

CONNECTION

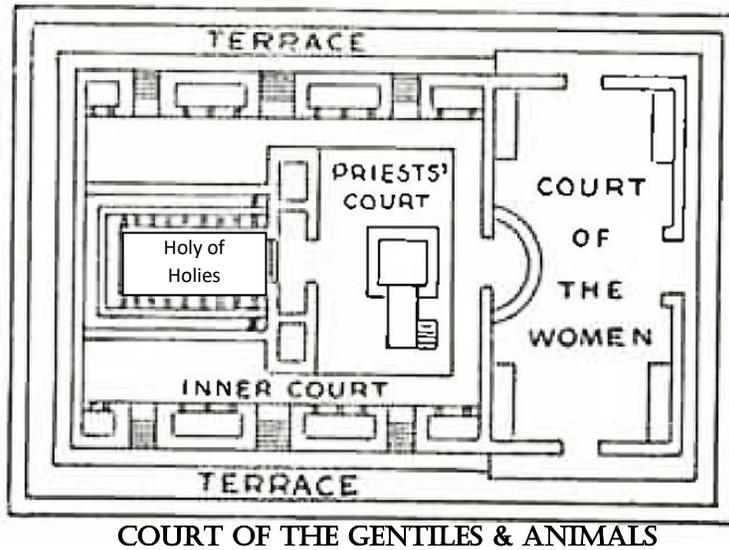
Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

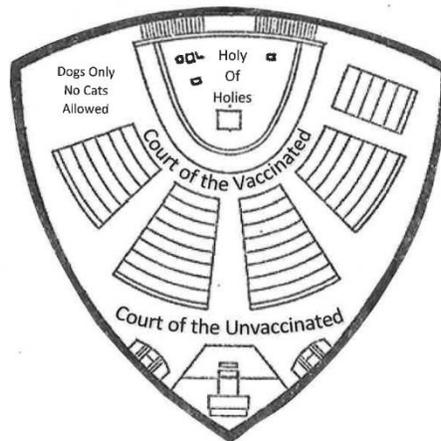
June 2021

WORSHIP: OLD TESTAMENT STYLE

There's something old and something new happening on June 6th at our first summer worship. We're going to worship Old Testament style, observing the protocols of the Jerusalem temple.



Instead of a court of the gentiles, a court of the women, an inner court for the men, a court for the priests, and the holy of holies, we'll have an outer court for the unvaccinated where masks are required, an inner court for the vaccinated where masks are optional, and a holy of holies which allow only beloved pets like Graham, the dog.



UNMASKED (OPTIONALLY) FOR JUNE 6 WORSHIP

We're just kidding, of course, but the council has decided to make masks optional for Sunday worship if you are fully vaccinated. If unvaccinated, you must wear a mask in worship; however, we will still wear masks when singing as advised by our bishop. Our method of Holy Communion may change as well, but that is still under discussion. Optional masks does not mean you shouldn't wear a mask. The coronavirus is still active and many will choose to continue taking the precautions of wearing a mask. You are free to worship unmasked since the virus seems to be under control and the vaccinations are so effective. That new policy should open up our worship to new possibilities this summer. Let's continue the dialog for what is best for our freedoms and the ever vigilant concern for the health of those around us.

Our Savior Lutheran Graduates of 2021

High School Graduates

Mitchell Belz graduating from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Engineering.

Fe Angelique Aguirre will be graduating from North Mesquite High School. During high school, Fe was involved in several choir groups as well as photography. She received an internship at a digital marketing company and runs her own photography and small baking business.

Ashley Lubben will be graduating Garland High School. She was accepted into The Honor's College at The University of Houston. Ashley will major in Psychology and will continue to participate in Theater.

Tessie Murphy will be graduating from Rowlett High School.



Fit to be Tied!

Who says ties are out of fashion? Father's Day at Our Savior will look like a tie convention! We'll have gaudy ties, tacky ties, wacky ties, and just plain ugly ties, modeled by some of the most fashionable men on the planet—the men of

Our Savior! So eat your heart out GQ! **The Ugly Tie Contest is back for another year!** And we're guaranteed to outdo the most outlandish fashions ever witnessed. Come on men of Our Savior! Root through your closets and answer the call. Every tie—no matter how tasteless or tacky—is fit to be tied.

June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday 8:30am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Worship Service		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 9:30am Mother's Day Out	9	10 9:30am Mother's Day Out	11	12
13 12:30pm Council Meeting	14	15 9:30am Mother's Day Out	16	17 9:30am Mother's Day Out	18	19
20 Father's Day Ugly Tie Contest	21	22 9:30am Mother's Day Out	23	24 9:30am Mother's Day Out	25	26
27	28	29 9:30am Mother's Day Out	30			

The following is a Phone Tree from May 28 that talks about your input regarding future plans in worship:

The Our Savior Phone Tree values consistency. Whatever the season, whatever the weather, whatever the circumstance, trees take the same approach to being alive--a steady consistency. I wonder if that's true of the church. Being consistent means being faithful and trustworthy. You can depend on someone who offers a steady presence and a reliable practice.

During the coronavirus it was a challenge for the church to be consistent. Our patterns had to change ... whether we liked it or not. So we tried to be as consistent as we could. Facebook Live worship was online—always at 11 AM. Phone Trees were sent out at the same time every weekday ... well, we tried to send them out at about the same time! While we couldn't be together physically, we needed to stay connected spiritually to counter the long term separation necessitated by the pandemic.

We needed something we could count on, a shared experience to hold us together, a consistency from week to week. The Phone Tree was intended to keep us connected by sharing the same thing at the same time every day. Online worship was an every-week nourishing of our faith that bound us together in the Word of God during a time of separation. Only now are we trying to get back to an in-person consistency.

The question of the day is simply 'how will that look'? We are entering a new season of the Church Year called Pentecost and we are entering a new season of the calendar called summer. With our attendance numbers much lower than before the pandemic, is this the time to have one summer service? If so, when and for how long? Is the consistency of 8:30, 11, and even 5:30 still helpful—if not necessary—for a feeling of going back to normal? Should we continue the Sunday Facebook Live at 11 AM so we can stay in our pajamas and eat cheerios during worship? (Just kidding there, although you could get in the habit of pajama worship, I suppose!) Is a daily phone tree still helpful or has it worn out its usefulness? I don't think we need to do a survey at this point, but your feedback is helpful to make those choices. Give the church office a call or drop us a note to let us know what would be most helpful and effective in re-transitioning.

We are not left without a model, of course. The Early Christians were always transitioning. But they achieved a consistency that nourished their faith centered around the Word of God. That consistency is well-expressed in Acts 2:42: "They continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, in fellowship, in breaking of bread, and in prayer." That's how their worship remained steadfast—during times of drought and disease, persecution and pandemic. And that's a model for us to follow today: studying God's Word, praying together, sharing the sacraments, and building community. Whatever else changes in this tumultuous time, let that be our constant.

For the sake of consistency, I think we can count on a Facebook Live Sunday Worship at 11 AM, whether that is in regular corporate worship or a smaller venue for online only. The Phone Tree will be re-evaluated for keeping us connected... but whatever our decisions, I hope this can be heard from the people of Our Savior: "My church home is one consistent thing in my life right now. It's one thing I can count on" ... because faithfulness is what should mark our church ...because that is the trademark for God. Day after day, God gives us light and life. Morning by morning, the sun rises on a new day of Baptismal promises. Year after year, God strengthens and sustains our faith. Moment by moment, God washes away our sins and covers us in grace ... which is why we can pray in confidence trust: Give us this day—and every day--our daily bread.

Our Bible passage is Lamentations 3:22-23: The Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. Great is your faithfulness, O Lord."

Let us pray the hymn: "Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; you do not change, your compassions they fail not; as you have been, you forever will be. All I have needed, your hand has provided; Great is your faithfulness, Lord, unto me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name
1	Laurie George
3	Thane Katz Kel Schultz
6	Kyle Furr
9	Larry Bolding
10	David Williams Nita Bartow
12	Chip Cannon Sonja Conoly
14	Bill Hutchinson Brenda Skyles
15	Paula Hutchinson Carson Williams
16	Chuck Philbrick
17	Barbara Kratus
18	Jeanne Krause
21	Pat Mangham Mike Phares
22	Joshua Davis
23	Jim Davis
27	Jaime Nivens
29	Anthony Valasquez

JUNE



BAPTISMS

Date	Name
1	Marshall Hocker Mary Stovall Tino Williams
2	Catherine Lubben
5	Lisa White Becky Williams
6	Jill Furr
7	Betsy Brockmann
10	Paula Hutchinson
15	Paul Cross Bonnie Folkmann
16	Mike Phares Rachel Phares
21	Xander Nivens
22	Debbie Zimmermann
23	Thane Katz
28	Larry Bolding

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Years
15	Gordon & Bonnie Johnston 58
16	Christopher & Beth Drews 14
16	Todd & Kara Ranta 19
17	Neil & Brenda Gerold 49



JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:30

Ushers: Michael & Cynthia Lubben
Readers: Cynthia Lubben

11:00

Jon Cook & Richard Mastin
Debbie Zimmermann

Altar Guild: Caroline Finamore & Julie Williams

When Will Things Be Back to Normal?

The short answer is, “we walk by faith and not by sight” –faith that things will get done and will be going strong again, but without sight because we are not in control. As far as the building goes, we are getting closer. This has been a two-stage process: mitigation and building. The mitigation is the work done immediately after the damage was detected to dry out the building and save whatever could be saved. The costs for that are being worked out between the insurance company and our contractor. The build part of the equation is what needs to be done to restore the education wing to full use. That should start in about a month, but final estimates and costs are still being worked out. That will require patience, but it should begin within weeks or a month.

The rest of getting back to normal is a question each of us must ask of ourselves. The church is opening up with careful precaution but you must decide when you wish to resume a more regular attendance. Little by little, we will start with full blown worship and fellowship, but for now, continue the admiral patience you have shown to this point. “We walk by faith and not by sight,” remember?

