussions were led by participants who volunteered to do so.

Group Meetings at this Time

During these times of socially distancing, the ASLC Book Group meets online, via Zoom. A schedule of books to be discussed is posted through the ASLC Newsletter, weekly announcements in the online worship booklet, and monthly email messages from facilitator, Louise Waynant, at rblw@comcast.net.

Selection of Books Read

The group reads a wide variety of books (fiction, nonfiction, plays, poetry), all of which are recommended by members. A list of books that have been read since the inception of the group in 2004 has been compiled. It is updated monthly and gladly shared with all who may be interested.

Participation in the Women's Book Group

There are no requirements or costs for participating in the book group discussions. We understand that busy schedules can interfere with participation in discussions, and simply encourage individuals to attend whenever they can. Especially now that we are meeting online, we encourage participants to invite friends and family near and far who might like to share in the discussions and fellowship. All are welcome!!

Information about the Women's Book Group Schedule

Information about Book Group gatherings is available in the ASLC Sunday worship booklet and in the ASLC *Grapevine* newsletter. Monthly email reminders about schedules and meeting times and places are sent to anyone who would like to receive this information.

Contact for Additional Information: If you have questions, would like additional information, or would like to be included on the "email reminder list" just let Louise Waynant know at rblw@comcast.net.



Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Ministry Team coordinates with the pastor and director of music to ensure that the worship services of the congregation are conducted regularly and in accordance with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America worship practices. The team works with the pastor and director of music for planning and organizing all aspects of the worship experience to enrich the spiritual life of the congregation and strives to provide worship that is Christ centered, rooted in the Gospel and adheres to the liturgical calendar.

The Worship and Music Ministry Team is currently meeting monthly via Zoom. Summaries of the meetings are sent to all participants, and the highlights are published in the *Grapevine*. All are welcome to join the team for meetings. Times and dates, as well as Zoom log-in information, are published in the *Grapevine*.

Worship services are available each Sunday through YouTube, Facebook Live, and a call-in number. A tech team has been developed to deliver the service. The tech team meets to discuss how best to process the many aspects of the worship service, making sure all worship leaders participating understand the process. Using Zoom with the worship leaders, the service is live-streamed across the different platforms, available to members and guests. Our live-streamed services include inspiring music planned and coordinated by Director of Music, Dr. Hyojin Ahn, that features the musical gifts of the Saints.

As supported by the Worship and Music Team, Pastor Shannon is offering contactless Outdoor Eucharist every fourth Sunday of the month. This includes individual packets for Communion, with a wafer and grape juice, set out on a credence table. Folks may also bring their own elements to be blessed. There is proper spacing marked on the pavement of the parking lot, and a limited number of slots available for each session. Participants may sign up ahead of time through Sign-Up Genius.

Once it becomes safe for the congregation to gather again in our building, the team will follow the advice of the re-integration team as to how we go about holding services. This will be a gradual process, as safety for our members and guests is our number one priority. There are many issues the team will discuss as they plan, including spacing, mask-wearing, and whether or not to incorporate singing and unified speaking. It is also the hope of the team to continue some sort of online service, using our soon-to-be installed audio-visual system.

As Melissa Steiner has been leading the team since 2017, we are looking for a new team lead. Melissa is willing to work cooperatively with a new person in order to familiarize the person with procedures. Pray about this and offer names to Melissa.

Contact Melissa Steiner, Worship and Music Team Lead for more information. Melissa may be reached via cell phone at 301-785-3651 or emailed at melissa.a.steiner@gmail.com.



Hosting

Members of the Hosting Ministry personally welcome ALL who come to worship at All Saints Lutheran Church in Bowie, first-time guest or long-time regular. A special emphasis is placed on welcoming first-time guests and making every effort to be sure that they immediately know that they are welcome. Right from the start, we want to establish a warm and genuine relationship. When worship services are again safely held in the church building, we will present each first-time family or individual with a gift bag as a token of friendship.

Also, hosts are in place to heartily greet guests who have been coming to All Saints for years.

Why do we have Hosts?

Romans 15:7

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Does being a Host sound like you? Then contact Norma at nschmidt@pgcc.edu to express your interest or ask questions. Hosts are scheduled for one service per month, and training is provided.



Adult Christian Education Track 1 Bible study

There's an old Lutheran joke, about a new Pastor called to a large, old congregation. The council told the new Pastor that the only problem with the building was a rodent infestation. The Pastor replied, "No problem, I can take care of that." Within a few months, the rodents had vanished from the facility. The astonished council asked how had Pastor performed this feat. He replied, "Simple, I just confirmed them."

The Mission of Adult Education Track 1 at All Saints is to keep the post-confirmation Christians involved in the kind of growth they experienced in their teen years. To do so, we seek to offer a wide variety of studies based on the Bible, Lutheran theology, and Christian life in the world. At various times we have studied individual books of the Bible, Luther's Catechisms, and Christian ethics.

During the Time of Corona, the Tuesday morning Bible study has continued to meet every week to examine Luther's Large Catechism. Plans are in work to begin reoffering Sunday School for adults with studies of the Lectionary readings for the week.

Next Lent, when we'll hopefully be assembled again in the building on Mount Oak Road, we plan on studying the Sermon on the Mount using a course by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Other courses being considered include a 37-week DVD course on the New Testament in the context of the 1st century world offered by N. T. Wright, an in-depth study of the Book of Isaiah, and a short course on "How to Listen to a Sermon".



For more information, please contact Sven Allenbach-Schmidt broccolicat@verizon.net

GIFT

Mission and purpose of GIFT: (Growing In Faith Together) is faith formation for children preK-12th grade.

What we are doing now online: GIFT held weekly meetings online with two age groups, the "Bigs" which include 6-12th grade and the "Littles" with children from PreK-5th grade. Parents take turns providing lessons for the class times. Class times were held on Sunday afternoon following the worship service and fellowship hour.

Our plans/expectations when the church building begins to safely reopen: GIFT will reassess the ages of children attending GIFT and plan for weekly gatherings other than the Sundays with outdoor communion. We will plan to begin GIFT Faith Formation in September.

Special information and announcements: Zoom meetings were announced only to those families with small children that would be attending to provide for internet safety.

GIFT is looking for leadership support from anyone who is interested in helping behind the scenes in planning, scheduling, photo journaling, writing announcements, etc. Currently, all GIFT teachers are working parents and during the COVID 19 Pandemic, are balancing their work remotely as well as their children's education while we are ministering in Diaspora. We are all willing to work diligently in providing faith formation opportunities, but lack the time and energy for making good plans. We could use your support!



Whom to contact to express interest or ask questions:

Alyson Jacobson at alinsal@yahoo.com

Serve Team

The mission of the Serve Team is to seek justice and undertake acts of service that demonstrate God's love to the world. Caring for others in Jesus' name in tangible ways makes visible Christ's presence, helps those we serve in places where they have need, and testifies to the integrity and heart of Jesus' followers.

In the midst of a pandemic that will likely continue to impede our face-to-face gatherings until well into 2021, participation in all our interactive ASLC Serve projects has been suspended--including Christmas in April; our spring and, in all likelihood, our fall Warm Nights hosting weeks; and our scheduled Stop Hunger Now meal-packaging on "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday. Our efforts these last four months have focused on staying in contact with the Bowie Food Pantry, CCSI (PG County's Community Crisis Services, which oversees Warm Nights), and Stop Hunger Now so that we can keep you informed through the *Grapevine* and worship bulletin announcements of their current needs.

The Food Pantry is functioning with a skeletal volunteer crew and has modified every component of its operation to maintain the safety of its workers and its clients during the pandemic. The number of registered new clients has skyrocketed in the last four months, but the generosity of the surrounding community has assured that the volume of food and monetary contributions has increased in proportion to the need. When our church building reopens, we can resume bringing our pantry donations to ASLC for delivery to the pantry; in the meantime, please continue your support through the means described in the monthly newsletter, which can be accessed on our ASLC website.

. During a pandemic the homeless population is the most vulnerable, and the county's servicing of their needs through a modified Warm Nights hotel setting requires our increased support during this very challenging time. To learn how you can donate supplies, provide monetary assistance, and contribute to the cost of lunches, please see the details of the Serve Team report in the July issue of the *Grapevine*.

When we can gather safely in person again to worship, learn and serve, we will resume all the Serve projects which bring us closer together and expand the reach of our mission. Perhaps we will be able to schedule two annual Stop Hunger Now meal-packagings to make up for the pandemic postponement of this year's joyous event. In the meantime, keep in mind that our daily individual acts of kindness are a central part of our call to serve the world in Jesus' name.



Lutheran Women Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are a group of women who lovingly knit and crochet prayer shawls for those seeking comfort and solace. We also create baptismal blankets for babies at the time of their baptism and we have recently started making purple baby hats to support the Prince George's county Healthy Families Program. Our members represent several different area Lutheran churches. Over the past year we have distributed over 30 prayer shawls,



lap throws and baby blankets, 13 baptismal blankets and about 50 baby hats. We have been active for nearly 10 years and in that time have created over 580 prayer shawls, lap throws and blankets. We keep records of our activity including a picture of each shawl and blanket, the person who prepared it, the individual or group who received it and any cards or comments that we receive. The shawls, throws and blankets are blessed before they are distributed.

Under normal circumstances we meet monthly in member homes. Due to the current situation we are not actively meeting but members continue to knit and crochet shawls, blankets and baby hats. When we are able, we will resume our monthly meetings.

We welcome new members who enjoy knitting or crocheting or would like to learn. If anyone would like to participate but is unable to attend meetings they can make shawls or blankets on their own and then contact us and we can make arrangements to pick up the items.

If you have a family member or friend who could use a prayer shawl or lap throw you can contact Pastor Shannon or Jean Reams at All Saints or contact Jane Hilt at 410-451-1443 or sadie02h@gmail.com. We also mail these "tangible hugs from God" out of town.

Submitted by Jane Hilt

ASLC Living-Well cancer Support Group

A supportive gathering together of survivors and support persons at various stages of the cancer journey. Through conversation we share our triumphs, wrestle with our fears, and embrace our spiritual understanding of God's love and presence with each one of us.

We meet monthly on the 3rd Saturday at 10am in the Choir/Youth room at church.

**Currently we are meeting weekly on Saturday's at 10am via Zoom virtual platform.

Over the past 2 months, we have had conversations "when we can meet together again, we will do this..." Our group may elect to do short day trips. When meeting at church, not only wearing face coverings, but, having a larger space will be required for physical distancing, therefore, we will suggest meeting in the Fellowship Hall pending availability.

Contact person: Deb Ariguzo email: dariguzo@yahoo.com or cell phone# 240-355-6433

Diane Cvitko email: dcvitko@comcast.net or phone# 410-571-8413



Stewardship Ministry

Mission

The mission of the Stewardship Ministry Team is to strengthen and support members of the All Saints congregation in their knowledge and understanding of their role as God's stewards. This ministry provides leadership in developing programs that give all members of the congregation an opportunity to offer their time, talent, and monetary resources in thanksgiving to God and to carry out the ministries of the church.

Current and Future Activities

The team has been meeting monthly via Zoom to plan for this year's Stewardship appeal. The theme for this year is "Let Your Generosity Get Out of Hand." We are planning a virtual Ministry Fair during the month of August to highlight the many ministries of All Saints. All of the ministries will be highlighted in a booklet that will be sent to every member of All Saints. In addition, five ministry areas will be featured during the worship services on the five Sundays in August: Care for Creation, GIFT, Just Grace, Serve, and Worship and Music.

The Stewardship appeal will kick off with a prayer vigil on September 25-26. Members will sign up for 30-minute time slots to pray for the ministries of All Saints. In preparation for Consecration Sunday, we will prepare a Devotional Booklet that will include daily devotions for 21 days leading up to Consecration Sunday, which will take place on October 18, 2020. It is likely that this event will be held virtually rather than in the church building. The guest speaker will be Rev. Lamar Bailey, Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop, Metro DC Synod. Members will be asked to submit Estimate of Giving cards to indicate individual pledges of support for the ministries of All Saints during 2021.

Contact Information

Diane Hampton, team leader, dhamp13110@aol.com
Norma Allenbach-Schmidt, schmidna@pgcc.edu
Rob Watson, mydearwatsons@comcast.net
Fred Wentland, fwentland@prodigy.net
Pastor Angela Shannon, pastorshannon@allsaintsbowie.org



Stewardship

Budget and Finance

- Mission, purpose, and description of Budget and Finance
 - **Budget and Finance Ministry Team** has oversight responsibility for the financial affairs of the congregation. All Saints' Budget and Finance ministry is responsible for the formulation of annual budgets and for tracking income and expenditures against those budgets throughout the year.
- What we are doing now online
 - Due to COVID-19, we have, at least for the time being, moved to virtual meetings exclusively.
- What our plans/expectations are when the church building begins to safely reopen
 - One thing we've learned through the pandemic is that virtual meetings can be highly productive. We have had necessity to meet more frequently than typical during spring and summer due to current income and the pandemic, yet meetings have been productive and easier to schedule due to meeting remotely. As the church begins to safely re-open, we envision preferring in-person meetings, but supporting remote attendance when necessary more than previously.
- Special information and announcements
 - We have met more frequently and provided more frequent updates to council during the pandemic. This is due to 2 factors:
 - In 1st and 2nd quarter of 2020, income was lower than projected compared to approved spending plan.
 - COVID-19 has created a need to discuss financials of the church more specifically and frequently, due to vacillating expenses, income, and unanticipated potential income sources like Federal PPP loans.
- Whom to contact, to express interest or ask questions.
 - Any questions can be directed to:
 - Eric Davis
 - Chairperson – Budget and Finance
 - Cell – 443.248.3018
 - Email – erdavis124@gmail.com



BUDGET & FINANCE

New Connections E-Team

The E-Team works to do our part for the Metro D.C. synod's New Connections initiative to attract new people to engage with the existing ministries of the synod.

As you can imagine, most of our planned activities have had to be curtailed or reimaged due to the shutdowns necessitated by the current pandemic. While we can no longer invite folks to share our physical space, the E-Team has been working to provide templates/scripts to help the Saints in sharing their love for their church in a digital format, such as through Facebook posts. We also remain interested in helping guest Saints joining us for our online worship feel connected and engaged with our local members.

Once the church building reopens, we anticipate there will still be some anxiety about returning to large group gatherings. As such, we envision finding creative ways to use the church's outdoor space, from the parking lot to the patio area to the woods and gardens, to increase comfort levels for both guests and members as we slowly start to gather in person once again. The E-Team will also support the tech team's efforts to maintain a strong digital presence so that new worshippers we have attracted from outside of the Bowie area can continue to remain connected and such outreach can continue to bring in new friends.

The synod's New Connections initiative officially ends in 2020. This provides an opportunity for All Saints to consider what we would like our evangelism ministry to look like in the years to come. We would welcome input from any of the Saints about ways to keep the momentum from New Connections moving forward. Our team is always looking for new members and new ideas!

Please reach out to Emily DeMarco for more information, to join the team or to share your thoughts! Email and text are preferred, but calls welcome as well.



JUST GRACE COMMITTEE

Mission/Purpose/Description of Our Ministry

The Just Grace Committee is implementing the congregation's "Resolution on Racial Justice" initiative and addressing racial justice and other relevant social justice issues.

What We are Doing Now Online

- Through August 8 Just Grace is sponsoring a ten-session online Saturday Enneagram workshops, organized by Committee member Karol Taylor and guest-hosted and presented by Certified Enneagram Expert Sandy Lundahl.
- Members of the JG Committee are participating in the virtual monthly at-large meetings of the PG County Lynching Memorial Project as well as in the Project's scheduled Education, Outreach, Soil Collection and History Committee working meetings.
- We continue to hold our monthly Just Grace Committee meetings via Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month from 7-9 pm. This Committee is open to all. If you are interested in joining our meetings, please contact any Committee member, listed below.

Plans/Expectations When the Church Building Reopens

We are currently brainstorming racial justice initiatives to conduct either in-person or virtually. Among them are the following:

- Continuing book and film discussions that inform, inspire and challenge us
- A speaker series or workshop/panel discussion on subjects such as systemic racism, dismantling white supremacy, and our local Muslim community's experiences of racism
- A follow-up of our "Talking Across the Divide" sessions

Special Information

To learn more about our committee and the work of racial justice affiliates, we offer the following:

- For more information on the Lynching Memorial Project, please see our articles in the March and May *Grapevine* or visit <https://www.mdlynchingmemorial.org/>
- A copy of our "Resolution on Racial Justice" can be accessed on our ASLC Just Grace Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JustGraceAllSaints/>.
- Visit <http://metrodcelca.org/imagodei/> for information and access to the recent Imago Dei: Embracing the Image of God series.
- Go to <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice> to learn more about the ELCA's efforts to address racial justice.

Whom to Contact to Express Interest/Ask Questions

Mark Brown (mark.byron.brown@gmail.com)

Nicole Davis (301-789-5543, text is best)

Austin DeMarco (ademarco11@verizon.net)

Emily DeMarco (emilydemarco29@gmail.com)

Diane Hampton (dhamp13110@aol.com)

Alyson Jacobson (alinsal@yahoo.com)

Ruth Ann Killion (msrak1102@gmail.com)

Walter Knausenberger (wijknausen@gmail.com)

Pat McCartney (patricia.mccartney@gmail.com)

Liz Muller (eamuller4@gmail.com)

John Summerlot (301-775-8206, text is best)

Karol Taylor (240-447-2923, text is best)



The ASLC Scholarship Program

The ASLC Scholarship Program was established 18 years ago as a way to support our college bound youth. It is the intent of this program to financially support our youth with a once a year scholarship regardless of family finances, academic awards or other stipends. Members of ASLC feel strongly in showing our support for our church youth through the college years. We feel this connection will last a lifetime and show our youth that we are invested in their future.

Scholarships awards are based solely on donations. Students submit applications by January each year. Awards are determined by the amount of dollars collected during the campaign. Donations are accepted throughout the calendar year with May being designated as scholarship month. Yearly awards are based solely on money donated to ASLC Scholarship and one matching donation from The Wanda McNeil fund.

Covid-19 may have caused havoc with the world but ASLC Scholarships will be presented to our college youth on Sunday, July 26, 2020. Checks will be presented to our youth in a personal way with a video-taping so that the church members can see and hear from our recipients.

The ASLC Scholarship Program will continue behind the scenes whenever the church reopens. There will be no change in the program expected.

Thank you to all “Saints” who faithfully have supported this program for many years.

If you would like more information about the ASLC Scholarship Program please feel free to contact any member of the committee. Committee members are: Louise Waynant, Millie Osborne, Roz Kleffman- chair.



Memorials Ministry

The Memorials Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church

The Memorials Ministry of All Saints offers families and friends opportunities to remember or honor special people in their lives through making contributions to the church.

At the time of the death of an individual, family members may wish to have a memorial fund established in memory of their loved one. They may wish to specify how the fund will be used, or use of the fund may be undesignated. Others can contribute monetary gifts to the fund.

To recognize special people or events such as births, anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, or retirements, individuals may wish to establish an honorary fund for that purpose. They may wish to designate or specify how the fund will be used, or use of the fund may be undesignated. Others can contribute monetary gifts to the fund.

How Gifts Are Used

All contributions are gifts to All Saints that are used to enhance the mission and ministries of the church. Each gift, no matter the amount, is important and makes a difference.

Gifts are used for one-time tangible item(s) and/or project(s). The items or projects are not budgeted expenditures. The contributions are not used for operational expenses. Examples of items and projects funded through the Memorials Ministry in past years include tone chimes, altar chalices, altar paraments, an electronic sign, church kitchen tools and appliances, and tables and chairs for the Fellowship Hall.

How to Establish or Contribute to a Memorial or Honorary Fund

To establish a memorial or honorary fund, individuals should talk with the Pastor about the desire to create such a fund, and the purpose for which contributions to the fund will be used.

To make a contribution in honor or in memory of an individual, make a check payable to All Saints Lutheran Church, and include on the check the name of the individual in whose honor or memory the gift is offered.

How Contributions Are Acknowledged

All donors receive a letter from All Saints, acknowledging their contribution and thanking them for their generosity and kindness. Additionally, the representative of the deceased person's family or the person being honored receives a letter telling them that a donation has been made and providing the name and address of the donor.

For Additional Information Please contact Louise Waynant at rblw@comcast.net if you have questions or would like to receive additional information.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father... (James 1:17).





The mission of All Saints Lutheran Church is to gather all people in a community immersed in God's Word through worship and learning that equips us to serve the world in the name of Jesus.