
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

November 2020

Immigration Flashback

I was ordained to be Lutheran pastor in 1979. I worked with Lutheran Social Service in their refugee ministry to the second wave of Vietnamese Boat People. There were no calls for Seminex graduates until my first parish assignment in 1981 at Grace Lutheran Church. Sometime in 1981, the following article was written for the back panel of the Fortress Publishing Company's Sunday bulletin service. So the following was written about 40 years ago. It could have been written today, because nothing has significantly changed. As you read the following, take a moment to think about our paralysis in reaching out to the refugee.

UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS

Alberto comes from Ecuador. Some years ago, he left home and made his way to Tijuana, Mexico. There he was helped to cross the border and brought by truck to Los Angeles, where he found work in a garment factory. He earned less than the minimum wage, but each week he sent money back to his family. After work, he took English classes at a local church, and gradually became involved in its worship life. A year later, his wife joined him. In spite of their decent and hardworking lives, Alberto and Luz exist in constant fear of arrest and deportation because they entered the country without official papers. They are "undocumented persons."

Each year perhaps a million people enter the U.S. without legal sanction. As did the European forebears of many who read this, they come seeking the American dream. But, because of newly-stringent immigration quotas, they cannot come legally, as did those forebears. So, in desperation, they enter however they can: through holes in fences; in flimsy boats filled to bursting; by swimming rivers. Once here, they live in constant fear of discovery.

As Christians, we need to respond. The problems are complex, and so far, the answers evade us. But, in the midst of this ambiguity, we can inform ourselves of the issues and, when the time comes, vote for sane and compassionate laws. In the meantime, we can befriend these sisters and brothers who need our help, even as Christ admonished us to serve our neighbor.

Now it is 2020...

And virtually nothing has changed. President George W. Bush had a humane and comprehensive immigration plan, but his own party would not act on it. The same happened with President Obama, so he took things in his own hands with the DACA program for Dreamers. Even that is threatened to be dismantled. Meanwhile, our refugee program is all but shut down, asylees are left in limbo, and many children remain separated from parents. Worst of all, we continue to label these people "illegals" who sponge off our healthcare and education systems. It is time that we face the truth. The IRS estimates that about 6 million unauthorized immigrants file individual income tax returns each year. Their federal, state, and local taxes contribute \$7 billion per year into Social Security even though they will receive no benefit. The Texas State Comptroller reported in 2006 that the 1.4 million unauthorized immigrants in Texas added almost \$18 billion to the state economy, and contributed \$1.6 billion in state revenue, while costing the state about \$1.6 billion in services used. The Dallas Morning News reports that over 75% of undocumented people file to pay taxes.

After 40 years of vilifying refugees and asylees, it may be time to expose the real freeloaders: millionaires and billionaires who pay little or nothing in federal taxes year after year. The Bible has much to say about refugees. The least we can do is share those words of faith so the next 40 years don't repeat our past paralysis and failure to act.

Birthdays **November**

Date	Name
2	Brenda Gerold Henry Williams
3	Mark Hall
	Sebastian Rice
	Andrew Taneja
	Matthew Taneja
4	Michelle Enright
5	Cody Faaborg
9	Jesse Starr
10	Amy Ismail
11	Darwin Frerking
12	Neil Gerold
	Simon Granados
13	Cori Peterson
14	Jacob Starr
15	Anastasia Aguirre
16	Kelly Belz
	Rigo Chavez
	Beth Drews
	Jesse Rockwell
17	Bob Fundling
	Nicholas McCabe
	Jonathan Starr

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Michael Lubben
Mike Zimmermann
Wyatt Hartfield
Dennis Chubbs
Dave Shafer
Margaret Mayfield
Rita Salmons
Beth Shafer
Jerry Hearn
Peyton Lewis
Lionel Folkman



Wedding Anniversaries

Date	Years
7	Kenneth & Mariah Williams
14	Robert & Lisa Holmes
15	Keith & Diana Bruneau



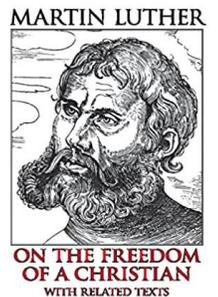
Baptisms

Date	Name
1	Joshua Davis
2	Jonathan Enright Joshua Enright
4	Olivia Ranta
12	Tyler Faaborg
16	Mark Fretheim Brian Murphy
18	Paul Hardi
20	Jake Lippincott
21	Keith Bruneau Tanner Faaborg
22	David Rountree
23	Caitlin Anderson
26	Cade Hyatt Madison Reggia
27	Caleb Ramirez Gabriel Ramirez
28	Michael Zimmermann
30	Grayson Granados Natalie Granados Simon Granados

500th Anniversary of Luther and Freedom

November 1, 5:30pm

The Original Declaration of Independence may well have been written by Martin Luther in early November, 1520. Entitled "The Freedom of the Christian," Luther wrote this radical statement about freedom in Christ after his excommunication from the church. The Gospel freed up Luther and his Lutheran followers to live life with a bold and daring faith in the freedom of Christ and still rings a liberty bell for all Christians! We will discuss "The Freedom of the Christian" Sunday evening, November 1, 5:30pm. Let the fireworks begin! Come join us for lively discussion and socially distanced fellowship.



Snzak Przewiz for Sundays in December

Who says we can't travel to Europe? That's where we're going for three December destinations this Advent. We'll travel to three European countries to meet three saints. Even though December seems like a long way away, we are getting set to celebrate three saints on successive Sundays. December 6—Saint Nicholas of Turkey, December 13—Saint Lucy of Sweden, December 20—Saint Katherina—not of Sienna, but of Wittenberg, Germany. We'll not only travel to Europe, we'll travel through time from the 4th to the 16th century, and then it will be time to meet two other saints who did a little bit of traveling themselves, without a passport—Mary and Joseph as they head to a place called Bethlehem. More details to follow.

Coming Up in Advent... Marie Mazza has a great idea to do an Advent Calendar with food items to restock the local food pantries. Details will follow along with your own personal Advent Calendar in time for the first day of Advent, November 29.

225,000 and counting. As coronavirus numbers soar, we are always re-evaluating our in-person worship options so keep posted as we evaluate the best course of action. Every precaution must be used to keep our neighbor safe.

Nancy's Health Notes

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons approach, we will find our families straining to adapt. Every aspect of life has been up-ended this year, which has been difficult to say the least. Now we need to sway and bend again to find a happy and healthy medium point. Traditions we observe at church will be the closest thing to normal that we have.

Constraints remain with distance between people, masks and limited travel defining our activities. These need to be followed to protect us as well as individuals we may meet. The holidays historically have reflected family ties and traditions. Now we need to make new traditions while still honoring families.

From preschool children thru elderly individuals, the use of facetime and Zoom has become a norm. This may not be the ideal form of communication but it does work, at least sometimes. If family members are scattered about the country, now is the time to start planning. A family could use facetime to put on a play or provide a concert of vocal or instrumental music for extended family. There are many people who are talented and enjoy sharing their talent. Dinners could be planned so that each family sets their tables, gets dressed up, and talks as they share the meal.

Another approach finds unique ways to share those things for which we are thankful. This can be verbally or by writing letters—yes I mean snail mail. Letters to open have much significance for older people who knew this as the only way of communicating. Grandparents could write to grandchildren with special memories they have of their childhood holidays.

These changes may be a way for us to focus on the value of our family and not just the material aspects of the holidays. Many times family is referred to only as biological but I prefer to see family in a broader sense.

FAMILY

Family is a rolling river—ever moving and flowing—
Sometimes freely—sometimes with resistance.

Multitudes of tributaries add to the depth—

Some biological, some work, some friendships, some religious.

As the family moves, some of these flourish and add to the growth

While others become obstructed or dry up.

There is no absolute complete family as members are born or die

And the mix is in constant flux.

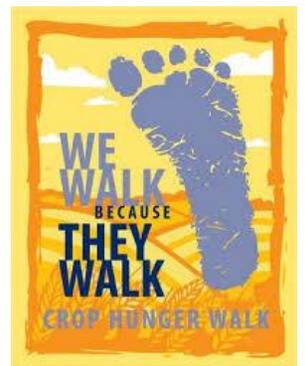


God's peace.

Nancy Wilson, RN, FCN

Your Shoes Are Made for Walkin' November 15, 2pm

Until we walk in their shoes, it's difficult to understand the needs of the hungry and homeless around the world. Church World Service understands. Through the CROP Hunger Walk, churches around the nation march against hunger—both locally and globally. CROP challenges you to put on your walkin' shoes **Sunday, November 15**, for a 10K walk against hunger. Join us for the CROP Walk—it's good for your sole! (This year's walk begins at the south edge of Audubon Park. Get pledge forms from Pastor Schelter. Social distancing and masks are required. We have a short walk of a quarter mile for those who prefer a shorter distance. **Please call the church office if you want to sponsor any of the walkers since we cannot do this in person due to the virus.**)



Thanksgiving During the Coronavirus

Our Thanksgiving service will be November 22 at 5:30pm. Our banquet will be done as thankful hearts connect at their homes in gratitude to God. We will not have a banquet at church this year.

CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship—8:30am, 11:00am & 5:30pm

Sunday School—9:45am

Pastor—John Schelter

November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday 8:30am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Worship Service	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 9:30am Mother's Day Out	4	5 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6	7
8	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 9:30am Mother's Day Out	11	12 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13	14
15 2:00pm CROP Hunger Walk	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 9:30am Mother's Day Out	18	19 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20	21
22 5:30pm Thanksgiving Service	23 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts					