

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2018

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Tyler, Texas 75703

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Bringing Christ to the people...the people to Christ"



Dear Friends in Christ,

Last month for my newsletter article I shared with you the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation of that. After I shared that with you, I came across a magazine article that does a great job of explaining what the First Article (or "section") of the Apostles' Creed is about. The article is written by Dr. Jim Nestingen and was in the July/August edition of Connections magazine. Here is the First Article and what Dr. Nestingen wrote about it:

First Article of the Apostles' Creed – I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

The whole First Article of the Apostles' Creed, short enough in itself, can be summed up in two words. The two words are gift and obligation.

Often enough, the gifts of God in creation are hidden amidst all the demands and duties of family life, jobs, and the requirements of citizenship. Generally, meals don't arrive at the table already cooked. Though it can happen, children don't just jump out of bed, eager for their responsibilities. Often enough, work is just that – a seemingly unending flow of things to be done, mixed up in amalgam of boredom and friction. Public life brings with it its own set of apparently unresolvable tensions.

But every once in a while, gifts peek through in an unmistakably gracious way. Young love, an older couple holding hands, a troubled child finally smoothing things out, freshly cut grass, even the sound of a distant train whistle provide reminders that there is something bigger than ourselves at work in things. And then when a sense of giftedness takes over gifts appear everywhere, even in the mundane things that can just as well pass without comment: good coffee, a children's choir, a solitary whistler.

God the Father almighty, whom we name in confessing the Creed, is biblically the giver of every good and perfect gift. We do not use the word "Father" as an analogy in comparison with our dads. Fine as they can be, they can also be awful, leaving people haunted. We speak of God as Father because Christ Jesus taught us to use this name. It wasn't completely original with Him. He knew as well as anyone that the heavenly Father can be as difficult to deal with as any earthly papa. But Christ Jesus made explicit the grace implicit in all the gifts of life. So He said, "When you pray, pray like this, 'Our Father in heaven....'"

So we pray, among other bids, "give us this daily bread." As Martin Luther explains in his Small Catechism, when we make such a request we are not just asking for what's on the table. We are asking that God will make us sensitive to and appreciative of all the gracious gifts with which God creates and sustains daily life.

We have to pray for this confidence because the other word essential to the First Article of the Creed has a way of sounding itself so loudly and continuously that soon that is all we hear. "Get up," "make your bed," "don't forget your homework," "you have to leave early because of the traffic," "I want this done before you leave work," "we can't get this done without volunteers," obligations compound themselves until they arrive one after another, seemingly without end.

They do so because we live in a community of neighbors who depend on us just as we depend on them. In fact, without obligations the gifts don't spread. Farmers seed and harvest, milk and muck, so that the rest of us can eat. Teachers sit up in the evenings writing lesson plans and endure faculty meetings so that students learn something more than mischief. The gifts of everyday life arise out of the drudgery and delights of labor. The two go together, hand in hand.

So the first Article of the Creed leads us to the Second Article of the Creed. God the Father almighty sent His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to put the obligations in their place, to take grace out of its harnesses and let it flow freely in His promises. That's the Second Article, and we will get to that soon.

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

Sunday School Kick-Off – September 9

On Sunday, September 9 we will resume our Sunday School. We offer Sunday School for ages 3 through adults. Sunday School is from 9:00 a.m. until 9:50. Please keep this vital ministry in your prayers!

Sunday School in September

Sunday, Sept. 9 – First day of class for the fall.

*Classes begin at 9:00 a.m.

*We offer classes for age 3 through adults.

*Students, please go to the Sunday School wing and look for your classroom. There will be people in the hallway to assist you.

*Adults – you will meet again this year in the Conference Room.

Sunday, Sept. 16 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall for Sunday School youth and teachers. Come share breakfast then head for your classes afterwards.

Sunday, Sept. 30 – 4th grade students given Bibles during worship service

Adult Sunday School

We are looking forward to our adult Sunday School class again this year. We meet at 9:00, during the regular Sunday School hour. This year we begin with a DVD series entitled *History of Christianity*. It is a 6 part overview of the history of the Christian Church. We meet in the Conference Room, beginning Sept. 9. Come and join us!

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Sept. 16

We have a congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 16 at 11:15 to discuss and approve exploring a Hispanic ministry at OSLC. Please read the article about this in this newsletter!

New and Updated Church Directory

We have updated our information for the church directory. New directories are available in the church narthex. Please pick one up!

4th Grade Bibles

We will give out Bibles to our 4th grade students on Sunday, September 30 during our worship service.

Confirmation

Our first Wednesday evening confirmation meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, Sept. 12. Confirmation is for students in the 7th and 8th grades. If you have a student you would like to have in our program, please call Pastor Mark.

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.

Thank You!

Thank you to our "guys crew" who continue to work and improve our property. Thank you to all who worked on putting up the bars protecting our parking lot. They look great! And thank you all who worked to remodel the women's restroom on the Sunday School wing. The Sunday School wing is in fantastic shape! Thank you!

Primetimers

Primetimers will meet on September 13 at 12 noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Let's start the season with a large attendance. The program will be presented by Ravonne Mc Cray from Baylor Scott & White at Waco. It is entitled "The Mature Driver". This is a traffic safety educational program for the adult driver, focusing on ages 55 and older. It covers topics such as how aging can affect driving skills, traffic issues, driving behaviors of mature driver, and warning signs of an unsafe driver and how to talk with a loved one about their driving. This topic had the most interest in the survey taken last spring.

Let's have a potluck luncheon of sandwich/salad/desserts, since the weather will probably still be quite warm.

Once again, remember September 13, 2018 at 12 noon at OSLC and do plan to attend. Not only will the food be great, but the fellowship is "out of this world". Remember we are the "most caring Primetimers in the world". There is no one who will intimidate you or nothing to obligate you, just great folks to welcome you, so give us a try and **do bring friends**. We will be making plans for the next several meetings. Please RSVP to Mary Ferguson via email or 903-565-6607, so we know how many tables to prepare. Since there is no committee hosting, we will all need to help with the set-up and take-down. Please plan to come a bit early to help.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

We are starting a study of Hebrews on Thursday, September 13. We meet in the conference room at 10:00 AM. The books for this study are available in the church office. If you have any questions about our current study or future studies, please contact Chris Burris at 303-668-6643 or cburris9031@gmail.com.

OSLC Golf Scramble Set for Oct. 19th

OSLC Golfers, if you would like to participate in a scramble golf event scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on Oct. 19th at Oakhurst Golf Club with fellow OSLC congregants, please contact Bill Videtto via cell phone 903-710-2103 or by email at bjvidetto@gmail.com for more details.

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.

July Contributions: In July, we made a contribution to Church Under the Bridge.

Path: The annual Summer Fan Drive began in June and continues through August. Please help by contributing \$12 either in cash or a check made to PATH. Please give this to Jan Moch.

Shoe Box Drive: In August and September, Social Ministry will be hosting Pack A Shoe Box Drive. Social Ministry will furnish the shoe boxes as well as pay the cost of shipping them. The Shoe Boxes are located on a table located in the Narthex. All packed shoe boxes must be back at the church **by September 30th**.

Suggested Items: Doll, Stuffed Animal, Small Musical Instrument, Comb, Hair Brush, Sun Glasses, School Supplies, Jump Rope, Stickers, Foam Balls, Finger Puppets, Slinky, Marbles, Plastic Dinosaurs, Solar Powered Calculator, Tennis Ball, YoYo, Playing Cards and Cars. (Social Ministry report continued on next page.)

Items that Cannot Be Packed and Sent: Candy, Toothpaste, Gum, Used or Damaged Items, War Related Items, Chocolate, Food or Liquids.

Operation Christmas Child (Pack A Shoe Box) is a project of Samaritans Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoe boxes filled with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies. This is a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The shoe boxes are shipped to children in over 100 Countries.

Quilters: The Quilters are excited that they will soon have quilted wall hangings around the building. These will be for sale. If you are interested in any of these, please contact Linda Tumino or Helen Siebert.

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.

Oktoberfest 2018: October 13 from 3:00—8:00

Oktoberfest is just around the corner. We hope you plan to attend and that you are letting others know about the event! Let your friends, neighbors, and others know what a fund event this will be! We are having a German costume contest, face painting, bounce houses and other fun activities for the kids and those adults who are still kids at heart! We will have weiner dog races, a cake walk, a DJ with music and polka dancing. This is a family event that is fun for all ages!

What we need from you: We still need **drink donations:** coke, diet coke, 7up, Dr. Pepper and water. All donated drinks can be dropped off on the table by the kitchen. We are looking for **volunteers to help with the event:** bounce houses, face painting, cake walk and weiner dog races. You will not have to work the whole night just a couple of hours. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. We are also looking for **people to bake cakes** for the cake walk. We are going to have some polka dancing lessons too prior to the event. If you are interested please sign up. T-shirts will be ready at the end of the month! This is a great opportunity to reach out to the community and a great time of fellowship. Make your calendar for October 13, 2018 3-8 pm.



Proposal for Exploring Hispanic Ministry

OSLC is exploring the possibility of developing a Hispanic ministry. Pastor Mark and the church council are talking about this. There is a need for this sort of ministry in Tyler, and OSLC is in a unique position to explore this. There certainly is a need. The Hispanic population is the fastest growing population group in Tyler. And yet there are few good ministries for this population. OSLC is in a unique position to address this. With

our Lutheran tradition, theology, and liturgy, we can meet the expectations of traditional Hispanic people. We have the facilities. One of our challenges as a congregation is to get more children into our Sunday School and this could actually help us with this. And we have Hispanic pastors in the NALC who can assist us with this.

OSLC tried a Hispanic ministry a number of years ago and it did not go well. We spent lots of money and never had a growing congregation. There were numerous strategic mistakes made (and not all by us!) We can learn from the past mistakes and use a better approach this time.

Here is the new possibility. Pastor Pedro Portillo can come to Tyler once or twice a month to work with us. Pastor Portillo serves Transfiguration Lutheran in Irving. He would come to Tyler once or twice a month, most likely for a Friday/Saturday. While in Tyler he would offer quinceaneras, weddings, and baptisms.

Pastor Portillo and Pastor Mark would begin advertising that OSLC is available for the above mentioned events. The advertising would be signs and notices at strategic places in Tyler. (There won't be a charge for advertising.) We will ask for people to call Pastor Portillo to schedule the events. The events will be held at OSLC on Friday evenings or on Saturdays. (Pastor Portillo will have to return to Irving on Saturday evening for his services at Transfiguration on Sunday.) Also an important part of this – we will offer the worship services but not do receptions at OSLC. (To offer receptions would involve numerous complications that we don't think are helpful.)

Pastor Portillo will work with the people to prepare them for the various events. Please note – all these events are worship services. Pastor Portillo will officiate; Pastor Mark will join him for the services and participate as much as he can with his limited Spanish.

We will charge people for these events. We are presently examining what normal charges are in both Dallas and Tyler. All expenses for this ministry will be covered by these charges. Pastor Portillo's mileage and costs will be covered by the charges. In addition, we will include a charge for building use to cover wear and tear on the building.

Pastor Portillo and Pastor Mark will keep track of the people they serve and see if we can build up enough of a group to begin a formal ministry. As the group grows we can look at offering bible studies and occasional worship events. Beginning a regular Sunday service will be something to explore when and if the group is large enough to sustain and financially support a worship service.

One of the big advantages of this proposal is that there is no financial risk to OSLC. If this proposal doesn't work, OSLC hasn't lost anything. This has been a most important point in our considerations. In OSLC's previous effort in Hispanic ministry, we invested a lot of money with limited results. In this proposal the outreach is self-financing.

Another need that will most likely develop will be the need for First Communion classes for children. We can certainly offer those classes; in fact we can work them into our present Sunday School and confirmation programs. One of our needs as a congregation is to grow our Sunday School, that will make it a more inviting and attractive ministry for all. This should help with our congregation's need.

We have a wonderful opportunity for ministry here, and a low risk means of exploring it. Pastor Mark and the church council would like to try it for a year or two. If it doesn't work we have lost nothing. If it works we could be into some exciting new ministries!

With that said, the church council wants to be careful to get congregational input, insight, and approval on this. We are sharing this information now so that you can reflect on it and pray about it. Also, the council is calling a congregational meeting on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 11:15 (right after worship) for the purpose of discussing this. The meeting will be an opportunity for all to share, and for the congregation to give its approval. And in the meanwhile, please do share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas with Pastor Mark and the council!

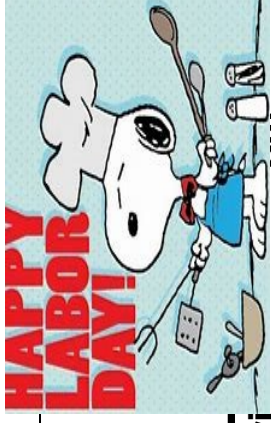
Please pray about this. This could be an exciting avenue of ministry for us to share.

September 2018 Worship Servers

	Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost 1st Sunday September 2	Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost 2nd Sunday September 9	Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost 3rd Sunday September 16	Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost 4th Sunday September 23	Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost 5th Sunday September 30	Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost 1st Sunday October 7
Altar Guild	Jan Moch Susan Buntz Audrey Cameron	Carol Lattier Sherry Towns Connie Lucas Ed Lucas	Joni LeBlanc Sandra Hawthorne Randy Hendrickson Jennifer Videtto	Carol Lattier Virginia Coker Kimberly Butler Michelle Smith	Jan Moch Susan Buntz Audrey Cameron	Jan Moch Susan Buntz Audrey Cameron
	10:00 Combined Service					
LMC & Usher	Ryan Gibbs	Sally Dengerud	Erin Henriksen	Connie Gibbs	Ed Lattier	Ryan Gibbs
Usher	Milo Miles	Cliff Dengerud	Launa Tardiff	Nicholas Henriksen	Bob Tardiff	Milo Miles
Acolyte	Ezrah Johnson	Rachel Gibbs	Abby Gibbs	Mackenzie Davis	Grayson Sartor	Addie Sartor
Reader	Donna Bowers	Mary Ferguson	Travis Snyder	Carmen Nazario	Joan Fleck	Makenzie LeRoy Donna Bowers
Communion	Audrey Cameron Dee Miles	Jana Snyder Amy Norris	Jana Coke Ed Lattier	Audrey Cameron Dee Miles	Jan Moch Jana Coke	Susan Buntz Dee Miles
Projectionist	Susan Buntz Toby Fite	Blaine Davis Toby Fite	Jan Moch Toby Fite	Amy Norris Toby Fite	Blaine Davis Toby Fite	Audrey Cameron Toby Fite

PLEASE NOTE: If you cannot serve in your scheduled worship service position, **please find a substitute so that the position is filled.**
 Then call the office at (903-561-1865) so that the right server can be shown in that week's bulletin.

SEPTEMBER 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship	3 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship	4 9:00 Quilters 12:00 AA Meeting 6:00 Oktoberfest Planning Meeting	5 9:00 Quilters 12:00 AA Meeting	6 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA Meeting 6:00 CODA	7 6:00 ACA Meeting
9 RALLY SUNDAY!! 9:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship	10 6:30 Council	11 9:00 Quilters 12:00 AA Meeting	12 9:00 Embroiderer's Guild 7:00 Confirmation	13 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Primetimers 12:00 AA Meeting 6:00 CODA	14 6:00 ACA Meeting
16 9:00 Breakfast for SS Youth & Teachers 9:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Congregational Meeting	17	18 9:00 Quilters 12:00 AA Meeting	19 12:00 noon DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES 7:00 Confirmation	20 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA Meeting 1:00 Darning Ladies 6:00 CODA	21 6:00 ACA Meeting
23 9:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship	24	25 9:00 Quilters 11:30 Social Ministry 12:00 AA Meeting	26 7:00 Confirmation	27 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 AA Meeting 1:00 Darning Ladies 6:00 CODA	28 6:00 ACA Meeting
30 9:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship 4th Grade Bibles To Be Given Out	31	32	33	34	35





NALC
North American Lutheran Church



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Staff:

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Mark Braaten
Parish Administrator.....Debbie Miller
Financial Administrator.....Carol Lattier
Organist/Keyboardist.....Dr. Jaeyong Lee

Mission Statement

*“ Bringing Christ
To the people,
And the people
To Christ. ”*

Sunday Schedule – Beginning Sept. 9

**9:00 Children’s Sunday School
& Adult Bible Study**
10:00 Worship Service

Address Service Requested

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4900 Kinsey Drive
Tyler, TX 75703

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