



# The Evangel

Vol. 37, Edition 8

August 2020

***Our Saviour  
Lutheran Church***  
*is a congregation of the  
Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America.*

*We welcome all  
to share in life with Christ  
as a community  
of faith in mission.*

## ***OSLC's Vision & Mission***

*God calls us to be a community of  
discipleship for all, making Christ's  
love real in our daily lives.*

*Grow in faith and Christian calling  
Love and serve God and neighbor  
Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

## ***Worship Online***

10:00 A.M. on Sundays

Join the Zoom Meeting or watch  
live on OSLC's facebook page.

Email Sandra ([sandra@osluth.org](mailto:sandra@osluth.org))  
and she'll send you a bulletin  
and a Zoom invite.)

*Randy Schroeder, Pastor*

*Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor*

## **How Do We Grow in Faith in this Broken World?**

Pastor Mike preached a powerful sermon on July 19 in which he reminded us of ways to grow in this time of pandemic, racial tensions and economic woes:

- Prayer
- In-depth Bible Study with others
- Fellowship Time
- Care for the Other
- Listen to each other
- Welcome everyone into Christ's community
- Trust that the Holy Spirit is active among us

He invited folks to add more ideas via chat on Zoom. Here are some of those responses:

- Learn patience and understanding
- Care for neighbors; wear a mask
- Listen and believe the experiences of others, especially when they differ from your own
- Give grace - cut people some slack
- Use the rights and privileges that you have to uplift those that are still marginalized
- Appreciate our blessings and prioritize what really matters
- Use our resources as we are able to contribute to those in need in our communities



August 16<sup>th</sup> for School Aged  
Students/Teachers

August 23<sup>rd</sup> for College  
Students/Staff

I appreciate you!! Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as I am gradually getting back on my feet after my scare/cold. In this time of coronavirus, it is difficult to know what symptoms lead to what illness. We are on edge every day because of Covid-19 and the concerns do not stop there. It is difficult to press forward. Yet, with the love of God and by God's gentle guidance pulling us toward the Kingdom of heaven, we respond by continuing God's ministry through OSLC.



In the last few months of Coronavirus drudgery, we have responded. You (OSLC) have thought creatively to carry on God's mission. We have come a long way from posting recorded sermons at the beginning of the Covid-19 quarantine back on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Now we have three glorious cameras with which to share our worship with the communities of old, new and beyond. We have recorded music and singing provided by our talented musicians.

Your OSLC Council is meeting as usual via Zoom, tackling and discerning the ministry of the church as well as discussing the appropriate time to gather in person SAFELY. So far, they have decided to wait and reevaluate the situation in mid-fall. This will give them time to see how the Coronavirus reacts to the surge of students, staff and faculty back on campus this fall.

The Mutual Ministry Team has a transition team in place until April 2021. At that time we will need some more members... And a new Stewardship team will also be in the works for 2021 also ... so don't be surprised if your Pastor asks you to pray about being on one of them 😊.

The Property Team has replaced a leaking hot water heater and completed its work on the kitchen remodel as well as sealed the parking lot and relined it. All are beautiful and ready, as we are ready to be used in God's mission - as soon as we can.

The Faith Formation Team (replacement terminology for Christian Education) is looking for ways to keep connected with Sunday School via technology when September comes around. Other points of connection include: Pints with a Pastor (PwaP), Bible studies, Game Nights, Movie watch parties and discussions. The Faith Formation Team begun the search for a replacement for Angie Henderson our Director of Faith Formation. With much help from Angie (Thank you 😊) we have multiple ads on social media and other publications.

OSLC ministry continues with opportunities through LUM, PLM, Food Finders and Family Promise in safe ways.

The Evangelism Team is exploring ways to make OSLC more visible: maybe building a bench or simple covered area by the City-Bus stop in front of the church, placement of peace poles on our property, creating a gathering area in the front of the building where the stone wall is now located... etc. They are in the process of purchasing banners to be hung in the atrium/entrance of the church.

As God is continually pulling us toward wholeness in God's love and peace, I give thanks for your partnership in this ministry. I appreciate all you do and keep doing.

Peace,

Pastor Randy

**Please note! Pastor Randy will be taking vacation August 24-28.**

## Galatians Bible Study

You are invited to journey through the Book of Galatians with Pastor Randy. Throughout the six weeks, we will explore the rudest letter Paul authored; he calls them deserters of Christ (1:6), and fools- twice (3:1&3) ... I bet they were doing the best they could, but we'll see. Some scholars claim this is the earliest letter Paul wrote and that may be why he was so cranky. (I added the cranky part.) We will travel together to figure it out.

August 10<sup>th</sup> – Chapter 1 – Paul's Passion and Call

August 17<sup>th</sup> – Chapter 2 – Paul's Acceptance and Gospel

August 31<sup>st</sup> – Chapter 3:1-25 – Faith and the Law, Law and Promise

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Chapter 3:26-4:7 – Unity, Joy and Zeal

September 21<sup>st</sup> – Chapter 4:21-5:15 – Hagar and Sarah - Freedom of Christ

September 28<sup>th</sup> – Chapter 5:16-6:18 - Life by the Spirit – New Creation

So, if the Corona has made you cranky, no worries... it happens to the best of us. Come join us (via Zoom—email Pastor Randy for an invite: randy@osluth.org) Mondays at 12:00 (noon) as we discover the truth in scripture, that Christ has set us free.



## Council Highlights July 8, 2020



- Pastor Randy continues to Zoom a lot.
- Pray for Pastor Mike and PLM as they plan and meet in this new normal.
- Evangelism: Working to implement ideas for making OSLC more visible.
- Attendance has been stable via Zoom and Facebook.
- The Council decided to extend the period of no in-church worship to mid-fall, at which time they will reevaluate based on ELCA and City/County/State recommendations. We will continue with Zoom and Facebook real time services and the recorded version on the OSLC website.

*Dear OSLC Family,  
Thank you for the support and prayers for Katie Gascho, my daughter from Troy, OH. She has successfully completed treatments for breast cancer and is doing well. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are appreciated.  
Warm regards,  
Jesse Grogan*

A BIG thank you to the Gearharts, the Huettemans, and Sue Hermodson for cleaning up the flower beds and the front of the church and for taking down the dead tree by the parking lot. Your hard work is appreciated!

### Second Quarter Financial Report

For the first six months of 2020, the church received \$163,599.61 in contributions and spent \$160,661.53 on expenses for a difference of \$2,938.08. Offerings for the first quarter were 99.7% of our projected income. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Our income figure above does not include the PPP loan of \$24,175.49. We will be applying to have the PPP loan forgiven.

— Finance Ministry Team

## OSLC Stewardship Column

August 2020

*Ole and Sven were marooned on an island. Ole paced back and forth, worried and scared, while Sven sat back and was sunning himself. Ole said to Sven, "Aren't you afraid we are about to die." "No," said Sven, "I make \$10,000 a week and tithe faithfully to my church every week. It's Stewardship Month at my church. My pastor will find me."*

May God's grace and love find you safe and not marooned. 😊

When I was in high school, I had a part-time job at Roger's Grocery store. I was a bag boy and restocked the baking food aisle. If I were lucky, I would get scheduled to work on Sunday morning unloading the truck to restock the store. It was lucky because you got an extra \$0.25 to work unloading the truck on Sunday mornings. I remember one of the conversations with good friends/coworkers about working instead of going to church. Some of us were more religious than others so there were different perspectives. I remember saying, "I have to work because I have a car payment to make and I don't see God making it..." or something to that effect. My friends got a laugh out of it, but if I would have known then I would be a pastor now... I might have realized God **was making it**.

Like Sven in the story above, there is an easiness, a peace that surpasses all understanding as we are generous with what God blesses us. If I had been more mature at the time, I would have realized the easiness of God's work in my vocation. As we share our gifts with the church and others, God reveals blessings to us that we would not always recognize. Stewardship reaches every aspect of our lives. Tithing is always the first thought when we think of Stewardship, yet stewardship is so much more. We are called to steward (take care of) our financial, physical, social, emotional, vocational, intellectual wellbeing as well as that of our community. As we focus on these aspects of our lives and the lives around us, God pulls us toward wholeness with each other and toward wholeness with Godself.

The blessing of my job at Roger's allowed me to have the car I used in high school and college, enhancing my financial, social, and intellectual self. The friendships I made in that job have been life-long and blessed Conner with one of his godparents. The blessing of those friendships enhanced my vocational, emotional, and physical self.

As my relationship with you and OSLC grows, I plan on finding you, like Sven's pastor except, I pray, we can have a better conversation about stewardship in all its aspects... I have learned some of your talents and gifts. (who would have thought a renowned educator, corn specialist and master farmer would have a passion for Zoom, YouTube, and internet communication – thank you Bob!) I am extremely excited to learn about more of your gifts and talents as we praise God for all our blessings to share them with OSLC, our community, and God's creation.

May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding be with you now and always.

Pastor Randy

**Our  
Spirit  
Living in  
Christ**

# AUGUST UPDATES

## Upcoming Events & Faith Formation Resources

- **Virtual Game Night (August 18 at 7 P.M.)**— Join Molly and Christian Webb on the 3rd Tuesday of the month for some fellowship and fun, Zoom style. **Sign-up link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H7P7BB6>.
- **“Race in America” viewing and social justice discussion on Thursday, August 20 at 7:30 P.M.** – Scott Vana and Kathy Heise will lead the discussion of Phil Vischer’s video. Send Scott an email ([scottv1162@gmail.com](mailto:scottv1162@gmail.com)) if you’d like to participate. He’ll send you a Zoom invite.
- **Pints with a Pastor (i.e., Pastor Randy):** Grab your favorite beverage and join the Zoom discussion of current events let by Pastor Randy on August 3, 17, 31 at 6:56 P.M.
- **Pint-sized with a Pastor (for Toddler-Elementary Age):** Grab a snack and have fun with Pastor Randy the last three Wednesdays before school starts. The group will meet August 5, 12 and 19 at 3:26 P.M..
- **Sunday School and Adult Forum Update:** While Our Saviour continues to worship remotely, an on-line version of Sunday School and Zoom Adult Forum discussions will be available starting September 13. Look for more information in the bulletin soon.
- **Bible Study (Mondays at noon):** Pastor Randy will begin the next study August 10. An email with the zoom link and more information will be sent prior to the first day.

## Other Resources

- **Facebook**—“Like” OSLC’s page for Sunday Worship streamed live, updates and upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/osluth/>
- **RightNow Media** (bible studies, devotions, video resources for individuals & families)—FREE OSLC membership: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/account/invite/OurSaviour>



Contact Information for Angie Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Outreach  
 EMAIL: [angie@osluth.org](mailto:angie@osluth.org) Church: 765-743-2931 Cell/Home: 402-213-9157



Volume 7; Issue 44 8/1/20

## Important August Zooms

- ⇒ **August 3 & 17 (Mondays) 6:56 P.M. Pints with a Pastor**
- ⇒ **August 5, 12, 19 (Wednesdays) 3:26 P.M. Pint-Sized with a Pastor (Elementary age)**
- ⇒ **August 10 and beyond (Mondays at Noon) Galatians Bible Study**
- ⇒ **Tuesday, August 18, 7 P.M. Virtual Game Night with the Webbs**
- ⇒ **Thursday, August 20, 7:30 P.M. Social Justice Discussion of Phil Vischer’s “Race in America” (Available on RightNow Media)**

*“A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be.”*  
 —Douglas Pagels

## Coming in September to a Zoom Meeting near You!

Planners are busy working on an **Adult Forum** schedule. Look for more information to come in the bulletins in August.

# Words of Wisdom for Surviving the Pandemic

## Remember Romans 8:38-39:

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## For emotions:

- Recognize that this is a traumatic situation and accept your feelings as normal. By paying attention to what they are telling you, you can respond better.
- Make a list of your losses. It is normal to feel sad when we have losses.
- Learn ways to calm your strong emotions such as breathing slowly and deeply, imagining scenes that help you feel calm, and so forth.
- Pay attention to where you feel stress in your body. Try to relax any parts of your body that feel tense.
- Talk about your feelings with people who are safe and know how to listen. Listen to their stories.
- Tell God honestly how you feel.
- Rest in God's care for you.
- Encourage children and teens to express their feelings, in words or art or play, and listen to them.
- Find a reliable source of information about the disease, the dangers, and appropriate responses.

## For isolation:

- Connect with others without having close physical contact: by phone, online, or in other creative ways.
- Share with others some Scripture passages that encourage or comfort you.
- Establish routines.
- Get exercise and fresh air, if possible. Rest regularly and go to bed at a regular time each night.
- Do something you enjoy.
- Help others, perhaps those who have been most affected by the virus.
- Find some meaningful activities.

*(from Healing from the Distress of the COVID-19 Crisis from the Trauma Healing Institute)*

## Pay Attention and Value Discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience — or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* (“year of wonders”) and reportedly said, “*If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent.*”

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, and community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God's presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as “*I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope*” (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?

## God in the Midst of the Pandemic

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, “*Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you*” (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, “*I am with you always*” (Matthew 28:20).

## Learning—and Laughing—on the Fly

Faced with the sudden move to livestreamed church services, many pastors and worship leaders had to learn new technology quickly during the pandemic. As they were “winging it,” bloopers and bobbles added levity to the tense time.

For instance, a fake tree fell on a drummer while a worship song was being broadcast from Georgia. After getting too close to a candle, a vicar in England had to pause to extinguish flames from his sweater. And several preachers appeared on screen with cartoon-like features after inadvertently turning on social media filters.

“*This wasn't planned,*” wrote the pastor about the falling ficus, which didn't cause injury but quickly went viral. “*But God used it to bring laughter to the hearts of many. For that, we are thankful.*”

## Masks Needed for LWR School Kits



Right now we have 60 bags and the supplies that we need to fill them. However, Lutheran World Relief is adding face masks to the list this year, so we need 60 of those to put in the bags as well. If you'd like to make some, the instructions LWR has provided appear below.

### How to Make a Face Mask with Ties

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- One (1) 8" x 14" piece of cotton fabric
- Two (2) 2" x 34" strips
- Thread & sewing machine

#### PREPARE THE MASK:

1. On 8" x 14" piece, right sides together, sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, creating tube.
2. Turn right sides out, press seam and fabric.
3. Make 3 pleats, approx. 1" each in size, using steam or pins to hold. Mask will be approx. 3" – 3.5" width.
4. Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on each side of mask, securing pleats.
5. Trim seam allowance.

#### PREPARE THE TIES:

1. Fold in half and press (1"). Open tie back up.
2. Fold each edge in to meet middle ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ") and press.
3. Fold in half again, securing raw edges inside and press. Each tie will be approx.  $\frac{1}{2}$ " width.

#### ASSEMBLY:

1. Align center of tie with side of mask, open tie so edge of mask fits snugly inside. Pin.
2. Sew tie to mask. Seam will be very short, get as close as able while still catching all fabric. You are just attaching the mask to the tie at this point, not sewing the whole tie yet.
3. Repeat for other tie and other side of mask.
4. Sew down edges of tie, securing raw edges inside. Seam is very short. You will stitch over where mask is already attached. This is good because it helps reinforce.
5. Repeat for other tie and other side of mask.
6. Clip any stray fabric.

# Family Promise & LIRS

## Donations

We accept the following donations at our center daily from 9-5 pm.

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Deodorant (for both men and women)
- Baby shampoo and wash
- Razors
- Laundry Soap (pods please)
- Dishwasher pods and dish soap
- Gift cards (Walmart, Speedway, Kroger, Target)
- Paper towels
- Heavy duty kitchen sized trash bags

We do not accept clothing at this time.

Family Promise of Greater Lafayette, Inc.  
2010 Elmwood Ave.  
Lafayette, IN 47904  
(765) 838-3651  
[fpglinc.org](http://fpglinc.org)



You can leave donations in the Fellowship Hall at OSLC (look for the sign) and Julie Huetteman will make sure they get to Family Promise.

\*\*\*\*\*



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)

**Immigration in the United States is under attack.** The U.S. has never accepted fewer refugees. Unaccompanied migrant children are being expelled at the border without due process. And our newest neighbors have been left out of federal pandemic relief legislation.

**But all hope is not lost.**

Join LIRS for our latest Virtual Town Hall, COVID and Beyond: Actions You Can Take Now to Rebuild Our Immigration System.

The virtual event will feature LIRS President and CEO Krish O'Mara Vignarajah and Director of Advocacy Ronnate Asirwatham, and Human Rights First's Refugee Advocacy Director, Jennifer Quigley, who will share **real, actionable ways** you can help to restore America's status as a leader in global immigration.

**Register now to learn how you can raise your voice and make a difference.**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Xs\\_EIITTKieSD6zQbNAEw?mc\\_cid=c834e22699&mc\\_eid=2510f71905](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xs_EIITTKieSD6zQbNAEw?mc_cid=c834e22699&mc_eid=2510f71905)

LIRS  
Join us for a Virtual Town Hall!  
**COVID AND BEYOND:**  
Actions You Can Take  
Now to Rebuild Our  
Immigration System  
August 4  
4 p.m. Eastern

# Lafayette Urban Ministry

## LUM Protein Food Pantry Needs You

Donations & Volunteers Needed Weekly

To offer a good variety of proteins and paper products, the LUM **Protein Food Pantry** relies on donations from individuals, churches, companies and groups. The LUM food pantry also needs volunteers each **Thursday** morning from **9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**, to unload food, set up, check-in & assist families, and breakdown.

Five ways **YOU** can help the LUM Protein Food Pantry are as follows:

Make a **Monetary Donation**

Sign up to **Volunteer**

Sponsor a **Food Drive**

Donate **Needed Items**

Participate in **Hunger Hike**, which benefits the LUM Protein Food Pantry

If you wish to sponsor a food drive or donate needed items, the list of items the food pantry needs is as follows:

Paper products: toilet paper, paper towels, napkins & facial tissues

Peanut butter

Eggs

Canned meats (beef, chicken) & canned fish (tuna)

Beans, legumes & lentils – dry or canned

Fresh produce: fruits & vegetables

Baby diapers & wipes; Infant formula

Feminine Hygiene Products: liners, napkins, pads, tampons, wipes

Adult incontinence protection aids (unisex briefs)

If you wish to make a monetary donation, volunteer, donate needed items, register for Hunger Hike — or simply have questions or need further information, go to [lumserve.org/food-pantry](http://lumserve.org/food-pantry), call 765-423-2691 or email [foodpantry@lumserve.org](mailto:foodpantry@lumserve.org).

## Hunger Hike

Hunger Hike



Wanted: Teams, Hikers, Donors & More

There are only **45 DAYS to Hunger Hike**. Why not get started **NOW**? Here's what you need to know to begin raising money and "fighting hunger." Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be a year of great changes for Hunger Hike, and the event is going to be unique and more exciting than ever.

Hunger Hike 2020 will kick off on Sunday, **September 13**, starting a week-long challenge for "Hikers" and "Teams." Individuals & groups can create online fundraising pages for themselves and their team and begin fundraising today. They will also be encouraged to create a "personal challenge" for the week or participate in a leaderboard challenge with other members of their fundraising team to see who can get the most steps -- using a mobile app.

The centerpiece of the event will take place on Sunday, **Sept. 20** at 1:00 P.M. with the Hunger Hike livestream event, featuring local celebrities, speakers and entertainment to help celebrate and raise funds for Hunger Hike. The hike raises money to support the important work of Lafayette Urban Ministry, Food Finders Food Bank, Inc., and the St. Thomas Aquinas Haiti Ministry.

## Chipotle Night Benefits LUM Youth Programs

Save the Date - Tuesday, August 25 - 5-9 P.M.

(See more info to the right.)



# CAUSE AN EFFECT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Lafayette Urban Ministry - After School Program. Come in to the Chipotle at **4030 South St** in Lafayette on **Tuesday, August 25th** between **5:00pm** and **9:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to Lafayette Urban Ministry - After School Program.



Online orders will not be included in the fundraiser total. To ensure your purchase is counted in the fundraiser, be sure to order and pay in-restaurant. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

# Food Finders & LTHC Homeless Services

Dear friend of the food bank,

**We are excited to announce that we will be welcoming back volunteers in August!**

We will continue having the National Guard assisting us with the client-facing distributions, but volunteers will help us do the behind-the-scenes projects to keep those distributions supplied with food.

Due to COVID-19, we have implemented several changes to our Volunteer Program to protect the health and safety of our volunteers, clients, and staff. You can read about these safeguards within our Volunteer Program on our website. Additionally, we have scaled-back the number of volunteer shifts for the month of August, as compared to before the pandemic. We will continue to adjust our volunteer program in light of COVID-19 developments and the needs of our community.

If you are an individual looking to volunteer, please use our **Volunteer Calendar** to sign-up for a shift. If you are organizing a group to volunteer, please email me at [volunteer@food-finders.org](mailto:volunteer@food-finders.org).

Thank you for your support and patience these past few months. We can't wait to see you again!

Sincerely,

Catherine MacLeod  
Interim Volunteer Coordinator  
Food Finders Food Bank



\*\*\*\*\*



This year's "There's No U in BINGO" will be a virtual event on Facebook on August 20. We will be sharing updates and successes on our mission as well as giving the community an opportunity to support us as we prepare for a significant increase in the number of persons experiencing homelessness as a result of COVID-19.

Every dollar we raise through this fundraiser will go directly to those in our community who are experiencing a housing crisis. With all that has happened this year, LTHC needs your help more than ever. The national estimate is that there will be a 40 percent increase in the number of persons experiencing homelessness -- please help us be prepared to manage that!

During the one-hour Facebook Live event, viewers will have the opportunity to hear from our President/CEO Jennifer Layton about how LTHC has impacted homelessness during COVID-19 as well as some forecasts for the future. We will share some of our success stories and provide information on how the community can be involved in supporting our mission.

There is No U in BINGO is a fundraiser -- a replacement for our agency's largest annual event. Businesses, individuals, and groups can be a sponsor. We will also be "selling" tickets to the event -- asking for donations. There will be a handful of auction packages that you can bid on as well.

You can send your donation to the Engagement Center. Please make checks payable to LTHC:

LTHC  
Attn: Jennifer Shook  
815 North 12th Street  
Lafayette, IN 47904 You are also invited to donate online at [www.lthc.net](http://www.lthc.net) -- just put in the memo that it's for No U in BINGO!



# Take Action with Bread for the World

## Hunger and the Coronavirus

The COVID-19 pandemic presents an era-defining challenge to our nation and our communities.

As the outbreak spread, Congress responded with good initial steps, passing legislation that provides immediate cash assistance to low- and middle-income households, including Pandemic Unemployment Insurance Assistance (PUA) through December 2020 to workers.

The recent bill also provides global response funds to meet increasing international humanitarian needs. That said, more must be done to ensure the most vulnerable among us, who are hit the hardest by the pandemic, do not fall between the cracks of society.

Tell Congress immediately to boost Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) maximum benefits by 15 percent to ensure the vulnerable populations in the United States have access to the resources they need.

SNAP benefits help people buy enough food and the purchases stimulate the economy. Every \$1 increase in SNAP benefits generates more than \$1.50 in economic activity. It's estimated that \$1 billion in new SNAP benefits issued during a recession raises GDP by \$1.54 billion and supports 13,560 jobs.

Urge your senators and representatives to increase SNAP benefits to help families cope with the economic downturn that is accompanying efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus.



## The Role of Faith During a Pandemic

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread globally, we appeal ever more strongly to our God, who is a God of hope and healing. This Lenten season, we are reminded to return time and again to our God, who is with us, who loves us, who shares our concerns, and who yearns for our good health, safety, and flourishing.

And so, in confidence we pray for God's healing Spirit to hover over every inch of this world:

*God of Mercy and Grace,*

*You have called us from the east and from the west, from the south and from the north to be your body in this world. Keep us connected through you even in our physical distance.*

*We come to you trusting that you are our refuge and our strength, our very present help in trouble.*

*We pray for people who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and for the family and medical staff who surround them in care.*

*We pray for those who are most vulnerable to this disease, whether from underlying health conditions or other contributing factors. May they rest in your peace and protection.*

*We pray for healthcare workers and people on the front lines of this disease. For workers who are in essential roles to keep our communities going. Keep them healthy; keep them safe.*

*We pray for parents and children who are struggling with this new normal of homeschool, especially those who rely on school meal programs. We pray for everyone struggling with these rapid changes. May we be comforted by your peace and your presence.*

*We pray for people who face hate and discrimination brought on by fear and anger. May these your beloved children feel your embrace.*

*We pray for those whose actions are motivated by fear and anger. May they remember that you are a God of abundance.*

*We pray for our leaders. May they be guided by your wisdom. May they be courageous and make the bold decisions necessary to end this pandemic.*

*And we pray for all the advocates and the volunteers who are responding to your call to care for the people who are most vulnerable in our communities and around the world. Give them endurance. Stir them with your longing for justice. May they be comforted and moved by your Holy Spirit.*

*It is in the strong name of Jesus that we do pray. Amen.*

## Make Your Voice Heard in Congress

Congress is working on another bill to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. It's critical that Congress strengthen food assistance programs — so that vulnerable people in our own country and abroad have access to the food they need to stay healthy. You can support this effort by writing to your representatives in Congress. Items to emphasize:

1. Boost maximum SNAP (food stamp) benefits by 15 percent and double the minimum SNAP benefits
2. Extend Pandemic EBT (electronic benefit) through September 21— so kids and their families who depend on school meals don't go hungry this summer
3. Provide \$12 billion to support international programs and organizations that are working to keep the COVID-19 crisis from becoming a global hunger crisis

### Handwritten letters to Congress

Members of Congress and their staffs are spending less time in their Washington, D.C., offices. So mailing your letters to their regional or district offices is more effective. To find mailing addresses for your Senators and Representative, visit [bread.org/write](https://bread.org/write).

### Personalized emails to Congress

To email your House Representative and both Senators, Bread for the World's website has several different email messages that you can personalize and send from the website. Visit [bread.org/write](https://bread.org/write). To send an email to your House Representative from Bread's website, you'll need to enter your 9-digit zip code, which you can find quickly at [usps.com](https://usps.com).

Consider writing your email out ahead of time in a Word document so you can easily copy and paste it into Bread's email box on its website. That way you can write a more personal email message or one that makes several requests. That's easier than sending multiple emails from Bread's website.

### Suggestions for your personalized email messages

*If you personalize and rewrite at least 10 percent of the sample email message, your message will be elevated above bulk email into the highest priority category of review by congressional staffers.*

1. Change the subject line to something original;
2. Rewrite the first sentences of your email by stating why you care;
3. Mention the pandemic is affecting your community.

### SAMPLE LETTER

*(Use your own words and personalize your letter with your own testimony.)*

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_, Date \_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm writing to you because I'm concerned that, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, people are going hungry here in our state, across the country, and in the poorest parts of the world.

I urge you to support a 15 percent increase in maximum SNAP benefits and a doubling of minimum benefits. Additional SNAP benefits will help vulnerable people get the food they need to stay healthy — and support jobs and strengthen our economy for everyone. Please also extend the Pandemic EBT program through September 21 so that children in our state get enough food throughout the summer.

Finally, I urge you to provide \$12 billion to support international organizations and programs so that they can provide emergency assistance to hungry people in the world's poorest countries.

Thank you for your leadership during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State ZIP]

News items for the September *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 8/26/2020. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

**OSLC Staff**

(765) 743-2931  
[www.osluth.org](http://www.osluth.org)  
Randy Schroeder, Pastor  
Sandra Vana, Secretary  
Angie Henderson, Director of  
Education and Outreach

**PLM**

**Purdue Lutheran Ministry**

(765) 743-2398  
[www.plm.org](http://www.plm.org)  
Michael Vinson, Pastor  
330 West Fowler Ave  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

**Congregational Officers**

President: Diane Gray  
Vice President: Matt Ohland  
Treasurer: Sue Hermodson  
Financial Secretary: John Mills

**Congregational Council**

Cindy Modlin Adams  
Mike Dana  
Carol Grady  
Diane Gray  
Sherri Guido  
Allen Hammer  
Kathy Heise  
Matt Ohland  
Scott Vana

**Ministry Team Contacts**

Altar: Vicki Mills  
Arts: Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer  
Christian Education: Sandra Vana  
Evangelism: Scott Vana  
Family Promise: Julie Huetteman  
Fellowship Events: Sara Behnke  
Finance: Steve Belter & Carl Behnke  
Foundation: Vince Guido  
LUM Liaison: Allen Grady  
Mutual Ministry: Brian Wagner  
Operations: Dick Rahdert  
PLM Liaison: Mike Myers  
Property: Matt Ohland  
Social Justice: Seeking new contact  
Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson



*The Evangel*

Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
300 West Fowler Avenue  
West Lafayette, IN 47906