

NEWS FROM THE

First Pew

FEBRUARY 2021

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Rev. Isaac S. Schuller

"Hello First Immanuel family. As many of you know my Father-in-law Pastor David Brighton died on January 10th 2021. We weep as he is no longer here on earth with us but we rejoice because he is face to face with Christ. We look forward to the day of the resurrection when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. The article that you will be reading is Pastor Brightons last newsletter article that he wrote."

In Christ,

Pastor



CALVARY CALLING
MOUNT CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOLUME 43 NUMBER 1
JANUARY, 2021



It's 2021! That will be true right about the time you receive this newsletter. What does 2021 hold in store for us? More of the pandemic? Probably. The vaccine will certainly help, but it will take a while before "herd immunity" moves the coronavirus toward the back burner. More of the social unrest in more cities? Possibly, but we can hope and pray cooler heads will prevail and productive conversations can be held as people look for commonalities instead of immediately looking to fight over differences.

What does 2021 hold in store for the Church? Well, despite the pandemic, and the hatred and violence that has erupted in so many cities in our country, we know that God is able to turn every evil around to serve His purposes. What does that mean for us locally? When we see more and more people being reached by our livestream worship services and daily devotions, when we see crowds attending our outdoor events and clamoring for ways to get together, it's clear that people right here in Middle Georgia are tired of being "cooped up" and they are looking for community. Well, the Christian Church is all about community, isn't it? Our God Himself is "community/triune" – Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one God. God created Adam and Eve to be in community with Him, His creation, and one another. We are also created for such community and our Vision Statement points us in the right direction. We are all about "connecting people to Jesus and to one another to serve the world."

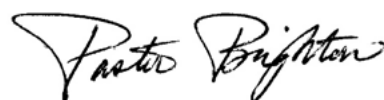
One of the problems, as I see it, is that too many Christians have been filled with an unhealthy fear of getting the disease or dying from the disease. It's true that Covid-19 is a very contagious disease, but the vast majority of us (under age 65 and in good physical health) have a 99.9% chance of surviving this Covid-19 pandemic. Yes, people we know and love have contracted the disease and some have died. But we can't let fear of either getting the disease or dying from it to stop us from living our lives in Christian community.

As we move into 2021 I want to encourage all of us at Mt. Calvary – don't let Satan rob you of the JOY of your salvation! Don't let Satan steal from you the very community that gives you encouragement and support. Don't let Satan keep you from gathering with your fellow Jesus-followers here at Mt. Calvary. The mutual "consolation of the saints" is critical to every one of us. Did you know that the Greek word for "one another" is used 100 times in 94 New Testament verses to highlight the importance of Christian community. Some examples are: Be kind, gentle, patient, forgiving, at peace with one another. Accept one another, bear with one another, seek good for one another, love one another, confess our sins to one another. The list goes on and on with more encouragements for our church family to support one another in Christian love. Some of that, out of necessity, we have taken to doing in a "virtual" manner and at Mt. Calvary, we will continue livestreaming the worship services and daily devotions long after the Covid-19 crisis has passed. But there is only so much we can do virtually. The world is telling us that Church is the last place you should be (Google it! Church is the #1 worst place to be according to some "expert!"). But we know that's a lie! With proper precautions, we have gathered for over 9 months without a single case of the virus connected to our worship. It will probably happen at some point. But Church is NOT a "super-spreader" as the media would portray it. The statistics simply don't bear that out.

I yearn for some of you who are still sheltering at home and experiencing what so many who have been doing that for nine months are experiencing: loneliness, depression, yearning for community – to put your fear aside and come on back to your church family in person. If you are in the "high risk" category, then please continue to do what you need to do to stay safe. But, I'll say it again, for all of us under 65 and in good physical shape, the facts don't lie – our chances for surviving this pandemic are 99.9%. Part of life is accepting risks. We drive our cars, even though almost 40,000 people die in car accidents every year and over 4 million need medical attention. Even with a vaccine, every year, as many as 700,000 people get the flu and 15-60,000 people die. There are many risks involved in living our lives in this sinful, fallen world, and many fears! But God loves us and the disciple John, who experienced life with Jesus for three years, says that His perfect love casts out fear! (1 John 4:18)

So, with much joy and no fear, let us assume the risk of living as Jesus' disciples in the world – that was His call to us all! Let us assume the risk of injury or death by accident or disease or persecution as we go forward in His name to declare His glory among the nations! (Psalm 96:3). God knows when He will call us home – only He knows – so let's live the abundant life Jesus us calls us to live each and every day until He takes us home! (John 10:10)

Happy New Year and may God bless us and protect us as we gather together in His name and as we go out into our communities to tell others the Good News – that there is a God who loves them and through pandemic, violence and hatred, persecution – He is Lord of all and Savior of all! JOY! NO FEAR!



Obituary of Pastor David Carl Brighton

Reverend David Carl Brighton was born on 28 October 1955 in Philadelphia, PA. Beginning with his baptism on 20 November 1955, David was raised as a child of God by his dearly devoted parents, Dr. Carl and Ruth Brighton. He was the oldest of four children, including his sister Susan, and brothers Andrew and Joel. Learning from his parents' example, David garnered a zest for knowledge, discipline, sports, work ethic and most importantly love - not only for those around him but for his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For David, life was simple and would never be about amassing material possessions or worldly accolades. He knew what kind of legacy he wanted to leave behind. Joshua 24:15 reads, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." And that, dear friends, was the legacy he strived to leave behind for his family and anyone and everyone the Lord put in his path.

This proclamation would guide David as he grew from a boy into a young man. He enjoyed many hobbies along the way, including reading, music, collecting stamps, and any and all sports. He was a life-long fan of the Philadelphia Eagles, Philadelphia Flyers, and the St. Louis Cardinals, among others. He really enjoyed the spirit of competition and hard work associated with athletics. David would Major in Pre-Med his freshman year at Valparaiso University, before ultimately switching to History with a minor in Greek. Upon his graduation, he felt the calling to serve the Lord in the Ministry and enrolled at Concordia Seminary, in St. Louis, MO, where he would receive his Master of Divinity. During his third year there, you could say his true legacy began. He was sent to Raleigh, NC, to complete his vicarage that year, and met a young lady named Marcia Swaim whom he would later render the title as the most beautiful and wonderful woman in the world. Upon graduating and becoming an ordained minister of the Lord the following year, Marcia and David were married shortly after, on June 19th, 1982. They would become inseparable, she being his best friend, and he, hers. Together they had five wonderful children: Michelle, Emily, Jonathan, Benjamin, and Elizabeth. David loved his children very much and felt blessed with so much joy watching them grow up over the years. He was constantly involved in their lives and was always there to cheer them on at their games, to encourage them in the classroom and above all to guide them on their journey with the Lord. He would also be blessed with three beautiful grandchildren, Olivia, Ezekiel, and Selah. They were his pride and joy and he loved them dearly.

Upon graduating from Seminary, David was first called to become the Associate Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church, in Omaha, NE from 1982-1984. He then became the Senior Pastor at St. Mark from 1984-1990. He was then called to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Parkersburg, WV, where he would serve as the Senior Pastor from 1990-1999. His final call was to become the Senior Pastor at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, in Warner Robins, GA and he would serve as the Senior Pastor from 1999 until the time of his passing. In 2009, David was elected as the Vice President of the LCMS Georgia/Florida district. From 2012 until his passing, he served as the First Vice President. During his tenure at Mt. Calvary, David had the honor and privilege of mentoring and teaching twenty different vicars, who all held a special place in David's heart. He was a leader of men, and he enjoyed nothing more than seeing other young men grow closer to Christ and stronger in the word, as they walked in humble servitude through the ministry on their journey to becoming leaders of men in their own right.

David approached each and every day with contagious vigor, uncompromising purpose and palpable love all of which were encapsulated with a joyful smile and a resounding message of hope, received through baptism and proclaimed to all through God's word. David never sought things of this world. For him, life was simple. He spent time each and every day with the Lord in thought, word and prayer. The only legacy he prayed for was for his children, his church, and people of all nations to know the love, grace, hope, joy, peace and eternal life which is theirs, through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. David was a blessing and a humble servant of the Lord. A man of God.

David passed away on January 10th, 2021 at the age of 65. He is survived by his wife Marcia, his mother Ruth, his sister Susan, his two brothers Andrew and Joel, his five children Michelle, Emily, Jonathan, Benjamin and Elizabeth and his three grandchildren Olivia, Ezekiel and Selah.



Dear First Immanuel Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers for my dad, Pastor David Brighton, and our family. He was called to glory on January 10, 2021. His covid-related death was very sudden and unexpected, and we miss him terribly. Your calls, texts, cards, meals, and generosity have meant so much to us. You are truly the body of Christ. In our grief, we cling to God's promises that he will never leave us nor forsake us and we have the sure hope that we will see my dad again on the last day. "Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." Love, the Brighton Family

Operation Christmas Child

2020 “What a Year” Even though 2020 was something else with fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and pandemic throughout the country, FILC was strong in their support of Operation Christmas Child.

We were able to fill and cover shipping fee for 110 boxes. Here is the breakdown per age group: 36 boxes for 2-4 year old, 37 boxes for 5-9 year old, and 37 boxes for 10-14 year old. We do track our boxes: 61 boxes went to Peru while 49 went to Hard to Reach Areas.

An explanation of Hard to Reach Areas are large swaths of the globe are hard to reach with the Gospel due to cultural or geographic barriers. Many who live in these areas are unreached peoples—ethnic groups who may have never even heard the Name of Jesus Christ! But specially packed shoebox gifts—provide ease of access through customs and give local believers a culturally-sensitive way to share God’s love. Many of these believers do so at great personal cost and despite fierce opposition to their faith. In partnership with these faithful Christian brothers and sisters, Samaritan’s Purse has penetrated some of the darkest corners of the globe, distributing shoebox gifts like yours to more than 50 hard-to-reach countries since 1993.

Now we begin our support for OCC 2021.

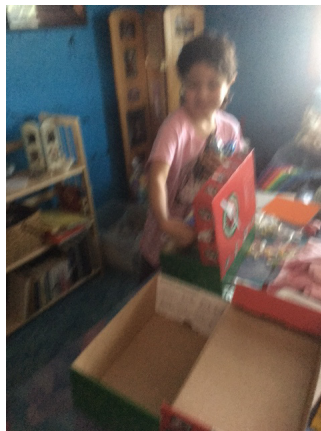
There is a variety of ways to support Operation Christmas Child:

- * donate items for the boxes - check out this link for First Immanuel Wish list https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1OEV4ZK24L5QY/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist
- * donate funding for items for the boxes
- * donate funding to cover the shipping cost - \$9.00 per box

For more information, please contact Beth Braun at (408-892-9790) or bethimar@yahoo.com
Thank you all for your support of this mission.



Operation Christmas Child 2020





Ash Wednesday
February 27, 2021
11:00 AM & 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service

Lenten Services
February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 2021
11:00 AM Lenten Service

Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021
10:00 AM Service

Maundy Thursday
April 1, 2021
7:00 PM Service

Good Friday
April 2, 2021
11:00 AM Good Friday Service
7:00 PM Tenebrae Service

Easter
April 2, 2021
10:00 AM Service

Forget Me Not Prayers

If you have an opportunity, please reach out with a call, a visit or a card!

Those in need of prayer for health and healing:

- JR D'Amelio
- Art Bye
- Gary, brother of Francis Scott
- Dimas Cuevas
- Jason Gamino
- Nate James
- Donnie White
- Karen Diekmann
- Martha Baker
- Juan Vargas
- Harriett Glass
- David, nephew of Shirley Stager
- Christy Gonzales
- Mark, nephew of Karen Deichmann
- Ayela
- Paul Gesso
- Gail Castro
- Arcele Thompson

Those unable to make it to our worship due to health or other issues:

- Rosemary Thode
- Joan Barnes
- Donnie White

Those receiving treatment for cancer:

- Angie, friend of Beatriz Scott
- Angelena, friend of Rena Torres
- Joyce (Beatriz Scott)

All those serving our country in the Military including:

- Dimas Jr. & Veronica Cuevas
- Benjamin Brighton
- David Newton

We pray for God's protection on our missionaries around the world and especially:

- Pastor Jerry & Patty Lawson & family

We pray for God's strength and protection for:

- Mario & Christy • Abby Reyes & Family • Mateos • Lucia • Jorge & Estella Vasques



- 2/1 Kira Martinez
- 2/10 Larry Skarset
- 2/10 Ezekiel Isaac Schuller
- 2/11 Alice Obermueller
- 2/12 Martha Gong
- 2/12 Domingo Pineda
- 2/17 Jose Rodol Fo Montano
- 2/18 Erick Izucar
- 2/20 Jesus Lopez
- 2/21 Anely Muñoz
- 2/21 Beth Braun
- 2/23 Vanessa Cuevas
- 2/27 Beatriz Scott



- 2/14 Eulalio Sanchez & Celia Flores ~ 22 years

FEBRUARY

2011

First Immanuel Lutheran Church

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1. **Introduction**

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1st Sunday in Lent Leviticus 19:1-2 Matthew 23:1-12	2nd Sunday in Lent Leviticus 19:35-40 Matthew 23:13-28	3rd Sunday in Lent Leviticus 20:9-16 Matthew 23:29-36	4th Sunday in Lent Leviticus 21:1-6 Matthew 23:37-43	5th Sunday in Lent Leviticus 22:1-14 Matthew 24:1-14	6th Sunday in Lent Leviticus 22:15-34 Matthew 24:15-28

FIRST CLASS MAIL

First Immanuel Lutheran Church
374 SOUTH THIRD STREET
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95112

eMail: office@firstimmanuel.org
Website: www.firstimmanuel.org

First Immanuel Lutheran Church
374 SOUTH THIRD STREET † SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95112 † 408-292-5404