

Ministries that Enable Us to Fulfill the Mission of All Saints Lutheran Church December 20, 2017

Draft 2

The mission of All Saints Lutheran Church is to gather all people in a community immersed in God’s Word through worship and learning that equips us to serve the world in the name of Jesus. The chart below summarizes examples of actions and activities that help All Saints fulfill our mission. These actions and activities have been initiated or completed in 2017, or are ongoing.

Ministries	G	W	L	Ser	S
Gather (G), Worship (W), Learn(L), Serve (Ser), Support (S)					
A memorial service honoring the life of beloved member of All Saints, Ken Jacobson, who died on December 30, 2016, was held on Sunday, January 1, following the 11:00 worship service.		+			
JUST gRACE events held in January included a book discussion of <i>White Rage</i> by Carol Anderson on January 7 and a potluck and movie event on January 28 that featured the Netflix documentary <i>13th</i> .			+		
Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) class resumed on Sunday, January 8. The sessions continued the study of “Into the Promised Land.” The program includes creative learning through sign language, art, and music, as well as service activities that support others. G.I.F.T. sessions and activities are open for families, children, adults, and visitors.			+		
Question and Answer sessions on the ASLC Racial Justice Resolution and bylaws to be presented during the January 29 Annual Meeting of the Congregation were held on January 8, 15, and 22 after each worship service. The forums were led by members of the JUST gRACE Planning Group who provided background information and answered questions about the resolution and bylaws.			+		
The Adult Faith Formation Track 1 began a new study, “Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation” on January 8. The study is led by Sven Allenbach-Schmidt.			+		
The Tuesday morning Adult Bible Study group began a new study, “Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation” on January 10. The study is led by Pastor Gary.			+		
The 2016 Annual Report of the Congregation was distributed to the congregation on January 15. Special thanks were extended to Jean Reams for assembling the outstanding report booklet.	+	+	+	+	+
The Saints enjoyed the first themed potluck event of the year on January 15. The theme was “Comfort Food.” These monthly events are coordinated by the Fellowship Team and facilitated by John and Emily Summerlot.	+			+	

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The Lutheran Women Prayer Shawl Ministry met on Thursday, January 19 at the home of Jan Withers. The group knits or crochets prayer shawls, lap robes, christening blankets, and prayer pockets to share with others. Jane Hilt is the contact for All Saints for this ministry.	+			+	
The Cancer Support Group met on Saturday, January 21 at All Saints. The group is open to all who are dealing with cancer, or supporting those who deal with cancer of any type. Diane Cvitko coordinates this ministry for All Saints.	+			+	
All Saints members and friends joined in the Women's March in Washington DC on January 21. A main purpose of the march was to bring together people of all genders, races, ages, cultures, political affiliations and backgrounds to affirm our shared humanity. The ASLC marchers met at the home of Louise Waynant at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast and prayer before leaving for the march.	+			+	
All Saints Worship and Music Team invited all who were interested and available to attend the Saturday, January 28 breakfast meeting held at the home of Louise Waynant. Participants reflected on Advent and Christmas worship experiences, planned for the seasons of Lent and Easter, and offered suggestions for worship enhancement.		+			
Monthly meetings of the Youth Group of All Saints were initiated in January. Amy Robinson and Cheryl Hollar coordinate the youth meetings, activities, and events.	+		+	+	
The Youth of All Saints sponsored a Baked Goods Silent Auction on January 29 prior to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Funds from the auction will support Youth ministry activities in 2017.			+	+	
The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on Sunday, January 29. The congregation gathered for lunch prepared by Chris Greenawalt. Welcoming remarks were offered by Pastor Gary and Council President John Summerlot. Ministry activities of 2016 were highlighted. Special recognition of Rev. Wanda McNeil, who served the congregation during a difficult time, was offered. The congregation elected three council members, a treasurer and financial secretary, four Nominating Committee members, four Mission Endowment Fund Committee members, and two representatives for the Metro DC Synod Assembly. The 2017 Spending Plan was adopted. New officers are Melissa Bitter, Council President, Rob Watson, Vice-President, and Norma Allenbach-Schmidt, Secretary. The resolution and bylaw related to Racial Justice were approved.	+	+	+	+	+

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Approval was given to use a 2016 ASLC Spending Plan budget surplus of \$12,421 for a \$1000 donation to Alpha House and the remaining amount for a contribution to the church Building Escrow Fund.				+	+
The Youth of All Saints sponsored a collection of canned soups/goods on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5. The congregation responded generously with a food donation of 531 items and a monetary donation of \$88.00.				+	
The All Saints Women’s Book Group met on Saturday, February 11 at the home of Norma Allenbach-Schmidt to discuss the book <i>Small Great Things</i> by Jodi Picoult. Karol Taylor led the discussion.	+				
Rev. Gerry Rickel, Pastor of the Community of St. Dysmas (CSD) ministry was the featured guest pastor at All Saints on February 12. He presented a sermon on the Prison Ministry which he coordinates for the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA. His guest, Rocky, spoke to the congregation about his experience with the St. Dysmas ministry. An adult forum featuring the St. Dysmas ministry followed the 8:30 worship service. Contributions in support of the ministry were offered.		+	+	+	
All Saints hosted Maryland Conference pastors and synod leaders at a breakfast meeting on Saturday February 18 at the home of Louise Waynant. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for synod leaders to discuss the Metro D.C. Synod’s New Connections Campaign with pastors in the Maryland Conference.	+	+	+	+	
The Cancer Support Group met at All Saints on Saturday morning, February 18.	+			+	
“Exploring Your Creative Side: Expressions in Fiber,” a workshop and fellowship event coordinated by Janice Knausenberger and Sharron Sample, was offered at All Saints on February 18. This special event included teaching the basics of Creative Machine Quilt Piecing and Balanced, Inlay, and Rug Weaving.	+				
A four-session workshop called “Transforming Our World: 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development as a Spiritual Calling” was introduced on February 19. The Rev. Dr. Richard Hoehn and The Rev. Dr. Michael Kuchinsky led the sessions which supported a resolution passed during the 2016 Metropolitan Washington DC Synod/ELCA Assembly.			+		
The theme of the February Potluck gathering held on February 19 was “Be My Valentine.” Beginning in February and continuing throughout the year, each themed potluck event will include a recommended “food of the month” pantry donation. The donation item for February was “Red Foods.”	+			+	

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The Lutheran Women Prayer Shawl Ministry met on Thursday, February 23 at the home of Sig Beecher. Jane Hilt is the contact for All Saints for this ministry.	+			+	
Emily Summerlot continues her coordination of the All Saints Prayer Team, offering prayers for those in need of healing, comfort, and safety, as well as prayers of thanksgiving.		+		+	
A Retreat for council members and team and committee leads was held at All Saints on Saturday, February 25. The agenda included discussion of progress with the ICNU initiative and identifying goals and priorities for 2017.	+	+	+	+	+
The Congregation Council encourages development of new leadership in their selected areas using the ICNU platform. Council leaders are Learn-Walter Knausenberger, Serve-Sharron Sample, Worship and Music - Raymond Wood, Committees – Ellen Hug, Gather – Mark Cunningham, and Support-Fred Wentland.	+	+	+	+	+
Ash Wednesday services were held at All Saints at noon and 7:30 p.m. on March 1. The imposition of ashes and Holy Communion were offered at each service.		+			
During the Sundays of Lent, the liturgical setting used for worship was “The Mass of Remembrance” by Marty Haugen. Instrumental music was offered by Kevin Businsky during many Sunday services during Epiphany and Lent.		+			
An inaugural ASLC Fellowship Planning Meeting was held at the home of Louise Waynant on Saturday, March 4. The focus of the meeting was exploring how ASLC can be intentional about fellowship planning, how to coordinate events most effectively, and how to best use the talents and energy of the Saints. Mark Steiner coordinated the planning. A follow-up planning session was held on April 1.	+				
An adult Fellowship event for the Saints and friends to gather and socialize was held at Libations Restaurant in Millersville on Saturday, March 4.	+				
The sixth annual Bowie Interfaith Recreation Council Bowling Fundraiser (B.I.R.C.) occurred on March 5. Proceeds benefited the Bowie Food Pantry. Jim Sichelman coordinates this service opportunity for All Saints.	+			+	
“Conversations with God: Sensing the Divine” was the theme for the five weeks of Lent Wednesdays that began on Wednesday, March 8. Each Wednesday included a soup supper at 6:30 and worship at 7:30. The evenings were shared with members of Grace Lutheran Church. All Saints hosted supper and services on March 8 and 22, and April 5. Grace hosted supper and services on March 15 and March 29.		+			

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Lenten Offerings during 2017 were directed toward a third annual joint congregation Rise Against Hunger (formerly called Stop Hunger Now) event to be held on <i>God's Work, Our Hands</i> Sunday on September 10. Last year's offering of \$4385 enabled the purchase of 15,000 meals.				+	
The All Saints Women's Book Group met on Saturday, March 11 at the home of Liz Muller to discuss the book <i>Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race</i> by Margot Lee Shetterly. Sharron Sample led the discussion and shared her experiences at NASA that related to events in the book.	+				
On March 12-26, ASLC offered a Reformation 500 Bookstore to enable the Saints to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages. The Bookstore event was coordinated by Raymond Wood who was assisted by Liz Muller, Melissa Steiner, and Diane Hampton. In total, there were 19 participants, 59 items purchased, and \$693 collected.			+		
On March 13, ASLC contributed an evening meal to Village Baptist Church during their Warm Nights hosting week.				+	
A four-session study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer was initiated on March 19 as part of Adult Learning Track 2. Matt Bitter coordinated the sessions.			+		
The theme of the March 19 Themed Potluck Lunch was "It's a Small World" and featured international foods. Food Pantry donations were rice, beans, and canned chicken.	+			+	
As part of the March 19 Potluck, Karen Lee Banks hosted a Pampered Chef Show with Susan Hammert as the consultant. Karen Lee generously donated her host gifts to provide much needed items for the All Saints kitchen.	+			+	
The Lutheran Women Prayer Shawl Ministry met on Thursday, March 23 at the home of Dottie Hall. Jane Hilt is the contact for All Saints for this ministry.	+			+	
The Bowie 36 th Annual Spring 5K Race and 2 Mile Walk was held on Saturday, March 25. Proceeds benefited the Bowie Food Pantry.	+			+	
March events scheduled for G.I.F.T. program participants included learning about details of our weekly worship services from Pastor Gary and Melissa Steiner, collecting foods for the Bowie Food Pantry that reflected "It's a Small World" theme, and creating Easter greeting cards for those in the All Saints community who are shut-ins as well as writing Easter notes to St. Dysmas participants.			+	+	
A new copier was acquired for the church office.					+

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A Family Movie Night was held at All Saints on Saturday March 25. In honor of the birthday of Dr. Seuss, Pastor Gary read from his favorite Dr. Seuss book and participants watched <i>The Lorax</i> .	+				
At the March Congregation Council meeting, Pastor Gary reported that in February, he and Matt Bitter attended a meeting of the Prince George's Muslim Association. The focus was inter-faith solidarity regarding the status of refugees and the role of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in the Metro DC area.			+	+	
Walter and Janice Knausenberger are caring for the 40 young trees on the All Saints property.					+
On Sunday, April 2, All Saints welcomed Rev. Michael Lohmann who led worship, preached, and presided while Pastor Gary and Connie were visiting family in Oregon.		+			
The All Saints Women's Book Group met on Saturday, April 8, at the home of Melissa Steiner to discuss the book <i>Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics</i> by Daniel James Brown. Emily Summerlot led the discussion. Denise Bettinger provided an exciting description of her personal experiences with rowing, and how her experiences related to the content of the book.	+				
Palm Sunday worship at All Saints on April 9 featured a celebration of the triumphal entry of Jesus in Jerusalem. The services ended with reading of the Passion Story.		+			
The April 9 meeting of the ASLC Youth Group included stuffing eggs for the Easter egg hunt and planning for a mission trip. Amy Robinson and Cheryl Hollar coordinate the youth group activities.	+		+	+	
Maundy Thursday worship services were held at noon and 7:30 pm on April 13. Services included Holy Communion and foot washing. The evening service included stripping of the altar while Psalm 22 was intoned by cantor Jean Wolf.		+			
Good Friday worship services were held at noon and 7:30 pm on April 14. Members of the congregation served as readers for the seven words of the cross during the Tenebrae service,		+			
The Cancer Support Group met on Saturday, April 15 at ASLC.				+	
Easter Sunday worship on April 16 was celebrated joyfully! Pastor Gary's inspiring sermon focused on the importance of resurrection moments and how our lives are changed by the resurrection of our Lord. Special music was offered by Dr. Hyojin Ahn, the ASLC choirs, cantor Tim Bensch, trumpet music by Craig Ryan, and guitar music by Daniel Ryan, guest musician. Nancy-Pat Weaver coordinated decoration of the sanctuary with Easter lilies. The Annual All Saints Potluck Easter Brunch was held on Easter Sunday, April 16, between worship services with 15 tables filled with the Saints and visiting friends and family members.		+			

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The Annual All Saints Easter Egg Hunt occurred on Easter Sunday, April 16, between worship services. The hunt welcomed little ones from toddlers to age 5, and children from ages 6-12.	+				
All Saints continues updating its website, which has become an important evangelism tool. Fred Wentland coordinates this ministry. Thanks to Fred's faithful ministry, Pastor Gary's sermons are now available on the website.	+	+	+	+	+
Care of Creation Sunday happened on Sunday, April 23. ASLC members and friends were invited to share seeds, divided perennials, and seedlings. Norma Allenbach-Schmidt coordinated the event.			+		
On Sunday, April 23, Deacon Christine Connell, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) offered sermons at both worship services. Lisa Johnson, Philanthropy Manager for LSS/NCA, and development team members discussed a <i>Journey to Action</i> mission during the Adult Forum hour.		+	+		
The Chesapeake Chorale Chamber Singers offered a concert at ASLC on April 23.	+				
Led by Chuck Arnold, the Saints participated in the 2017 local Christmas in April initiative on April 29. Yard work, painting, cleaning, and indoor and outdoor projects were accomplished at a home in the Pointer Ridge section of Bowie.				+	
Rev. Michael Kuchinsky, retired ELCA pastor and seminary professor, led worship, preached, and presided at Holy Communion on April 30.		+			
All Saints hosted homeless guests from April 30 through May 7 as part of CCSI's goal of making Warm Nights a 12-month program. An average of 19 individuals were served each day. In addition to 40 participating ASLC individuals/families, five local congregations and Girl Scout Troop 542 offered assistance. The Serve Team coordinates this initiative for ASLC.				+	
The Fellowship Team met at May 2, at ASLC to discuss plans for Fellowship events during the summer months.	+				
As part of the initiative to improve the wildlife-friendly status of ASLC and to educate and engage members, the G.I.F.T. Sunday School children planted wildflowers at the church on May 7. Walter and Janice Knausenberger coordinated the planting of flowers on the church property on May 12			+		+
The Worship and Music Team met on May 6 at the home of Louise Waynant to share ideas for enhancing our ASLC Worship experience. Melissa Steiner coordinates Worship and Music Team events for ASLC.		+			

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The All Saints Women’s Book Group met on Saturday, May 13, at the home of Trish Ryan to discuss the book <i>A Great Reckoning</i> , by Louise Penny. Louise Waynant led the discussion.	+				
Trece De Mayo was celebrated at ASLC on Saturday, May 13. John Summerlot, Jim Sichelman and the Ale Saints coordinated this event for the Saints and the community.	+				
On May 18, Pastor Gary and six ASLC members met with St. Dymas Pastor Gerry Rickel, Karen Kretschmann of the Del/MD Synod, and a St. Dymas volunteer to explore how ASLC might become involved with a returning citizen (released prisoner) accompaniment ministry.				+	
On Saturday, May 20, ASLC joined with Grace Lutheran to conduct a food collection event at the Free State Mall Giant to benefit the Bowie International Food Pantry. Volunteers collected 55 postal totes of food and \$290 in cash for the Bowie Food Pantry. The Serve Team coordinated this initiative				+	
The Cancer Support Group met on Saturday morning, May 20, at ASLC.				+	
May was ASLC Scholarship month at ASLC. The Scholarship Committee, led by Roz Kleffman, invited ASLC members and friends to contribute to this initiative. ASLC awards scholarships to those who have been active in the life of the congregation and are pursuing post-secondary education. Scholarship awards were presented during worship services on August 6. Scholarship recipients were Chibueze Ariguzo, Sean Bettinger, Shannon Bettinger, Caleb Jacobson, Elizabeth Jacobson, John Meyer, Caitlin Richardson (the Wanda McNeill Scholarship), Erin Schumacher, and Kristin Watson. Each student received \$1000.			+		
The ASLC Youth Group met on May 21 at ASLC to discuss the proposed youth mission trip.			+	+	
The theme of the May 21 Themed Potluck Lunch was “As Seen on TV” or food videos on the internet. Food Pantry donations were “go-to” dried/canned food.	+			+	
The Lutheran Women Prayer Shawl Ministry met on May 23 at the home of Betty Cirone.				+	
A series of conversations about how ASLC might develop an Earth Care Ministry at All Saints was initiated on May 28			+	+	+
A Duffel Bag Project Workshop was held at ASLC on June 3. Participants sewed duffel bags for children in Foster Care so they would not have to put personal belongings in plastic trash bags.				+	
The All Saints Women’s Book Group met on Saturday, June 10, at the home of Susan DeHart, to discuss the book <i>Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis</i> , by J. D. Vance. Karol Taylor led the discussion.	+				

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As of June, 2017, Alpha House was full with three single mothers and five children. Each new family receives an initial food supply, bedding, towels, and cleaning supplies. All Saints assists with expenses to maintain Alpha House. Chuck Arnold coordinates All Saint's participation.				+	
All Saints expressed appreciation to Larry Floor who retired from his position as Parish Administrator after 15+ years in that role. A party in his honor was held on June 18 following 11:00 worship. The celebration included sharing stories and remembrances about Larry and his work.	+				+
G.I.F.T. parents gathered for a planning and volunteering coordination event at Libations on Saturday, June 24. Discussion items included ways to enhance the program, ideas for how youth can serve the church and community, and instruction rotations.			+		
The Just Grace Committee met on Monday, June 26 to discuss the committee's work and begin planning for that work.			+	+	
The Mission Endowment Fund Committee met on June 26.					+
The Adult Faith Formation Track 1 began a new study from Augsburg Fortress, "God's Urgent Call," on July 2,			+		
ASLC's young adult missionary, Uzoma Ariguzo spoke to the congregation at each worship service on Sunday, July 9, about his mission to Australia. Following a meal at 12:15, Uzoma, who has been appointed by the ELCA to serve with young adults in Global Mission (YAGM), presented the story of his mission in more detail and explained how the congregation can support him.		+	+	+	
The ASLC Serve Team, in partnership with the UMD Campus Ministry, sponsored a school supplies collection during July and August. Filled backpacks go to area families who lack sufficient resources to provide for their children's educational needs.				+	
The Fellowship Team met on July 15 the home of Louise Waynant to discuss plans for fellowship activities for summer and fall.	+			+	
Rev. Michael Lohmann, ELCA pastor, led worship, preached, and presided at Holy Communion on July 16 while Pastor Gary and Connie were in Boston to celebrate the Holy Baptism of their third granddaughter.		+			
The theme of the July 16 Themed Potluck Lunch was Zucchini Houdini. Food Pantry donations were canned and fresh veggies.	+			+	
A Farewell and Godspeed blessing for Pastor Jeff Jacobson, U.S Navy, was offered in July. Pastor Jeff will begin his new assignment in California in August.		+			
Families and friends of ASLC gathered for a luau and movie night on Saturday, August 5, at All Saints. Food, games, crafts, and showing the film Moana on an outdoor screen were included in the festive event.	+				

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A Farewell and Godspeed blessing for ASLC's young adult missionary, Uzoma Ariguzo, was offered during worship services on August 6. ASLC collected \$6810 to support Uzoma and other young adults during their year-long YAGM mission trip to Australia. This amount was 36% more than the \$5000 ELCA goal. Additionally, Uzoma was presented with a check for \$1000 from the ASLC Scholarship Fund.				+	
Rev. Michael Lohmann, ELCA pastor, led worship, preached, and presided at Holy Communion on August 13.		+			
The Serve Team sponsored a school supplies collection during the summer months. A carload of supplies was delivered to Hope Lutheran Church in College Park for Lutheran Campus Ministry's distribution to area families.				+	
The theme of the August 20 Themed Potluck Lunch was Tailgating Time. Food Pantry donations included BBQ sauce and condiments. John and Emily Summerlot coordinate the potluck events for the Saints.	+				
The Fellowship Team, led by Mark Steiner, met on August 20 to discuss the Ministry Fair exhibit, providing support for the Crab Feast, God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, and the 25 th Anniversary of the building, as well as procedures for ordering kitchen supplies.	+				+
The ASLC Worship and Music Team met at the home of Louise Waynant on Saturday, August 26 for lunch and discussion. Discussion items included planning for the second half of Pentecost, Reformation Sunday, and Advent, as well as various aspects of worship that had been shared by the congregation. Melissa Steiner leads the Worship and Music Team.		+			
The Annual All Saints Ministry Fair was held on Sunday, August 27. The theme of the Fair was "It's All about Gratitude, It's All about Giving, It's All about God." Coordinated by the Stewardship Team, the Fair offered opportunities for ministry, service, study, and involvement. Members and friends were encouraged to share their gifts and talents.	+	+	+	+	+
Adult Learning, Track 1, at ASLC introduced an 11-week study of Luther's Large Catechism on September 3. This study was facilitated by Sven Allenbach-Schmidt.			+		
Adult Learning, Track 2, offered a two-month study of NOOMA, featuring videos by Christian teacher Rob Bell. Matt Bitter and Walter Knausenberger facilitated the sessions.			+		
Ninabelle Raye Fahrner, daughter of Chase and Rachel Fahrner, was received in to eternal and present Kingdom of God through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Saturday, September 9, at All Saints.		+			

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The All Saints Women's Book Group met on Saturday, September 9, at the home of Louise Waynant, to discuss the book <i>America's First Daughter</i> by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. Emily Summerlot led the discussion.	+				
The 7 th Annual Crab Feast was held on Saturday, September 9, from 4-9 pm. The Ale Saints sponsored the event which was well attended by the Saints and community members.	+				
Beginning Sunday, September 10, and continuing throughout the second half of Pentecost, the paraments on the altar and pulpit were RED as a visual way to celebrate 2017 as the Year of Luther 500.		+			
On September 10, the Saints joined with the rest of the ELCA to participate in "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday. All Saints partnered with Grace Lutheran to host a <i>Rise Against Hunger</i> meal-packaging event held in the Grace Lutheran Fellowship Hall. 55 Saints and friends along with 25 volunteers from Grace took part in the meal-packaging, assembling 17,000 meals.				+	
Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T.), the learning program for children, youth, and adults, resumed gatherings on Sunday, September 10 with participation in God's Work, Our Hands. Melissa Bitter facilitates the G. I. F.T. experiences.			+	+	
The Serve Team and G.I.F.T. families facilitated the collection of entertaining and educational DVD's for children ages 2-13 who were residing in Alpha House.				+	
The Saints responded generously to the Lutheran Disaster Response for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.				+	
Tuesday Morning Adult Bible Study reconvened on September 12 to begin a study of 1 Corinthians. Pastor Gary facilitated these sessions.			+		
Just Grace Book and Film Discussions resumed on September 13 and 16 with discussion of <i>All American Boys</i> by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. Sessions are facilitated by members of the Just Grace Committee.			+		
The Cancer Support Group met on September 16. Diane Cvitko coordinates the group meetings.	+				+
All Saints celebrated the 25 th Anniversary of the All Saints building Dedication on September 17 during both worship services. A celebratory potluck meal with a special cake was offered for all following 11:00 worship. Nancy-Pat Weaver prepared a wonderful photo display that portrayed the history of the building from its dedication to the present day. Food Pantry donations were canned soups, stews, and salmon.	+	+			
Milly Cancel and Fred Wentland were married at All Saints on September 23. They asked for prayers for this joyous occasion.	+				

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G.I.F.T. families assisted in caring for the church grounds during the education hour on September 24. Families participated in weeding, planting trees, watering saplings, and offering kindness rocks. Walter and Janice Knausenberger offered guidance and support.					
The Prayer Shawl Ministry met at the home of Jane Hilt on Thursday afternoon, September 28.	+			+	
A memorial service celebrating the life of Pastor Robert H. Depp, father of Grace Depp, was held at All Saints on Sunday, October 1. A reception in the Fellowship Hall followed the service.		+			
Just Grace Book and Film Discussions for October were held on October 7 and 11. Participants discussed the book, <i>The Making of a Racist</i> , by Charles Dew.	+		+		
The All Saints Women’s Book Group met on Saturday, October 14, at the home of Diane Hampton, to discuss the play <i>Fences</i> , by August Wilson. Ruth Ann Killion led the discussion.	+				
At its October 18 meeting, the Congregation Council voted to participate in the Metro DC New Connections initiative.	+	+	+	+	+
The 2017 Devotional Book, “It’s All about Gratitude, It’s All about Giving, It’s All about God” with 21 devotions authored by 21 Saints to read on the 21 days leading up to Consecration Sunday, was introduced to the congregation on October 1. Norma Allenbach-Schmidt and Diane Hampton coordinated development of the booklet which was mailed to all the Saints, as well as available on the All Saints website and Facebook page.	+	+	+	+	+
Personal testimony was offered by Val Hermanson, Emily Blackner, and Pastor Wayne Williams in preparation for Consecration Sunday.	+	+	+	+	+
The Cancer Support Group met at All Saints on October 21.	+				+
Consecration Sunday, the day in which the Saints consecrate financial commitments to support the mission and ministries of All Saints in 2018, was held on Sunday October 22. The Rev. Gene Kern was guest leader, preaching at both services, leading a discussion at 9:45, and providing reflections during the Celebration Luncheon following the 11:00 worship service. Chris Greenawalt, assisted by Emily Summerlot, catered the luncheon. The congregational response was encouraging with 67 estimate of giving cards received for \$342,608 to support the mission and ministries of the congregation. This represented an increase of more than \$20,000 over the previous year.	+	+	+	+	+
At a special meeting of the Congregation Council on October 24, the Council approved a motion that All Saints enter into a contract with Walkong Consulting for pastoral succession planning services.	+	+	+	+	+

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The Lutheran Women's Prayer Shawl ministry met on October 26 at the home of Karin McCabe.	+			+	
The Fellowship Team met at the home of Louise Waynant on Saturday, October 28. Discussion items included planning for Fellowship events planned for coming months and ways to support other ASLC ministries.	+	+	+	+	+
On October 28, Family Movie Night was held in the Fellowship Hall at All Saints. Families were invited to come in costume.	+				
Reformation services at ASLC on Sunday, October 29, were festival services that included special music. Over 40 Saints and friends traveled to the Washington National Cathedral that afternoon to worship at the 500 th Anniversary service. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was the preacher for the service.	+	+	+	+	+
G.I.F.T. families participated in a cross generational event celebrating the Reformation on October 29. The event focused on learning about Martin Luther, the Reformation, and how it is still relevant today.					
Octoberfest sponsored by the Ale Saints occurred on November 4. The event was well received by the Saints and the community.	+				
The October 15 Themed Potluck Lunch featured the fourth annual Chili Cook-off. The Food Pantry donation was canned chili and/or beans.	+				
Oktoberfest Celebration sponsored by the Ale Saints was offered on November 4 for the Saints, their friends, and the community.	+				
Just Grace Book and Film Discussions for November were held on November 4 and 8. Participants viewed and discussed the Emmy-winning documentary <i>Ethnic Nations</i> .			+		
The All Saints Women's Book Group met on Saturday, November 11, at the home of Norma Allenbach-Schmidt to discuss the book <i>The Excellent Lombards</i> by Jane Hamilton. Louise Waynant led the discussion.	+				
All Saints hosted an average of 32 Warm Nights guests from November 12 through November 19. Guests included families with children ranging in age from infants to teens. Contributions of food, assistance, and support were received from numerous members and friends of All Saints. Guests received gifts from the sock drawer as well as gloves and hand-knit or crocheted hats and scarves. Saints also contributed \$238 in a noisy offering to help families with laundry and supplies. Warmest thanks to Liz Muller and Karen Lee Banks for coordinating the events of the week, and to all the Saints who helped in so many generous ways.				+	
On November 12, all G.I.F.T. students gathered in the North Classroom to assemble lunches for guests in the Warm Nights program.			+	+	

Ministries	G	W	L	Ser	S
Gather (G), Worship (W), Learn(L), Serve (Ser), Support (S)					
The Lutheran Women's Prayer Shawl Ministry met on November 14 at the home of Dottie Hall.	+			+	
Adult Faith Formation Track 1 began a study of Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah on November 19.			+		
The Transition Team, Call Committee Team, and Congregation Council gathered for a retreat with Dr. James Pence, Transition Consultant, on November 17 and 18. Team members were commissioned for their work on Sunday, November 19. Dr. Pence provided information about the Pastoral Transition Process following each worship service.					
The November 19 Themed Potluck Lunch featured the Family-Style Get Together favorites. The Food Pantry donations were Thanksgiving Basket items.	+			+	
Baptisms on November 19 need to be inserted here but I do not have names of family or children.					
The Annual Youth Fundraiser of selling fresh holiday greens to help defray cost of youth activities in 2018 occurred in November and December.				+	
ASLC partnered with the Bowie Food Pantry and the Prince George's County Child Resource Center to provide Christmas gifts for area families in need.				+	
Gifts of Hope was introduced to the Saints on November 26 and was offered each Sunday during the Advent season.				+	
The Worship and Music Team met at the home of Louise Waynant on December 2 to discuss plans for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Lent.					
The Prayer Shawl ministry met on December 12 at the home of Rita Moday.	+			+	
Just Grace Book and Film Discussions for December 2 and 6 was the play/film <i>Fences</i> by August Wilson.			+		
A holiday potluck breakfast and discussion of the book <i>Grayson</i> , by Lynn Cox was held at the home of Louise Waynant on December 9. Sharron Sample led the discussion. The event welcomed all the Saints and friends...women, men, and youth.	+				
On December 12, Tuesday Morning Bible Study met at the home of Louise Waynant for a holiday potluck meal following their continuing study of 1 Corinthians.			+		
The ASLC Youth Group Cookie sale occurred on December 16 and 17. Proceeds will be used to help defray cost of youth activities in 2018.				+	
G.I.F.T. students created unique holiday cards that were sold during December. All proceeds will go to the Youth Fund for future trips and events.			+	+	

Ministries	G	W	L	Ser	S
Gather (G), Worship (W), Learn(L), Serve (Ser), Support (S)					
The Saints participate in the first major stage in the Pastoral Succession process in December with the congregation completion of the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) survey.	+	+	+	+	+
The Mission Endowment Fund Committee provided information about opportunities to apply for Mission Endowment Grants from the endowment given to All Saints by the Rev. Wanda McNeil.	+	+	+	+	+
Uzoma Ariguzo provides the Saints with regular updates on his YAGM journey in Australia.	+	+	+	+	+
During the season of Advent, the sanctuary was decorated progressively. Each Sunday fresh greens and other items were added to enrich the Advent worship experience. An Advent wreath was placed near the altar, and lighting the candles was incorporated into the liturgy of each Sunday service.		+			
The Youth Christmas Program, held on December 17 between worship services, featured The First Christmas and Holiday Traditions. The program was coordinated by Melissa Bitter and included 26 children and youth.		+			
The December Themed Potluck Lunch featured items of Five Ingredients or Less. The Food Pantry donations were a dry or canned version of one of the five ingredients.	+			+	

Additional Anticipated Events for December

Christmas Eve worship
New Year's Eve Worship