



PASTOR'S LETTER

On Reformation Sunday I showed a video as part of my sermon, the title of the video is "What is Privilege?" It's a term we hear a lot these days and I think many of us have a hard time understanding it in terms of race, gender, orientation, and economic standing. And because the concept of privilege is often paired with 'white', those of us who are white are often filled with emotions that are on the negative side.

For myself, when I first started hearing "white privilege," I felt almost like I was being accused of doing something wrong, rather than just trying my best to get where I wanted to be. Maybe I even felt like something was going to be taken away that I had worked for. But after learning more and putting my fears aside, I was able to begin to understand that it's not so much about what I have but that I had a head start in life to attain those things.

In the video, a group of young people stand in a line holding hands. They are different genders, races, sexual orientation and abilities. Then they are asked questions. Depending on the question, they either take a step forward or a step back. In the end, they are too far apart to hold hands. A white man is in front and black woman is in the back.

The following are several of the questions that were asked in the experiment. How many of them would you be able to either stand still for or take a step forward? Would any of them send you backwards?

- If English your is your 1st language take a step forward.
- If you have been divorced or impacted by divorce in your life take a step backward.
- If there have been times in your life when you had to skip a meal because there was not food in the house take a step backward.
- If your family had health insurance take one step forward.
- If your work and school holidays coincide with religious holidays that you celebrate take one step forward.
- If you came from a supportive family environment take a step forward.
- If one of your parents was laid off or unemployed not by choice, take a step backward.
- If you were ever offered a job because of your association with a friend or a family member take a step forward.
- If you were ever uncomfortable about a joke or statement you overheard related to your race, ethnicity, gender, appearance, or sexual orientation but felt unsafe to confront the situation take a step backward.
- If you studied you the culture or history of your ancestors in elementary school take a step forward.
- If you took out loans for your education take a step backward.
- If you have ever felt unsafe walking alone at night take a step backward.

The more you are able to move forward, the more advantage or privilege you have had, and it has nothing to do with how hard you worked or did not work for it. The video and questions helped me begin to understand what privilege is. I'm still learning, but I know now that this is not about losing something, but trying to change the world so we all start from the same place. Isn't that a vision of God's kingdom?

Blessings.

Pastor Sandra

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ANNUAL SPENDING PLAN PRESENTATION & ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Spending Plan Presentation: **Sunday, November 1** after worship (approx. 11 a.m.)
Annual Meeting: **Sunday, November 8** after worship (approx. 11 a.m.)

How to participate: This year because of the pandemic it is not possible to hold our meetings in the usual fashion. This year it will be a hybrid meeting – both in-person and on Zoom. Expect it to not go overly smoothly. We are still learning how to make this all work. The first meeting will be the Spending Plan Presentation on Sunday, Nov. 1 after worship (about 11:00 am). If joining through Zoom, this can be done through video or just on your regular phone. You will receive information on how to join on Zoom. If our first experience trying to conduct a hybrid meeting does not work well, we may reflect on how it can be differently to be a better meeting. Please remember to be patient with all those trying to make it work.



Intern Corner



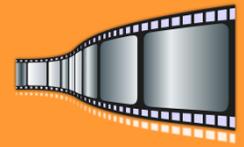
“Do not Fear for I am with You”

As I have been pursuing ministry as a Deacon, one of the themes for me during this time has been that of risk-taking. As an introvert and as someone who has always valued harmony, a vocation in public ministry has offered its challenges. Being a public Christian leader requires that I speak up for what I perceive to be the truth. It means that sometimes people are not going to like me or what I have to say. Often we desire to just stay in our comfort zone. It’s a natural tendency. To stay where it is safe. I remember a dream I had where I was on a rock island which was my home. To stay on this solid piece of land meant staying where I was comfortable. Outside of the island there was a rapidly flowing river, the currents were great at places. What would happen if I stepped out into that current? I would lose the safety of my rock island where I felt safe. But, I knew that this is what God was calling me to do. I wish I could say that it is easy. What is comforting is that I know that God is leading me and that God will sustain me on this journey. That is what is going to keep me safe. Sometimes we all have to make choices that involve risk. While it may seem easier to stay in our comfort zones, often God is calling us to jump in, to take that leap of faith. And see where it leads. We are not alone.

Netflix & Conversation

NOVEMBER 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Movie: *Stranger than Fiction*



A La Mesa Bible Study will not meet during NOVEMBER.

- CAM’s donation for NOVEMBER will be Thanksgiving foo like boxed stuffing mix and canned pumpkin pie filling. If you donate a frozen turkey, pleaseput it in the freezer in the kitchen and tell the office or Gloria Bielfeldt that it is there.
- CAM also asks that people begin thinking about the upcoming annual toy drive.

**NOVEMBER
CELEBRATIONS**

Birthdays:

- Paul Piper, Nov. 2
- Lonna Atkinson, Nov. 4
- Vicki Beyer, Nov. 4
- Patricia Barham, Nov. 17
- Sergio Rodriguez, Nov. 17
- Francis Laubach, Nov. 20

Anniversaries:

- Paul and Jeanne Piper, Nov. 26
- Dick and Peggy Thackston, Nov. 30





TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AT 7 p.m.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE WITH COMMUNION
PRERECORDED (A LINK WILL BE SENT OUT)



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

We are beginning to collect funds for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. (If you are giving online, you too can designate offerings as "Thanksgiving/Christmas Baskets")



If you know of someone who may need a basket, please contact the office (210-696-1194 or houseofprayerlutheranchurch@gmail.com).

This has been a special year—and this year's Christmas program will be special too...

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, DECEMBER 13

In the spirit of The Little Drummer Boy, we are asking you to think about what gifts of your talent you can offer the Christ Child.

Can you sing a Christmas song? Play a hymn? Read a prayer or a poem?

We are asking anyone who would like to participate to please send us a recording of your performance gift for Baby Jesus, and we will play it during the Christmas service.

Please record your 2-3 minute performance and send it to Pastor Sandra by the second week of December. Email it to PastorLeifeste@gmail.com, or text it to her at 210-248-7837.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

At this time we are planning on having an in-person Christmas Eve service, but if there is a surge in COVID cases, we may need to hold only an online service.

This is what you need to know about in-person worship for Christmas Eve

- There will be two services, one at 5:00pm and one at 7:00pm with limited seating
- Attendance will be by reservation only. You will be able to reserve your space online.
- The 7:00pm service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page, which you will be able to access through our website.

Remember though, that this is all subject to change as needed to keep everyone safe.

FELLOWSHIP IN NOVEMBER



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.

Thursday, NOVEMBER 5, 2020 at 6:30 pm.,
and Thursday, NOVEMBER 19 at 6:30 p.m.

The Zoom link will be sent out via email in advance.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL SAINT'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, November 1 is All Saint's Day. It is the day of the year that we remember those who have died believing in Jesus and the resurrection. But Saints are not just those who have died; they are also the living. Theologically as Lutherans, we are all saints—in fact saints and sinners at the same time. As saints we encourage others in their faith.

This year you are invited to remember the saint in your life, living or deceased, known personally or known from afar, who has been the most influential in the development of your faith. Here is what you are asked to do:

- **For those worshipping in-person:** bring either a picture or a piece of paper with the name of your saint on it. We will then post it on a bulletin board before worship.
- **For those worshipping online:** as you prepare to worship, place a candle for your saint where you are worshipping. Add a picture or something else that reminds you of them, or their name written on a piece of paper in front of the candle. Do not light the candle until told to do so during the worship (so you will also want to have a lighter or matches available).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER



Karl (young boy facing surgery), Frieda Atkinson, DeWitt Atkinson, Bob French, Donald Leonard, Edna Hacker, Alice Little, Marion Schroeder, Karen French, Kathy Harlan, Faye Randow, Jolanda Wood, Francis Laubach, Anita Carroll, Janelle Kinsel, Marta Yanez, and Our Military, particularly Michael Foglio, Jordan Bielfeldt, and all of our veterans.

Feeding Hope

A virtual interfaith Thanksgiving service of prayer and praise

NOVEMBER 22, 2020
6:00-7:00PM

PLEASE JOIN ERIC COOPER AND THE SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK, VIRTUALLY, ON NOVEMBER 22, 2020 FOR A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFLECTIONS OF GRATITUDE THROUGH SONG AND PRAYER.

More Information at
safoodbank.org



Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE



SENIOR* VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

(*seniors aged 55+)

- Would you like to be a companion to a senior and participate in activities—or just sit and chat?
- Do you live in Bexar County?
- Would you like to earn a reimbursement for your volunteer time and mileage?



If you answered yes to these questions,
YOU might be qualified to lend a helping hand!

AACOG is partnering with CNCS to offer a new
Companion Program to assist seniors in their homes.
For more information about this program, please contact:



Kelley Gallant, Coordinator
AACOG Senior Volunteer Programs
kgallant@aacog.org or (210) 362-5212



NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>“FALL BACK” CLOCKS ON DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!</p> <p>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</p> <p>ANNUAL SPENDING PLAN PRESENTATION</p> <p>Worship: 10 a.m. in person Posted online later in day</p>				<p>Fellowship Happy Hour Via Zoom 6:30 p.m.</p>		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</p> <p>Worship: 10 a.m. in person Posted online later in the day</p>			<p>Netflix & Conversation at 7pm MOVIE: STRANGER THAN FICTION</p>			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>Worship: 10 a.m. in person Posted online later in the day</p>	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	PASTOR ON VACATION	<p>PASTOR ON VACATION</p> <p>Fellowship Happy Hour Via Zoom 6:30 p.m.</p>	PASTOR ON VACATION	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>Worship: 10 a.m. in person Posted online later in the day</p>		<p>7 p.m. THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE WITH COMMUNION: PRERECORDED (A LINK WILL BE SENT OUT)</p>		<p>HAPPY THANKS GIVING</p> 		
29	30					
<p>Worship: 10 a.m. in person Posted online later in the day</p>						



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

Worship is on Sunday at 10 a.m. and can be viewed online at our website.

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, Property
Jennifer Alaniz, CIELO Ministries

FAITH IN HUMANITY:

A Pre- and Post- Election Community Conversation
by Ann Helmke, Faith Liaison with SA Faith-Based Initiative*

On the 2016 presidential election eve a significant conversation was held in SA. It's here again with a 2nd night to strengthen community! *"We cannot let these times take away our Faith in Humanity. It is during these times that it is needed most."* Valeria L. Palmertree

- Mondays, Nov. 2 *and* 16, from 6:30-8:30 PM (come to one/either/both)
- Virtual via Zoom: FREE & open to the Public, but all participants need to register for each night to attend in order to receive the Zoom addresses on the day of each event. And why not invite another human that you know is going to vote differently than you?
- **QUESTIONS:** What are your current hopes and concerns for your family, community and/or our country? If the candidate you support doesn't win, how do you want to be treated? What new ways might be possible in changing the course of the polarization in our society – to help restore our faith in humanity towards a better future?

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faith-in-humanity-a-pre-and-post-election-community-conversation-tickets-125265347025#listing-organizer>

(Conversation being hosted by: Compassionate San Antonio, the Interfaith San Antonio Alliance, and the SA Compassionate Institute 2020)

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH
10226 IRONSIDE
SAN ANTONIO TX 78230

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY