

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2019 Newsletter

4900 Kinsey Drive Tyler, Texas 75703
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The North American Lutheran Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've been doing some reflecting lately on the whole topic of how we get to know God. What started me thinking was a number of people telling me that they find God in nature. They said that they see God in the beauty of a sunset or in the majesty of a forest, and it is nature that reveals God to them. And I have to say that I recognize that feeling. I too find that the beauty of nature leads me to feel closer to my Creator.

But that raises a question for me. If God is to be known through nature, what do we say when nature turns harsh? Nature is not always beautiful. It can be destructive and frightening. (We know that all too well as we watched tornadoes and thunderstorms race through Texas.) Nature can be threatening. If sunsets and woods tell us that God is good, what do hurricanes and floods and tornados tell us? It seems like nature finally doesn't give us a clear picture of God.

That in fact is the case. Nature is at best ambiguous. It shows us beauty and wonder but it also shows us destruction and need. With all the complexity and wonder in Nature, I think it suggests to us that there is a divine creator. But Nature finally doesn't tell us if God is kind or harsh, or if God is at all interested in us.

So how do know God? Scripture has the best answer; it points us clearly to the cross. The cross. We see who God is and what God is about through the cross. On the cross of Jesus, God reveals himself to us in the supreme way. God shows us that His love for us is so great, that He sends his Son to die for our sake. It is the cross that reveals to us the heart of God.

Our questions and searches for God find their answers in Jesus Christ. It is Jesus, crucified yet risen, who shows us who God is and what God is about. It is Jesus who clearly teaches us of God. Our conversations about God and our knowledge of God begin with Jesus and His cross.

Now, once we know God through Jesus Christ, we can then go back to nature. Because we know that God is a God who loves us and redeems us, we are sure that creation is ultimately a gift from God. We can appreciate and thank God for beautiful sunsets, and pray and be renewed in the beauty of the woods. In addition, because we know that God loves us, we seek God's care in times of hurricanes and floods. We know that even in harsh times and destructive times, God will be with us and care for us. In fact even more, in harsh and destructive times, we care for others with the care that God gives to us. As we know God in Jesus Christ, we then follow God into all the world.

I do love the beauty of nature. I enjoy sunsets and woods and trees. But even more, I love the wonder of the cross. For there I know the incredible love of my Creator.

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

Remodeling in the Sanctuary

Remodeling in the sanctuary has begun and will reach its target this month! At our annual meeting last winter, we discussed plans for remodeling and updating in our worship space. Plans include painting the ceiling, new carpet, a larger cross on the back wall, better lighting. The work has started and will get into full swing in June.

Please note, on Sunday, May 26, right after worship, we will remove the pews from the sanctuary. If you can please plan to stay and help. We are going to need a lot help with this!

During the month of June we will worship in the fellowship hall while the remodeling work is being done. We will probably be in the fellowship hall for 3 or 4 Sundays.

This is exciting, thank you to all who are working on this!

Day Camp – July 15-19

We are going to have Day Camp here again this summer. Day Camp is an expanded version of Vacation Bible School. We will bring in staff from Lutherhill Bible Camp to lead our Camp. The staff will be college students, with a lot of energy and excitement. They will lead activities of praise, study, worship, arts and crafts, games, and all sorts of crazy fun. It is going to be a high-energy week and a week of faith.

The dates for our Day Camp are July 15-19. The Day Camp will be for students age 3 through the 6th grade. The camp will be from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 on Monday through Thursday and 9:00 until noon on Friday. For those ages 3 & 4, their day camp will end at 12:00 each day.

Adults do sign up to help. You can help for a day, or a part of a day, or the week. The Lutherhill staff will lead and organize, we need adults to help supervise and support. And adults, we promise you a whole lot of fun!

Please be in prayer about this. Let's have an incredible week of sharing and celebrating!

Election of NALC Bishop

This summer at our national NALC convocation, our North American Lutheran Church will be electing a new bishop. Our present bishop, John Bradosky, has served for 8 years and is retiring. The NALC has started the nominating process and is asking for prayers as we share this process of seeking a new bishop.

The delegates from OSLC to the national convocation will be Ken and Cheryl Pontious and Pastor Mark

Prayer Requests

Please keep these things in your prayers:

- *The remodeling work in our worship space
- *Our week of Day Camp with Lutherhill here at Our Saviour's – July 15 - 19
- *Our congregation, that our Lord continue to lead us onward in mission and outreach
- *The National NALC Convocation in Indianapolis this August and especially the election of a new Bishop
- *Our church council

Quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Christendom adjusts itself far too easily to the worship of power. Christians should give more offense, shock the world far more than they are doing now. Christians should take a stronger stand in favor of the weak rather than considering first the possible right of the strong.”

BYOB

Just a reminder, we say that our worship services are BYOB. What we mean by that is “bring your own Bible”! We want our members faithfully using their Bibles, please bring yours to worship

with you and use it during worship. If you should forget, there are always extra Bibles available in the narthex.

Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Committee follows the mandates of scripture to serve others, especially those who are ill, hungry, troubled, suffering injustice, or lacking basic needs. Each month, we will include a brief description of the organization (s) that our donations target.

Contributions: Contribution in June was made to HiWay 80 Rescue Mission.

The committee received a gracious letter of thanks for Our Saviour's contribution to the Lutheran Family Flood Disaster Fund in Nebraska. The letter detailed the specific urgently needed materials purchased to be used in that effort.

PATH: This summer we will again help with the annual PATH Fan Drive. This project begins in June and goes through August.

Quilters: The Quilters are pleased to have quilted wall hangings. These are for sale. If you are interested in any of these, please contact Linda Tumino or Helen Siebert.

When the Quilters become aware that a member is experiencing a serious illness or recovering from a serious accident, they place a special quilt in the narthex. The congregation is invited to tie a knot and say a prayer on the person's behalf. Please participate in this expression of love and concern.

The Quilters are always looking for new members. Anyone who is interested, please join us any Tuesday morning. We meet from 9:00 to 11:30 with a coffee break at 10:00. No experience is necessary. Only a desire to learn is required.

PRIMETIMERS

We are doing something a little different than we have done for quite some time. Since the fellowship hall and perhaps several other rooms may be in a disarray due to the redecorating of the sanctuary, we are going to get together for lunch at a restaurant and just enjoy food and fellowship.

We will have lunch at Spring Creek BBQ, located at 5810 S. Broadway at 12 noon on June 13, 2019. Mary Thompson has arranged to have a room reserved for us. For those who have not been there, it is cafeteria style. You go through the line to get your food, pay for it, and then proceed to the room. Please let Mary Ferguson know by June 10, 2019 whether or not you will be attending. Mary Thompson needs to let the restaurant know the number. **Watch for further details and/or updates.**

Mark your calendars. This is an excellent time to bring friends for some fantastic Christian fellowship. There is nothing to obligate you or no one to intimidate you, just great Christian friends to welcome you. Remember we are the "most caring Primetimers in the world". You can RSVP to Mary Ferguson by phone: 903-565-6607 or email: mkvjhf@aol.com.

Thank You Sunday School Staff

We had a great year of Sunday School again this year. Thank you to all who helped and participated. Here is our Sunday School staff:

3 and 4 year olds and Kindergarten – Laura Tabler

1st and 2nd and 3rd Grade – Pastor Mark, Karen Braaten, Amber Braaten and Courtney Henriksen

4th, 5th, and 6th Grade – Michelle Hollenbeck

7th and 8th – Travis and Jana Snyder

Senior High – Donald Watson

Adult Class – Ed Lattier

Cooks – Michelle Smith and Kimberly Butler

40th Anniversary of Pastor Paul Kirchner's Ordination

Rev. Paul Kirchner was pastor here at OSLC from 1985 – 1998. This summer will mark the 40th anniversary of his ordination. He is presently serving as pastor at Martin Luther Evangelical

Lutheran Church in Victoria, Texas. The congregation is going to throw a celebration for Paul and his wife Karen on Sunday, June 30. (Please note the change in dates.) The day will include worship, a BBQ dinner, and dancing and fellowship. Members of OSLC are most invited to attend. If you would like more information, please talk with Pastor Mark. Also, if you are in contact with Pastor Paul, do not mention this! It is a secret and the good folks at Martin Luther are having a lot of fun with it!

Did you Know???

Sometimes our senior citizens need a little temporary help paying for their medications or medical devices. Did you know that Our Saviour's has a fund that is designed to aid our senior citizens in need?

Traditionally in the Lutheran Church, the congregation financially assists our members who are called to ministry and attend the Lutheran seminaries. Did you know that Our Saviour's has a special seminary fund that provides tuition and travel subsidies for our seminary students?

If you would like to contribute to these funds, please write "Seniors" or "Seminary" on your check or envelope. If you have questions on any of our special funds, please contact Pastor Mark or any church council member.

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