



PASTOR'S LETTER

When the pandemic first impacted our worship, we began to pre-record our service and we worshiped online. That was exhausting, especially the weeks when the internet was experiencing so much volume, that it would take almost 2 days before the video's would be available for me. Dick and I tried so many things to speed up the process, but nothing worked until the glitch in the internet was resolved. And then it took another day to download and process the video's, then assemble and then upload and process the final version. I got better at it but it was still exhausting.

So, when we returned to in-person worship and knew that we needed to continue to offer an online presence we turned to Facebook live. And that has made it so much easier. At this point in my article, it's real important to give Dick Thackston a shout out. He has been incredible volunteering to help with the pre-recording and now with the Facebook live filming. It has been a huge commitment on his part.

Now you might think that online worship is just a temporary blip and it will not continue and I would love for that to be true, but don't count on it. In fact, don't count on life at any church to look exactly as it did pre-pandemic. All the experts say "We cannot go back- we can only go forward". Even one of our own members said that we will have to continue to stream worship.

But here is the really important realization, as one expert said it, "The pandemic didn't break the system, it revealed its fragile nature." (Rev. Dave Daubert). In essence, it sped up what was already happening. Church attendance has been declining since 1950 for many and various reasons. However, we still have a mission to share the Good News. That means, just like every time there has been a technological advance in communication, we, the church adapts. Think about it, when the printing press came along, the bible and other religious teachings were published. When the radio came along, preachers were on the air. When Television came along, worship services were televised. Now we have the internet and host ways to use it through websites, YouTube, Facebook, Zoom and so much more.

The real question then is how will we as the church in this time and place, use technology to do the best ministry we are able to?

Over the last year, I have watched several webinars on Hybrid worship, that is worship that is both in-person and online. But, I just finished participating in a Zoom webinar hosted by our Synod. There were 500 participate from around the country. Of all the webinars I've watched, this was by far the best. It was the first of a series of five. Rev. Dave Daubert was one of the presenters. One of the things he said that I thought was so important is that Hybrid worship is not just online worship. It's also Bible study, prayer groups, small groups, meetings and more. Here's a general rule they talked about "Not everything should be in-person. Not everything should be online." This is not just about hybrid worship now, it's about hybrid ministry.

There are some exciting possibilities when you think about hybrid ministry. And this ministry is not just for the young. There are plenty of people who are in their 80's and older who can use this technology. We cannot and should not make assumptions based on age and our own preferences. And this is not just a pastor, council or teams responsibility in making decision on expanding our concept of how to do ministry. It takes all of us, because alone it is exhausting.

I encourage you to go to the synod website and watch the webinar for yourself (<https://www.swtsynod.org/pages/events>, scroll down) Here, every Tuesday you will find the webinar from the night before. Watch and see where the Holy Spirit leads you in envisioning the future of our ministry.

Blessings,
Pastor Sandra

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UPDATE ON RETURNING TO WORSHIP

Those who are fully vaccinated may remove their masks when they are seated in the sanctuary.
If you feel better with your mask on, you may continue to wear it.

CIELO MINISTRY: UNITY IN ACTION NEWS

Our CIELO Unity in Ministry Garden was nominated for the 2021 Gardopia Garden Gala Awards. You can cast your vote for it [here](#) in the “community garden” category, which is the first category on the voting form. This is the URL for the voting form in case the link above doesn't work:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScV6lgQJwqoe4C5zyNN4LkdhyepLgVagPx8HtLBYZOI6oBTA/viewform>

Voting ends Sunday, Aug. 1.

PASTOR SANDRA WILL
BE ON VACATION
FROM FRIDAY,
AUGUST 6 THROUGH
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

WHILE PASTOR IS ON VACATION,
OUR EMERGENCY PASTOR IS KRIS HILL.
PASTOR KRIS CAN BE REACHED AT SHEPHERD KING: 210-344-5881.
If you have an emergency while Pastor Sandra is away,
please call the HoP office at 210-696-1194,
or Dick Thackston at 210-913-9088.

CAM DONATIONS FOR AUGUST: canned vegetables and canned fruit

BACK TO SCHOOL IS COMING SOON

Soon it will be time for the annual donations to the Colonies North schoolchildren. Information on what is needed will be coming up in the next newsletter and future issues of HoPThisWeek. You can always make a financial donation by marking it as “for Colonies North School” or, if you give electronically with Tithe.Ly, you can designate it for the school fund.

TOWN HALL MEETING SEPT 12TH

The Church Council would like to share with the members the current situation on the nursery building addition. We've been able to accomplish some things and have been stalled in others. The Town-hall meeting will take place after worship on Sunday, Sept. 12. Please mark your calendars.

AUGUST
CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

- 8/4 Audrey Parsons
- 8/7 DeWitt Atkinson
- 8/7 Ronald Ellis
- 8/7 Kurt Hixson
- 8/17 Jeanne Piper
- 8/21 Lisa Alvarado
- 8/21 Marilyn Fox

Anniversaries:

Bob & Yolanda French, August 5



RETURNING TO
IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES
UPDATE

Quilting on Mondays, Bible Study on Tuesdays, and Art Group on Wednesdays have all resumed in-person in the Education Wing of the church building.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Harry Miller, Frieda Atkinson, DeWitt Atkinson, Bob French, Donald Leonard, Edna Hacker, Peter Georgiev, Alice Little, Marion Schroeder, Karen French, Faye Randow, Jolanda Wood, Scott Dittloff, Marta Yanez, Jess Young, and Our Military, particularly Michael Foglio, Christian Alaniz, Jordan Bielfeldt, and all of our veterans.

LIFELINE RETURNS TO HOP

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at House of Prayer Lutheran Church on Monday, August 2, 2021. A package of 5 screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- Carotid artery ultrasound to identify plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, a major risk factor for stroke
- Abdominal aortic ultrasound to identify presence of an enlargement in the largest blood vessel in the body
- An EKG to identify the presence of atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke
- Ultrasound of the lower legs to look for plaque buildup known as peripheral artery disease
- Ultrasound of the shin bone to identify risk for osteoporosis

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete.

If you register today, you will receive a \$10 discount.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word "circle" to 797979.

HELPFUL NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT: FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The District 8 "Back to School Bash" will take place on August 7 from 9-12 at the Pre-K SA North Education Center at 3635 Medical Drive. Featured will be free backpacks and school supplies, required school vaccines and COVID vaccines, a grocery giveaway, Hawaiian shaved ice, a game truck, and more

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	Readers	PowerPoint	Tellers	This month's usher: Paul Piper	This month's communion assistant: Dave Johnson
August 1	Dick Thackston		Karen Force and Roberta Hanes		
August 8	Dave Johnson		Karen Long and Jenifer Larson		
August 15	Peggy Thackston		Linda Johnson and Roger Mathre		
August 22	Scott Dittloff	Julie Rowe	Julie Rowe and Paige Vetter		
August 29	Mandy Winter				

ALTAR GUILD

	Before	After	Notes
August 1	Kirsten Mangin	Kirsten Mangin	GREEN/PENTECOST 10
August 8	Jan Kinnunen	Jan Kinnunen	GREEN/PENTECOST 11
August 15	Jan Kinnunen	Jan Kinnunen	GREEN/PENTECOST 12
August 22	Peggy Thackston	Peggy Thackston	GREEN/PENTECOST 13
August 29	Kirsten Mangin	Kirsten Mangin	GREEN/PENTECOST 14



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AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Quilting LIFELINE				PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship: In-person at 10:00 with a livestream to our Facebook page; it will be uploaded to our website afterwards. PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	8 a.m. Adult Bible Study in the Quilting Room PASTOR ON VACATION	Art Group 1:00 -3:00 p.m. PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship: In-person at 10:00 with a livestream to our Facebook page; it will be uploaded to our website afterwards. PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	8 a.m. Adult Bible Study in the Quilting Room PASTOR ON VACATION	Art Group 1:00 -3:00 p.m. PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION		
22	23	24	25	25	27	28
Worship: In-person at 10:00 with a livestream to our Facebook page; it will be uploaded to our website afterwards. 11:00 Adult Bible Study		8 a.m. Adult Bible Study in the Quilting Room PASTOR ON VACATION	Art Group 1:00 -3:00 p.m. PASTOR ON VACATION			
29	30	31				
Worship: In-person at 10:00 with a livestream to our Facebook page; it will be uploaded to our website afterwards. 11:00 Adult Bible Study COUNCIL MEETING		7 a.m. Adult Bible Study in the Quilting Room				



HOUSE OF PRAYER
houseofprayerlutheranchurch@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/hoplcsa/>
www.hoplcsa.org
(210) 696-1194

Worship depends on quarantine restrictions and can be viewed on our website. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.; for emergencies, please call Pastor Sandra at 210-248-7837.

Reverend Sandra Leifeste
Dick Thackston, Congregation President
Marcus Trejo, Vice President
Jenifer Larson, Treasurer
Shirley Vasquez, Member @ Large
Personnel, Dave Johnson
Worship Team, TBA
Emmie Lou Schwarzer, Ministry Team
Eva Poblano, Fellowship
Roberta Hanes, Stewardship
Bob French, Property
Jennifer Alaniz, CIELO Ministries

**TWO WAYS TO GET HOUSE OF PRAYER'S
CHURCH APP ON YOUR PHONE**

- To find and download our church App, go within your mobile device's app store (Google Play/iOS App Store) and search "Church App - [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.app)". The [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.app) Church App houses hundreds on apps from across the world! To find your church app within the [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.app) Church app, just open the app and search for your church by name or zip code. Once you have selected your church's specific app, the next time you open the [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.app) Church App, you app's designs will be ready and waiting - no searching involved. This [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.app) Church App will also ensure that your App Icon switches from the [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.app) Logo to your church's personal logo. This app icon switcher is compatible on most mobile cellular devices.
- Go to this link on your smartphone.
<https://tithely.app.link/house-of-prayer-lutheran>.

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH
10226 IRONSIDE
SAN ANTONIO TX 78230

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY