



## PASTOR'S LETTER

If you have been reading the *HoP This Week* or listened to the Sunday announcements you know that this month we are welcoming Deacon Intern Lisa Dianna to our church. On the next page, Deacon Intern Lisa shares a little about herself as we prepare to share the next 9 months of our lives together in ministry.

But I imagine a few of you are asking what a 'Deacon' is. Deacons, in various forms, have been a part of our tradition for a long time. When I was a child, my church growing up had a Deaconess who was a member of the church. I remember her because I always thought she dressed like a nun. And there have been other lay professionals over the years. However, a few years ago, at a National Assembly, our church gathered all these lay professional under the term Deacon and began ordaining them to "Word and Service," as opposed to a pastor who is ordained to "Word and Sacrament." Both pastors and deacons preach God's Word, but pastors focus their work usually in a congregational setting, while deacons, because their focus is on service, can work in the congregation or work in the world outside of the congregational setting.

Deacon Intern Lisa, plans on working in chaplaincy, but she needs the experience of being in a congregation to preach the Word. So, our Synod asked if we would be willing to let Lisa gain that experience at House of Prayer. She will not be full time; as part of her learning experience, she will also be working with the Interfaith Welcome Coalition and some Synod work. And if you are wondering, she is doing her work as a volunteer, although we will reimburse her expenses as needed.

This is a challenging time to begin this exciting opportunity, but that also makes it a great learning opportunity, as life is always full of twists and turns. Lisa and I are still working out all the details of her time with us, since this is happening rather quickly, and I'm working with the seminary on supervisory training, so I'm learning something new as well. This will also be a learning opportunity for you as well-- even though many of you will remember being an Internship site in the past, every internship is new and full of learning.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sandra

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*We extend our sympathies to the family of Vera Brookover.*

*Vera passed away on August 1, 2020.*



*Her funeral was held on Friday, August 7 for family only, but there is an abbreviated prayer service on our church app. To access it, simply open the app and look under "Sermons."*



VERY EXCITING NEWS

House of Prayer will be the internship site for an aspiring deacon! Pastor Sandra is going to be the supervisor of a deacon intern, Lisa Diana, for the next nine months. As a deacon intern, Lisa will work with the congregation, the synod, and some community organizations. She will be preaching once a month, and helping with the Sunday liturgy. Here is a letter of introduction that she asked to share with you:

Greetings members of House of Prayer Lutheran Church,

I wanted to introduce myself. My name is Lisa Diana and I will be doing my Deacon internship at House of Prayer. I'm very thankful to Pastor Sandra as well as to the Council for agreeing to "take me on." Becoming a Deacon is a second career for me, having returned to school after 25 years. My previous work has been in the Social Services field, as well as staying home with my children. I consider San Antonio my home since I spent much of my growing up time here. My husband, Joe, is retired from the Air Force and works as a government contractor. We have two children who are in the Alamo Heights School district, a son, Matthew, who is a Senior this year and a daughter, Sophia, who is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I am interested in pursuing work in chaplaincy or in pastoral care for a non-profit. Being in a congregational setting such as this will allow me to develop my identity as a Deacon in the church, so I ask for your patience and grace as I try to fulfill that to which I feel God has called me. I know that now is a difficult time, but I hope to eventually meet with you face to face. Thank you so much for allowing me to serve you during this time.

God's Peace, Lisa Diana.

**A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SANDRA REGARDING  
WORSHIP, FINANCES, AND A PANDEMIC UPDATE**

The council will revisit when to restart in-person worship on Sept. 20. If the positivity rate continues to be in the single digits and there is no surge in cases after Labor Day, we may be able to restart our in-person worship in October. If we are able to do that, we will all need to follow the guidelines set out.

Our financial situation is okay but not great. So, the council did decide to temporarily stop our 2% benevolence to community groups and to temporarily reduce our benevolence to the Synod by 1%, which makes our giving to the Synod 2% of our regular income.

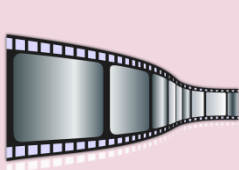


## FELLOWSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

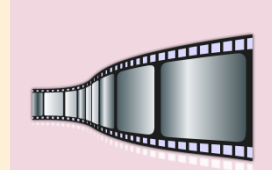
### Virtual Happy Hours

A few of us members have been gathering on Zoom and just catching up with each other. We would love to see you. If you are not sure how to join, Dick Thackston is willing to come and help you get set up. We will be gathering virtually on  
Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm. And Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.  
The Zoom link will be sent out via email in advance.

### Netflix & Conversation



We are scaling back on Netflix & Conversation to just once a month. The movie this month will be  
We'll meet for conversation on Wednesday, September 19 at 7:00 pm



### A MESSAGE FROM THE ATKINSONS

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful parade. It is a great way to show your love and kindness for DeWitt's birthday. God's blessing to all.

Love,  
DeWitt, Frieda and Family

P.S. Thank you all for your prayers for our family.

## CROSS TRAILS MINISTRIES FALL FESTIVAL 2020

This September, the Cross Trails annual festival will be a SEVEN-WEEK VIRTUAL one!

Featuring:

Virtual 5K    Virtual Cook-Off    Online Auction

For information, contact  
CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY

391 UPPER TURTLE CREEK RD, KERRVILLE, TX 78028  
830-257-6340 | [CROSSTRAILS.ORG](http://CROSSTRAILS.ORG) | [INFO@CROSSTRAILS.ORG](mailto:INFO@CROSSTRAILS.ORG)

There is another birthday in addition to the ones listed below!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO KAREN AND STEVE LONG** on the birth of their grandson, Theodore Frederick Rawls McBryde-Long, born 8/15/2020! He is 6 lbs 7oz. and 20 inches; he is doing well.

## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



### Birthdays:

Frieda Atkinson 9/5  
Amanda Winter, 9/9  
Robert Garner, 9/10  
Eva Poblano, 9/14

Roberta Hanes, 9/16  
Sandra Leifetz, 9/17  
Faye Randow, 9/19  
Shirley Ehrlich, 9/24

Anniversaries: none



## A Message from ELCA World Hunger

Rick Steves, guidebook author and travel TV host; the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and the Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, bishop of the ELCA Northwest Washington Synod, invite you to an online benefit — the first of its kind — for ELCA World Hunger. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 to confront hunger in the time of COVID-19.

### Hunger in the Time of COVID-19: Life for Today and Hope for Tomorrow

When: Thursday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m. Central time

Where: Zoom virtual event

We are in a historic moment, facing a once-in-a-century pandemic and a global change in hunger unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes. Domestically and internationally, hunger is increasing at alarming rates. At this event, you will learn about the unique ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. Our hosts will also discuss the ongoing root causes of hunger and poverty addressed in Rick Steves' recent special Hunger and Hope: Lessons From Ethiopia and Guatemala. And you will hear from ELCA World Hunger partners on the front lines of the current hunger crisis, who will tell you firsthand how your gifts make a difference. We are called by God to share hope in this time of challenge. Join us to face this global hunger crisis head-on and to continue moving toward a just world where all are fed.

If you are reading the online version of this newsletter, you can register for this event by hovering over the link below and clicking on it while holding down the CTRL button, or you can copy it and paste it into your browser bar.

<https://community.elca.org/online-registration/sept-24-rick-steves-virtual-hunger-event?erid=8e9a9ba7-b268-4d3e-ba51-e9c8e42b51d8&strid=8e9a9ba7-b268-4d3e-ba51-e9c8e42b51d8>

## A Message from ELCA on September Webinars on Planning for Family and Ministry

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest will offer “Growing in Generosity--Legacies That Last,” a webinar on legacy planning for family and ministry. The webinar will be offered at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on two Wednesdays – Sept. 9 and Sept. 23 – and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13. Please sign up for the one that works best for you using the link below: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_FAnTBalrRyaP-E6ZSGT4Cw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FAnTBalrRyaP-E6ZSGT4Cw)

This webinar is open to all congregational members to learn more about the foundation's comprehensive legacy planning services for family and ministry. The foundation is a partner ministry of the three ELCA synods in Texas and offers its services at no cost and no obligation.

A congregation member may say, “I like the idea of leaving a gift to my church when I pass away, but I'd like to know more about how to create a plan for family and ministry.” A gift planner is available in each synod that can guide you to clarify your goals and objectives in planning. Any congregation member can establish a robust personal legacy plan with the guidance of the synod gift planner.

Those who may have additional questions or need assistance with registration are invited to contact Deacon John Dellis, senior gift planner for congregations in the Southwestern Texas Synod, at (830) 305-2758 or [jdellis@lfs.org](mailto:jdellis@lfs.org).

## RELIEF INFORMATION FOR HURRICANE LAURA

Many have been wondering how they can help. The ELCA reports that Hurricane Laura had winds of at least 150 mph, making it one of the most powerful storms to hit the area in a century, and it left widespread destruction in its wake. Given the complexities caused by COVID-19, sheltering those impacted will be a challenge. Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response (Upbring) and the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast and Southwestern Texas synods, which are assessing the immediate needs and initiating a response. You will be receiving a letter by email with information on how to contribute to Lutheran Disaster Relief; gifts designated for “Hurricane Response” will be used entirely (100%) for hurricane response efforts until they are complete.



## SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
				Fellowship Happy Hour via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
The link to worship will be sent by email at 6 a.m.			Netflix and Conversation Movie: <i>Les Miserables</i> 7:00 p.m.			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
The link to worship will be sent by email at 6 a.m.				Fellowship Happy Hour via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
The link to worship will be sent by email at 6 a.m. COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM, 11A.M.						
27	28	29	30			
The link to worship will be sent by email at 6 a.m.						

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Frieda Atkinson, DeWitt Atkinson, Bob French, Donald Leonard, Edna Hacker,  
Herbert Itz, Alice Little, Marion Schroeder, Karen French, Kathy Harlan, Faye Randow, Jolanda Wood,  
Francis Laubach, Anita Carroll, Janelle Kinsel, Robert Cruz, Marta Yanez, and  
Our Military, particularly Michael Foglio, Jordan Bielfeldt, and all of our veterans.





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

Worship during quarantine is prerecorded and posted online on Sundays at 6 am.  
Office hours: 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  
Randy Stephenson, Vice President  
Jenifer Larson, Treasurer  
Paige Vetter, Member @ Large  
Dave Johnson, Personnel  
Julie Rowe, Worship  
Kirsten Mangin, Ministry-Mission  
Eva Poblano, Fellowship  
Roberta Hanes, Stewardship  
Bob French & Steve Long, Property  
Jennifer Alaniz, CIELO Ministries

A La Mesa Bible Study will not meet during September.

CAM's donation for September will be peanut butter and jelly.

Bunco will not be held in September 2020.

**A LECTURE ON HOW TO MAKING GIVING MORE  
MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE**

**EWING HALSELL DISTINGUISHED LECTURE**

**FROM GENEROSITY TO JUSTICE:  
A NEW GOSPEL OF WEALTH**

**Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020  
Virtual Presentation 7-8 pm CDT  
Free and open to the public**



A conversation with  
**Ford Foundation President  
Darren Walker, JD**

**HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
10226 IRONSIDE  
SAN ANTONIO TX 78230**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY