



PASTOR'S LETTER

First off, thank you for all the prayers while I underwent hip replacement surgery. And thank you to those who helped me to and from the hospital and post-op doctor's appointments. I so very much appreciate the prayers and help.

While I have been recovering at home, I began reading a book by Father Ron Rolheiser from Oblate School of Theology here in SA. The book is called *Sacred Fire: A Vision for A Deeper Human And Christian Maturity*. I haven't read much yet, but I have found it very interesting so far.

He shares a story from another writer, Nikos Kazantzakis. It's a conversation Nikos had with an old monk. It goes like this – Sitting with the old man, Nikos asked him: "Do you still wrestle with the devil, Father?" The old monk reflected for a while and then replied: "Not any longer, my child. I have grown old now, and he has grown old with me. He doesn't have the strength . . . I wrestle with God." "With God!" exclaimed Nikos. "And do you hope to win?" I hope to lose, my child," the old monk replied. "My bones remain with me still, and they continue to resist."

I really liked this story because it reminded me of how much we speak about struggling with the devil and all the temptations we face, and how little we realize we struggle with God and being a faithful disciple. Maybe it's not so much of the devil getting in our way as it is our own human nature. But that's not exactly Fr. Ron's point for telling the story. His point is that "we struggle with different forces at various times in our lives." And all these struggles help our faith and discipleship mature through time. What we struggle with when we are young is not the same as the things we will struggle with when we are middle aged, and those are different from the struggles we face when we are old.

Now, while that is not some huge revelation, we don't always think of all the struggles we face as being spiritual, but they are-- at least one facet is. Fr. Ron's opening sentences for this book are, "The human soul is like a fine wine that needs to ferment in various barrels as it ages and mellows. The wisdom for this is written everywhere, in nature, in scriptures, in spiritual traditions, and in what is best in human science. And that wisdom is generally learned in the crucible of struggle."

My question for you is- As you look back at your life, how have the struggles you have faced fermented your soul?

Blessings,
Pastor Sandra

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Pastor's surgery went well; she expects to be leading worship on August 7.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Frieda Atkinson, Pat Barham, Scott Dittloff, Irene Gardner, Edna Hacker, Alice Little, Steve Long, Oliver McBride, Harry Miller, Faye Randow, Marion Schroeder, Annette Sheppard, Charles "Chuck" Sheppard, Marta Yanez, Jess Young, and Our Military, particularly Christian Alaniz, Ozzie Alaniz, Jordan Bielfeldt, Michael Foglio, & all our veterans.

THE NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

If you missed the deadline for getting your photos and updated, please contact us ASAP! 210-696-1194



AUGUST CELEBRATIONS: Birthdays



8/4 Audrey Parsons	8/21 Marilyn Fox
8/7 DeWitt Atkinson	8/25 Marina Winter
8/7 Ronald Ellis	8/29 Mary Rice
8/7 Kurt Hixson	8/30 Gloria Bielfeldt
8/17 Jeanne Piper	



What does the Bible Say About _____?

We often think that we know what the Bible says about different topics and issues. Generally, we think it doesn't say anything about current issues we deal with, or the politics of the day, but you might be surprised. And at other times, we think it says a lot about other issues that we have strong faith beliefs about, but again, we might be surprised.

Have you wondered what the Bible says about something? Here is your chance. We have a new Sunday Adult Class beginning in August called "What does the Bible Say About that?" Our first subjects, gathered from current class members, will be our starting point, but if you have a subject you would like to suggest, please let Pastor Sandra know. Your subject can be simple; it can be a clear faith issue, or an apparent non-faith issue. It can be an issue that has become political, but we will not be political in our conversations. It could even be a trendy issue. Here is our schedule for August:

Aug 7 What does the Bible say about heaven?

Aug 14 What does the Bible say about immigration?

Aug 21 What does the Bible say about family relationships?

Aug 28 What does the Bible say about end times?

Come join us after church on Sundays!

CHICKEN & SAUSAGE JAMBALAYA FUNDRAISER FOR OUR NEW A/C

We made over \$2000 for the AC fund. With Pastor Sandra out for surgery/recovery and Jennifer Alaniz out for an unexpected family death, the final total has not been determined. A full report on AC donations and fundraiser income will be in HoP This Week as soon as possible. THANKS, EVERYONE!

Chancel Choir Resuming: NEW CHOIR MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

Do you like to sing? Brian Winter, our choir director, is looking to restart our Chancel Choir in the fall after its hiatus because of the pandemic. If you are interested, please speak to Brian and let your interest be known.

CAM DONATIONS FOR AUGUST: canned vegetables, canned fruit



This year's annual ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be in Ohio, Aug. 8-12. Meeting under the theme "Embody the Word," the assembly will discuss how to make decisions about the work of this church, and will spend time in worship and Bible study. They are encouraged to consider the double meaning of the assembly theme, "Embody the Word": "embody" can mean both the incarnation of Jesus Christ and the life of the church emerging from a pandemic, whereas "word" can mean both Jesus Christ and Scripture.



CITY COUNCIL BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

Saturday, August 6 at Pre-K 4 SA North (3635 Medical Dr.) from 9 AM to noon.

- Giving away backpacks and supplies, plus a limited number of bike helmets for kids
- Free dental screenings for families (no appointment necessary),
- no-cost COVID-19 vaccines and boosters (ages 6 months and older)
- vaccines required for 7th graders and college students.
- The San Antonio Food Bank will be handing out free snack packs.
- Fun and games, a DJ, and treats.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

It's time to think about collecting school supplies for Colonies North. You can bring the school supplies to the church and leave them in the collection baskets labeled "School Supplies," or you can make a donation. If giving by check or cash, please mark it for school supplies. If giving online, please choose Colonies North School Supplies as the fund. We will be collecting through the beginning of September.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE: Thank you for all you do! **You are much appreciated!**

Altar Guild Schedule

August 7—Peggy Thackston	GREEN/PENTECOST 8,	10 am Communion
August 14—Ray and Margret	GREEN/PENTECOST 9,	10 am Communion
August 21—Jan Kinnunen	GREEN/PENTECOST 10,	10 am Communion
August 28—Peggy Thackston	GREEN/PENTECOST 11,	10 am Communion

	Readers	PowerPoint	Tellers	Videographer
AUG 7	Roger Mathre	Katie Winter	Karen Forse & Roberta Hanes	Vicki Beyer
AUG 14	Elizabeth Miller	Katie Winter	Karen Long & Jenifer Larson	Jerry McCarty
AUG 21	Marcus Trejo	TBD	Linda Johnson & Roger Mathre	Lisa Moutria
AUG 28	Eva Poblano	Julie Rowe	Paige Vetter & Julie Rowe	Jerry McCarty

This Month's Communion Assistant is
Dave Johnson

This month's Usher is
Paul Piper



MAKING YOUR GRIEF COUNT BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Porter Loring Mortuaries and House of Prayer would like to invite you to join us in an eight week program for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

This program is designed to create a safe place to:

- Embrace your grief and learn to bear it
- Discover how your loved one can live on into your life story
- Strengthen your characteristics of resilience
- Plan for how you will continue to heal and live a meaningful life

FACILITATOR:

Darwin Huartson, M.Div., BCC, Community Chaplain Porter Loring Family Care Services



WHEN:

Tuesdays, 11:30am-1:00pm
September 13, 20*, 27
October 4, 11, 18, 25
November 1, 2022

***Attending all sessions is most beneficial,
therefore no new participants will be accepted after the second session**

WHERE:

House of Prayer, 10226 Ironside, San Antonio, Texas 78230

COST:

Free, BUT please call to reserve a spot

CONTACT:

Pastor Sandra Leifeste (210) 696-1194 OR Darwin Huartson (210) 227-8221 or dhuartson@porterloring.com

UPDATE ON RISE RECOVERY BUILDING

We will be having a synod staff person conduct a couple of meetings to imagine what our options look like. Options could include just about anything. Plans will be announced soon.



AUGUST 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 a.m. WORSHIP in-person and on Facebook 11:00 a.m. - Adult Class	QUILTERS in the quilting room at 9:00 a.m.	ADULT BIBLE STUDY in the quilting room 8:00 a.m.				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 a.m. WORSHIP in-person and on Facebook 11:00 a.m. - Adult Class	QUILTERS in the quilting room at 9:00 a.m.	ADULT BIBLE STUDY in the quilting room at 8:00 a.m.				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00 a.m. WORSHIP in-person and on Facebook 11:00 a.m. - Adult Class	QUILTERS in the quilting room at 9:00 a.m.	ADULT BIBLE STUDY in the quilting room at 8:00 a.m.				
28	29	30	31			
10:00 a.m. WORSHIP in-person and on Facebook 11:00 a.m. - Adult Class	QUILTERS in the quilting room at 9:00 a.m.	ADULT BIBLE STUDY in the quilting room at 8:00 a.m.				

August





HOUSE OF PRAYER

houseofprayerlutheranchurch@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/hoplcsa/>

www.hoplcsa.org

(210) 696-1194

Reverend Sandra Leifeste
Mandy Winter, Congregation President
Marcus Trejo, Vice President
Scott Dittloff, Treasurer
Shirley Vasquez, Member @ Large
Personnel, Dave Johnson
Worship Team, TBA
Jeanne Piper, Ministry Team
Eva Poblano, Fellowship
Roberta Hanes, Stewardship
Lisa Moutria & Jerry McCarty, Property
Jennifer Alaniz, CIELO Ministries

BUNCO ANYONE?

We had a fairly large group playing bunco before the pandemic struck, thanks to Bob and Yolanda French who coordinated it. Would anyone volunteer to coordinate the game again, or work with someone else to attend to the details?

If so, speak with Pastor Sandra.

**A MESSAGE FROM
CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES (CAM)**

We have some new volunteer opportunities that work directly with unsheltered homeless clients!
210-842-0208, Mary Henderson, Volunteer Manager,
110 McCullough SATX 78215, Cam-sa.org

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH
10226 IRONSIDE
SAN ANTONIO TX 78230

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY