

Congregational Update

Our Savior Lutheran Church update for May A&D 2020

Praise to Our Ascended Lord!

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You that You raised Your Son from the dead, seated Him at Your right hand, and placed all things under His feet that He might rule in majesty.

Update

I never imagined that I would be writing this many congregational letters. I would much rather be delivering this information in person. Once more, thanks for our amazing Pastors, Kantor, Principal, teachers, staff, board members, Elders, and helpers for their amazing work and support during these troubled and difficult times.

Planning and Voters' Meeting

This is the time of year for planning our next fiscal year budget, which begins July 1. We are planning on holding the Voters' meeting on June 16. At this point, we are hopeful that we can have a meeting in person. We may meet outside or possibly in small groups throughout the church building. Obviously, we can't make any definitive statements about how this will occur at this time. As the situation changes, we will send out updates. If ever God has shown us that we should not boast about tomorrow, it is now. For all things, "...if the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." James 4:15

Budget

We thank you for your continued generous support. As I write this, our deficit for the year has nearly been wiped away.

For the next fiscal year, we are basically proposing and forecasting keeping things the same as this past fiscal year. We are holding the salaries for staff at their current levels. Before the quarantine, we were planning on proposing a 2.5% increase in salaries. We are hopeful that we can revisit the salary at a later time when things are more clear. We are using the same forecast for offerings as last year.

Even though we are holding things level, there is a projected deficit of approximately \$23,000 for next year. This is largely driven by significant increases in health care costs. There are also some items which are adjusted or corrected for the current situation. For instance, last year the phone bill was forecasted below the actual costs, which is now reflected in the budget.

Some other notes. Our Deaconess intern will be serving half-time in 1st-2nd grade (replacing Avreil Markham who decided to stay home next year because she is having a baby). The rest of the internship cost is covered by dedicated gifts and Mission funds. We secured a loan from the government through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) almost all of which should be forgiven as it has been used to cover payroll and associated costs.

Prayers

Continue to pray for God's mercy. Pray for those who are sick, those who are in financial distress, those who are lonely, those who sorrow, for our medical workers and first responders, for families, for nursing homes, prisons, and care facilities, for our leaders and government officials, for our Pastors, Kantor, Principal, teachers, staff, Elders, Council, School Board, and all who help our congregation, and our members. Pray also for those who are starting new phases of life in this uncertain time: graduates, engaged couples, newlyweds, new parents and those who are expecting, those who are retired, those facing unemployment or changing jobs. Pray for our children and especially for our Confirmands.

In Christ,

Andy Mueller, President, Our Savior Lutheran Church

<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/health-ministry/pandemic>

Psalm 80, James 4:13-17, 1 Peter 1:3-9

Collect During an Epidemic

Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of illness and distress. In mercy put an end to the epidemic that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all that mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors, and cause Your people ever to serve You in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

LCMS COLLECTS FOR THE PRESENT PANDEMIC