

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2019 Newsletter

4900 Kinsey Drive Tyler, Texas 75703
903-561-1865 www.oslctyler.org
The North American Lutheran Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have a couple of things to share with you this month. First, however you are reading this newsletter, I know that it looks different to you. For many years our monthly newsletter was published to look like a newspaper. That was the standard communication means of most congregations, we have done that for years. Now we are changing that. Some of you are reading this electronically, and of course that is a new format for us. Some of you are reading this on paper, but we have changed and simplified the format. We've gone to a simpler layout that will be quicker and more efficient for the office to produce. In whatever format you are reading this, it looks different!

Let me assure you that the content is the same. We are still sharing the information that the members of our congregation need each month. Everything you are used to will be included. But I'm excited to try these new formats. We think we can both expand and simplify our communication with the congregation by using these new formats. So we are giving it a try. Please, in these next few months, let us know what you think about all of this. Please share your feedback with me and the church office. I'm sure we are going to have some kinks to work out and I'm sure we are going to be adapting what we are doing. Please share with us your ideas and observations.

Also, please let the church office know how you would like to receive this newsletter. We can easily send you either an electronic or a paper copy. (In fact if you would like both just let us know!) We want to be sure people are getting this information in the way that is most helpful for them. And our newsletter can also always be found on our church website. If you should happen to lose your paper copy (as I had a habit of doing and then I'd wonder how to find out certain dates!), you can always find the information on our church website.

I'm excited by all the new communication we are doing. We have an electronic newsletter, we have updated our weekly email epistle, we have a new website. We are expanding, simplifying, working to better communicate. We have made incredible progress. Please share with us your ideas and suggestions so that we can do an even better job.

And then my second thing to share with you, a most important reminder. Let's continue with our focus on prayer and make 2019 a year of prayer. One of our congregational emphases these past few years has been on prayer. We've emphasized praying individually and together, we've worked to ground all of our groups and all of our activities in prayer. That has been incredibly important in deepening and growing our congregation. Let's continue with that in 2019. Let's continue to be and to grow as a people of prayer.

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

Church Council Retreat

Our newly elected church council will have its annual retreat on Saturday, Feb. 2 from 9:00 until 3:00 at the church.

Garage Sale at OSLC – March 2

Donations Wanted

There will be a garage sale at the church on Saturday, March 2. The proceeds from the sale will be split between the confirmation students for their trip to Galveston this spring and a yet to be determined need in the church for our social ministry program.

Please bring items that you would like to donate to the church. Let us know of items of higher value and we will put them in a secure spot and list them separately for the sale or online.

You can use this as an opportunity to start your spring cleaning early! Thank you for your support and help.

If you have any questions please call Karen Braaten at 903-316-1592 or the church office.

Thank You!

Bill Videtto and Richard Eck want to thank those involved in the presentation of the plaques in recognition of our efforts to improve the facility. We also want you to know there are many unsung heroes who have contributed and who continue to contribute their time and talents to the many different projects; finished and ongoing. There are several of our church brothers and sisters that worked on the: backyard, floors, bathrooms, entrance clearance gates, fencing, painting, ceiling, etc., that form our team. The fellowship shared though working with others to improve our Lord's house of worship is, as they say, "priceless".

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: Contributions for February are to Salvation Army and East Texas Food Bank.

PATH Canned Soup Drive: Also in February, we will again support the PATH Soup and Canned Food Drive. Please help by bringing soup and canned food to church this month. Contributions may be placed on the designated table in the Narthex.

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.

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

Happy Valentines Day Primetimers. Yes, our next get-together is February 14, 2019 on Valentines Day at 12 noon at OSLC. Sally & Clifford Dengerud are hosts. At this point in time, plans are that the sandwich luncheon will be provided. Pat and Larry Holm have volunteered to bring iced tea. **Please watch for changes, and/or updates to these plans.**

The program will be our very own Glory Gorinath who will have just returned from a month long trip to her native India. She will be telling about her trip.

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”.

Please RSVP to Mary Ferguson by February 11, 2019 as to whether or not you will be able to attend. The hosts need to know to make sure there is adequate seating and food.

FYI – Lent Begins on March 6

Just a note for prior planning - Lent begins this year on March 6 with Ash Wednesday. We will begin all of our mid-week Lenten activities on that date.

Summer Camp at Lutherhill

Students in grades 4 through 8, we are going to Lutherhill again this summer. Our week of camp is going to be July 21-26. For more information call Pastor Mark.

Bible Camp Scholarship Fund

One of our best youth ministries is sending youth to Bible Camp. It is an incredible and faith-growing experience. We have a scholarship fund to help youth who can't afford to attend camp. We don't want anyone to miss camp because of finances. If you would like to donate to this fund and help some youth attend camp, please write a check to the church and mark it for the “Bible Camp Scholarship Fund”. The cost for one camper to attend a week of camp is \$375. Thank you.

Can You Keep a Secret?

Rev. Paul Kirchner was pastor at OSLC from 1985 – 1998. He is now serving at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church in Victoria, Texas. This summer is the 40th anniversary of his ordination. The congregation in Victoria is going to have a celebration of Pastor Paul's years of ministry on Sunday, June 16 at their congregation. They are inviting members of OSLC to join the celebration. Please feel most invited to attend. This is all a secret from Pastor Paul so if you have contact with him, please don't mention this. If you would like more details about this, please talk with Pastor Mark.

Prayer Chain

We have an email prayer chain that works wonderfully. Thank you to all who share in this special ministry. If you are not presently on the prayer chain and would like to be, please call or email the church office and we will be sure you are added.

Direct Deposit

Did you know that you can do your offerings by direct deposit? We have been set up with Vanco Corporation through Thrivent Insurance for a number of years. We have a good number of people who are using this. If you would like to explore this possibility, please call the church office or pick up the information papers in the narthex.

