
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

September 2021

Pet Blessing Pandemic Pandemonium: Are We Facing a Canine Cancellation?

The 27th Annual Our Savior Pet Blessing may be on temporary hold this year due to a severe outbreak of rabies. It seems that a significant percentage of the dog population is protesting the rabies vaccination amid rumors of Siamese lab workers injecting the vaccine with feline DNA. These protesting pooches insist that the rabies vaccine caused them to start chasing balls of yarn and drinking out of toilets. They claim the vaccine has not been thoroughly tested since it's only been used since the death of Old Yeller. Besides that, dogs claim they've reached herd immunity from rabies anyway and no longer need any vaccine. In addition, the rabies vaccine may have magnetized their dog tags, permanently bonding them to the metal clasps of dog leashes. Despite the fervent pleas of veterinarians, many dogs continue boycotting the vaccine, exposing themselves and their puppies to radical rabies variants. Further exacerbating the outbreak, dogs are refusing to wear their collars, insisting that collars infringe on their individual rights. "My freedom is severely restricted by wearing a collar," whined one German Shepherd, adding that "it's my body and my choice." Area dog parks are becoming rabies hot spots, leading to overcrowded veterinary clinics and labor shortages in animal hospitals. Further compounding the pandemic are dubious claims that rabies can be cured by ingesting cat de-wormer and raiding the litter box for a late-night snack.

All these practices are only increasing the burden borne by exhausted veterinary health care workers. With our pet blessing hanging in the balance, you can help. If you encounter a recalcitrant canine anti-vaccer, offer them a treat and encourage them in reassuring tones to get the vaccine, wear their collars, and maintain at least six feet when sniffing other dogs

(Breaking News: The Pet Blessing is back on for October 3 at 5:30 PM in the Backyard of the Bethlehem House. If Covid conditions remain the same, we will observe necessary precautions. Dogs and humans must refrain from nipping and name-calling, biting and bullying. For the safety of everyone concerned, all humans will be on a short leash.)



Nancy's Health Notes

How much do you value your eyes? If you wear glasses you probably have eye evaluations at least every few years. However, if you are lucky enough to see very well, it may have been a long time since your eyes have been evaluated.



Common eye disorders with which most people are familiar involve refractive problems such as myopia (near sighted), hyperopia (far sighted), and astigmatism (blurred or distorted vision in all distances). These can be treated with corrective lens, either glasses or contacts. There are some specific disorders that may be corrected with Lasik.

Three other disorders that occur with the aging process are cataract, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. These can be treated with medications such as eye drops but they cannot be cured. Cataracts are corrected with lens implants.

But the eye can tell a much more interesting story about the body. By looking at the inside of the eye, many observations can be the missing piece of a big puzzle. Some of these changes detected in the eye grounds can be life saving.

Some examples follow:

- Aneurysm—a bulging of an artery indicates a weak vessel that could be forewarning of a stroke.
- Brain tumors can cause increase pressure in the brain and make visible changes of the optic nerves.
- Multiple types of blood, tissue, and skin cancers may be found.
- Retinoblastoma is a cancer of the retina in a newborn and very young infants. These may occur in one or both eyes resulting in blindness.
- Diabetes causes changes in the vascularity of the eye and small bleeds can occur in the retina. Treatments with laser may control the bleeding and decrease the loss of vision.
- Sexually transmitted disease—syphilis, herpes, chlamydia, HIV, gonorrhea and public lice can result in severe eye problems resulting in vision loss.
- High blood pressure can cause kinks and/or bleeding from blood vessels and is a risk factor for glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration.
- High cholesterol causes yellow color changes in the cornea.
- Many autoimmune disorders frequently cause observable changes in the eyes—lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren, and multiple sclerosis.
- Vitamin A deficiency is the leading preventable cause of childhood blindness worldwide.



Believe it or not, this was just a short list of disorders that can be identified and have the potential of causing eye damage. I hope that this can serve as a reminder that having your eyes checked is an important part of health care.

God's peace

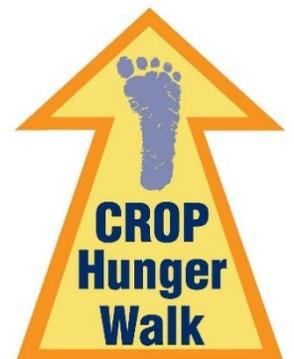
Nancy Wilson, R.N., F.C.N

Life people up to their potential and higher self.

Your Shoes Are Made for Walkin'

October 24, 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, October 24**, 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)



Birthdays

Date	Name
1	Christopher Mayfield Arshad Rehmat
4	Craig Spindle
8	Michael Conoly Sheri Hall Bob Hardi
10	Donna Salvato
11	Eleanor Adix Julie Williams
12	Loretta Cannon Matt Chubba
14	Paula Hester
16	Caitlin Anderson
17	Joanne Stidd
18	Amelia Holmes Angelita Fretheim
21	Matthew McCabe
23	Landon Hyatt Mel Vahlenkamp
24	Donna Brashear
25	Shane Owens
28	Madison Reggia

September



Baptism Birthdays

Date	Name
2	Simon Balz
11	Tania Helm
14	John Schelter Carson Strader
16	Austin Morton
19	Bennett Hartfield Stephanie Priola
20	David Anderson Barb Krause
28	Pauline Hutchinson Linda Last
30	Christine Hocker

Wedding anniversaries

Date	Years
4 Kirk & Tania Helm	17
9 Stephen & Irene Moore	60
11 David & Beth Shafer	28
17 Travis & Donna Salvato	48
21 Marshall & Judy Hocker	58
22 Bob & Glenda Hardi	42
John & Pat Mangham	14
26 James & Denise Bartosh	40

AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:30

Ushers: Earl Herndon & Debbie Lonon
Readers: Thane Katz

11:00

Dennis & Matthew Chubbs
Lisa Holmes

Altar Guild: Michelle Finamore & Kara Ranta

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 3, 5:30 pm

Come Rover, Come Fluffy: Come one and all to the Blessing of our Pets!



This is an all animal, all age event for our church and our community! Bring dogs, cats, gerbils, rabbits, fish, birds, or any pet small enough to transport to church. We'll meet in the backyard of the Bethlehem House. Caution! We will have NOT ONE lost pet! Please make sure your pet is appropriately restrained by leash, carrier, or cage. Special treats for the pets!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME COMING, BUT IT WILL BE WORTH THE WAIT!

Things are humming in the education wing. Painting, plastering and flooring are covering our education wing. In coming weeks, cabinets, electrical wiring, and fixtures will get us ready for the finishing touches. Once insurance payments were made the work began in earnest and, in a few weeks perhaps by the end of the month we'll have an unveiling for sparkling new classrooms, nursery, and kitchen. While it's impossible to nail down an exact date, our February freeze should give way to a fabulous fall.

CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Sunday School—9:45am

Pastor—John Schelter

Non-Profit Org

U.S. Postage Paid

Mesquite Texas

Permit #98

(Speaking of the Pet Blessing)

If only dogs could vote ...

In Texas, a bipartisan vote in Congress is as rare as subzero temperatures in February. But the miraculous happened in June. By an overwhelming margin, Republicans and Democrats agreed on passing a bill outlawing animal cruelty against dogs. The Safe Outdoor Dog Act bans the tethering of dogs with heavy chains and other abusive practices. During our February deep freeze, many dogs, chained and left outdoors, froze to death. During intense summer heat, dog fatalities rise when tangled chains keep dogs from shade and water. This bill offered protection

against those practices and was supported by groups ranging from the Texas Sherriff's Association Texas Humane Society, Law Enforcement agencies, Animal Control officers, and animal rights activists. To the surprise and dismay of Texans, our governor vetoed the bill, saying it wasn't necessary. I guess we can lump dogs in with the over 4.3 million Texans for whom health insurance isn't necessary, or the thousands pushed back across our border for whom health and safety aren't necessary. With all the controversy about voting rights, maybe it's time to enfranchise the dog vote.

