

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

# The Witness

MAY 2020 VOL 106 #5

## ***THE CHURCH SCATTERED AND GATHERED***

“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria” (Acts 8:1)

**Pastor’s Corner** - Life in the first-century church was anything but easy! Most people spent their time and energy simply trying to survive the rigors of daily chores, constant disease, famines, plagues, and Roman occupation. Followers of The Way (i.e., Christianity or the Jesus’ Movement) carried with them an additional array of consequences, such as alienation, banishment, discrimination, expulsion from the houses of worship, persecution, imprisonment, and even death. Everyday people of the early church accepted the risks. Some of them perished but many of them flourished during times of uncertainty.

Few, if any, would have said, “God caused the hostilities, threats, and ill-treatment,” since God does not tempt us (James 1:13). God did use the calamities and catastrophes to His advantage (Romans 8:28). The first persecutions drove God’s people from the security of their homes and houses of worship in Jerusalem “throughout Judea and Samaria;” (Acts. 8:1), from the Temple and Holy City to evangelize visitors from Africa (Ethiopian Eunuch, Acts. 8:26-40), from the shores of Galilee to “as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews” (Acts 11:19), and eventually, to the ends of the earth. God moved in each emergency to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and His people.

Today, some believers are concerned about the life of the Church post-pandemic (after all of this is over). There is a concern that closing church buildings for six weeks or more has caused irreversible harm to the church institution. You have probably read the predictions: small churches will close, large churches will go bankrupt, and people will get into the habit of “skipping” church. Throughout history, there have been doomsday predictions about the sustainability of God’s people. Sadly, there are times when local churches close. Despite these prognostications, the Good News is more churches are thriving during this pandemic.



## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor plans to celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Prepare by baking bread at home or buy a small loaf. He will give instructions during the service. If you would like Communion delivered (pre-sealed, sanitary wafer and juice), please Call Pastor at (785) 267-0936.



A recent poll showed that prior to the pandemic, only 10% of the churches were growing but now 48% of churches in the US are reaching new audiences. This shows the fundamental truth, the church is sustained by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, not by its members or money. The Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is the same Spirit which gives life and vitality to believers AND Christ's church on earth.

Church leaders have learned several life-changing lessons: (1) the People of God do not need a building to be the Church, (2) the primary work of the church is prayer, preaching/teaching, praise (or worship), and serving persons in need; (3) members and nonmembers want online options with exceptional audio and high-quality video, (4) non-churchgoers are very grateful and open to the Gospel because of our simple acts of kindness (i.e., charity); (5) members want to give electronically, (6) nonmembers want to worship according to their preferred time of service, style of music, quality of teaching, and outstanding programs; and (7) people desire flexibility and choice!

What will the church look like in a post-pandemic world? We do not know. As our nation switches from response to recovery (i.e., opening back up), the Church must begin to talk about "What will church look like after the Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic"? There are many blogs, resources, and websites asking this important question, such as [/www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/reopening-the-church-after-covid19](http://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/reopening-the-church-after-covid19). As we begin to dream about gathering again – while maintaining good hygiene and the health code – what do you pray is God's vision for our congregation? What ministries and programs does God want us to restart? What ministries or programs will not restart? What, if anything, will go back to normal? What will become the "new normal"? I think we can all agree, life will not be the same again, but God can and will use this crisis to bring people to faith and advance the cause of Christ! ~ Blessings, Pastor Ivan

[www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka](http://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka)

*Worship Online*

*O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the  
rock of our salvation!*  
PSALM 95:1

*Join Us!*

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

**West Side Baptist Church Topeka**

## OUR CHURCH FINANCES

Our income for the year is \$66,930.31. March income was \$13,888.75. Our expenses for the year total \$68,196.03. March was the largest month of expenses to date with \$28,313.03. Our insurance payment of \$9,308 and our renewal of the CCLI/CVLI Licenses of \$331.00 were due in March resulting in higher expenses for the month. Our net income to date is -\$1,265.72.



Our offerings on Easter totaled \$4,722 with an additional \$300 from our online giving. \$430 was specifically earmarked for the special Easter offering. As I write this newsletter article I can report that we have more Easter offerings still coming in. I'll give an overview later.

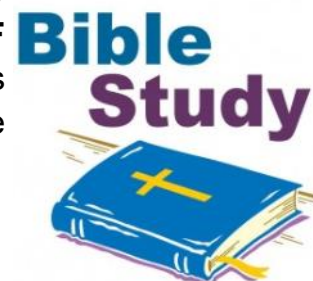
At the April Council meeting we discussed and approved the church applying for the federal CARES / Paycheck Protection Program that passed Congress. This program helps small businesses and churches retain their staff through the hardships of quarantine. We were approved by Capitol Federal Bank for \$23,529.58.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.  
Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

**MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING** – The Ministry of Mission will have their monthly meeting at **2:00 pm on Sunday, April 26**. We will be discussing options for the Bethel meal on May 29th and our trip to Murrow on June 1-4. You can attend in person (10 or fewer persons) in Homer Hall or via ZOOM.

**GIVING** – Thank you for giving generously during the Coronavirus (COVID 19) national crisis. Please mail your gifts to the Church, drop off in the secure mailbox, or give ONLINE at <https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site>.

**BIBLE STUDY ONLINE** – Pastor is leading the **Wednesday Bible Study online every week on ZOOM** (see email for link and password). Join this one-hour small group study of "THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW." Bible studies are free and open to the public.





**MOBILE FOOD PANTRY** Free Fruit and Vegetable Food Pantry on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, while supplies last. **MOBILE SITE:** enter western PARKING LOT from 4th and CLAY Streets; do not park or exit your vehicle. Program Eligibility: Permanent residents in the Topeka area (zip code 66601-66619). Quondam: Clients are limited to receive one distribution per week. Call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 for holiday and weather-related closures. Equal Opportunity. \*All food is available at no cost. **Please wear a face mask or cover** to protect the health and safety of our volunteers.



**EMERGENCIES & HOSPITAL**

– If you or a loved one go to the hospital for an emergency or surgery, **the hospital staff and chaplains' office will NOT contact the Church Office or the Pastor. You or a family member must call the Church Office at (785) 267-0936.** The pastor is willing to visit the hospital and pray before surgeries.



**BABY CLOSET – The Baby Closet is CLOSED** to the public until further notice to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID 19). Families can leave a message on the Baby Closet voice mail for diapers, formula, ointment, and wipes. A volunteer will return the message within 48 hours. Families may pick-up supplies on **WEDNESDAYS from 3:30-5:30 pm at the North Door.**



2nd Don & Molly Morris  
8th Tom & Jan Mansfield  
10th John & Jan Swain  
21st Russ & Fran Hunter



13th Barbara Amos  
13th Chuck Cozad  
14th Juliano Bennett  
14th Almira Collier  
17th Marianne Spano  
18th Alice Payne

**DOORSTEP - The Doorstep Annual Banquet and Quilt Drawing** has been postponed for now. We hope to have this event later in the year as it is a celebration of our volunteers!

We will still have our **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Cash Bash**, but maybe in July this year to correspond with our Christmas in July collection. Once we figure some things out, we will set the dates and get the word out!

Other dates to remember are:

We will have one food sale fundraiser this year! We plan to take orders for **Cinnamon Rolls and Tamales September 11<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>**, with delivery the weekend of October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mark your calendars to stock your freezers! Mark your calendars for Doorstep's **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Walk/5K Run** at Lake Shawnee. The big day is **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm!** Come out and support Doorstep, and get some exercise at the same time! We made over \$6,000 last year, and have a goal of \$9,000 for our third year! Note that we moved it to Sunday afternoon for 2020!



A Q B      T L C M      G E G S  
 J K R X      R A H J V Y N      Y E Q A D  
 S H E M F J C T J R I S B Q O G E J D K  
 G F S U N S H I N E U T A P J P R B E Z  
 U B U V B B D J X A Y R E Q U L A R N P  
 B I R W R U I N G S Z S Z E R D N A L S A U  
 C Z R E G T M P M T K E L S B A J C M Q W  
 H V E O M T R F G E Q L S B N N O C P  
 L Z C D W E W J C R E B K R G U N J N  
 E Z T S J R C B A X A H P J L G F W F  
 E I P W F O I B L O S S O M S E N K  
 D O R X L N R P F K J S Q S C R U  
 B N O N Y H D V S M P W G M H E H  
 L A U K C Y S W R E H G X J R N P  
 B T O K D M N E G E H Y P I C J  
 C S P R I N G W U L D O Z S E  
 V Y C P K J O Y K P S J T  
 U M B R E L L A N M F  
 P J Q N F X V S R

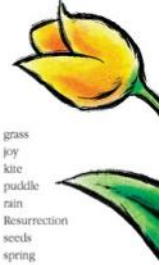
### Search for Spring

Is spring on its way? Search for it by finding the words listed below. They may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal.



A E T A O N K E M E G U N Y T O L X F Y

- Atonement
- birds
- blossoms
- breeze
- bugs
- butterfly
- Christ
- Easter
- eggs
- flowers
- fun
- garden
- general conference



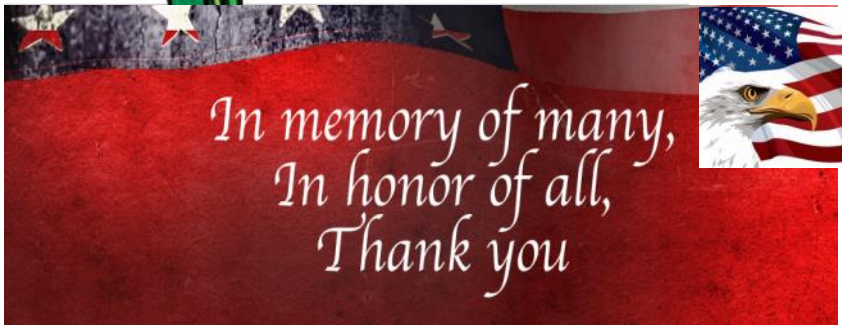
- grass
- joy
- kite
- puddle
- rain
- Resurrection
- seeds
- spring
- sprouts
- sunshine
- tree
- umbrella



### Memorial Day Word Search

W L M P L A I R O M E M F I I E A D D Y  
 T K M A H S O F X M L S R D D G W A R R E S W Q I L P  
 M K U T V R J J E N M O Y I H C N K A R R E S F B B H  
 Z O G G I J I C K A R H C N C Z W D B K Q M M F J C  
 F A W O I I C K A R H C N C Z W D B K Q M M F J C  
 J F Z T S R M X A P F N C M U I M C H M J P T C  
 C L A I S Z R O A X C Q V N S P D M M O V Q Q  
 W V K C E Y H E D P C G V N S P D M M O V Q Q  
 G S T T E N T N O C E Z E I V N B O J Y V V P T E  
 N O H T U F H H C E I R M I U C S V W I G I J T E  
 E F E U K I P F D D E D L I O F U S B U S D X C G  
 S A L U T E R N M W L X Z I O S Z F S U I O V C  
 L O W K U Q R L X Z I O S Z F S U I O V C  
 E L L S B R L X Z I O S Z F S U I O V C  
 M N T F M Z G B T A O S U U F W A V E X M E N C  
 W E I R G G T A R O S U U F W A V E X M E N C  
 R D H F Q G R H C J T Y Q P A T U E M E N C  
 F L O V M Y J W Z Y E F S K X E A C I

- AMERICA
- CELEBRATE
- COOKOUT
- DUTY
- FLAG
- FREEDOM
- HONOR
- MEMORIAL
- MILITARY
- PATRIOTIC
- SALUTE



- APRIL
- FLOWERS
- MAY
- SHOWERS
- SPRING



A I W S I S Z  
 P F H P W H M  
 R L O R J O A  
 I O W S Z W Y  
 L W G N O E Q  
 N E T G L R A  
 M R W M J S S





Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 1:30 am Worship team
3 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	4	5 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study No Ladies Night Out No Men's Night Out	6 3:30 pm Harvester's Food Pantry 5:30 pm Baby Closet	7	8	9 1:30 pm Worship team
10 <b>Mother's Day</b> No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	11	12 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Members Mtg	13 3:30 pm Harvester's Food Pantry 5:30 pm Baby Closet	14	15	16 1:30 pm Worship team
17 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	18	19 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study	20 3:30 pm Harvester's Food Pantry 5:30 pm Baby Closet	21	22	23 1:30 pm Worship team
24 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Mission Mtg	25 <b>Memorial Day</b>	26 4:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Outreach Mtg	27 3:30 pm Harvester's Food Pantry 5:30 pm Baby Closet	28	29 4:00 pm Bethel	30 1:30 pm Worship team
31 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship						

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

www.wsbctopeka.org  
Topeka, KS 66606  
1008 SW Fourth Street  
West Side Baptist Church

**The Witness** is published monthly *free of charge* at 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka Kansas, 66606. Submission deadlines is the third Tuesday of each month to [office@wsbctopeka.org](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org). The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister. Lynda Cokeley, Secretary and Editor, reserves the right to edit submissions for content and publication spacing. Send address corrections and subscription requests to West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka, KS 66606. Phone: (785) 233-4241. Fax: (785) 233-1988 Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm , Tuesday – Friday.

**RIDE TO CHURCH** - If you or your children would like a ride to/from a worship **call Harry Carpenter, Bus Driver at (785) 608-3937 [no text messages] on Saturday.** The van leaves at 8:15 AM on Sunday mornings for Sunday School. Volunteers are needed to ride along with our driver to transport children on Sundays and Wednesdays. See Harry Carpenter for more information or to volunteer.

