

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2019 Newsletter

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have two things I'd like to share for this July newsletter. The first is a reminder for our upcoming week of Day Camp/VBS. The second is to point you to a fascinating article at the end of this newsletter, written by one of our members, Glory Gopinath.

First the reminder – our week of Day Camp/VBS is coming this month. It will be July 15-19. We as a congregation have intentionally said that our vision for this is that every child possible be invited to attend. We have a wonderful Day Camp/VBS (I'm biased but I think it is the best in Tyler!). And we want every child possible to come here to learn about Jesus. And so we invite everyone we possibly can. I know that sometimes saying that makes people a bit nervous. But that is exactly the ministry that Jesus calls us too. We are blessed with plenty of space, a great staff coming from Lutherhill, great people in our congregation organizing and setting up already. Our goal is for more and more young people to come and experience the grace of Christ at our Day Camp. So, please be inviting – children, grandchildren, neighborhood children. The more the merrier!

Second, the article by Glory. Glory Gopinath, one of our newer members, shared a fascinating talk with our Primetimers a few months ago. We thought it was so good that we want to share it with the whole congregation. The article is at the conclusion of this newsletter. Please be sure to read it and talk with Glory about it.

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

Remodeling in the Sanctuary – Thank you

By the time you read this, we are assuming the remodeling in the sanctuary has been completed. Thank you to everyone who has and is working on this! It looks incredible! What a marvelous update for our worship area!

Day Camp – July 15-19

Our week of Day Camp is coming soon! 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!

Parents and students, please try to register ahead of time. (It helps us tremendously with the planning!) You can register on -line on the OSLC website. Or there are paper registration forms in the church entryway.

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 convocation will be August 7-9 in Indianapolis. The representatives from OSLC will be Ken and Cheryl Pontious, Carol Lattier, and Pastor Mark.

“Welcome to Our Saviour’s” Session

We are going to have a “Welcome to OSLC” session on Sunday, July 28 at 11:15, right after worship. We will meet for lunch, a time to get acquainted, and an introduction to Lutheranism and to OSLC. This session is for people who are new to the congregation and who would like to learn more, and for long time members who would like a refresher!

Egyptian Coptic Worship

The Egyptian Coptic congregation that uses our worship space will worship here on Saturday, July 6 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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 in June were made to Church Under A Bridge and Hospice of East Texas.

PATH: This summer we will again help with the annual PATH Fan Drive. Please help by giving a check made to PATH or \$12 cash to Jan Moch. This project began 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

This has been a marvelous year for the Primetimers with record numbers in attendance. **Thanks to you all.**

There are a number of variables/possible obstacles facing us for a July meeting. After emailing Primetimers for whom I have addresses for input, at this point in time the thoughts are to take both July and August off and start anew in September.

Do watch for changes, however; in case of a fantastic idea and a change of heart. We can be flexible and remember we are “the most caring Primetimers in the world”.

New Picture Directory at OSLC

Jennifer Videtto has volunteered to put a new picture directory together. For those members who are happy with the picture in the current directory, let her know and that picture will be used. For members who do not have a picture in the directory or those who would like an updated picture, please send a digital picture to Jennifer by July 4 at jen.videtto@gmail.com.

If you have questions, please call the church office.

MY CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

by Glory C. Gopinath

Dear Friends, I would like to start by introducing myself to those of you that don't know me. My name is Glory Gopinath. I was born and raised in South India. My family immigrated here in 1975, sponsored by my older sister who was working as a nurse here in the United States. I worked as a lab technician at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas for 41 years. I retired last year and decided to move to Tyler to be close to my daughter and her family. I was a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Garland since 1980. And recently transferred my membership to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak with you today about my Christian journey. Please fasten your seatbelts because we are about to take off!

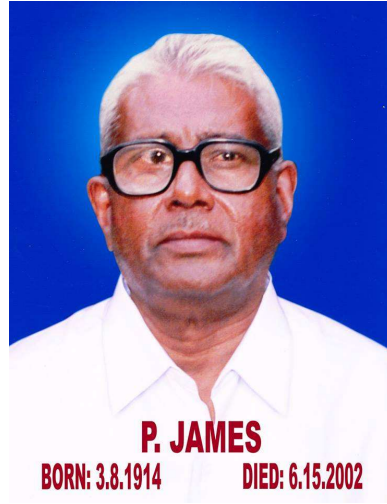
First and foremost, I wanted to briefly talk about the history of Christianity in India. Even though, Christians are a minority, it's slowly growing and becoming a more prominent religion. On July 9th, 1706, after having been ordained in Denmark, two missionaries took sail and landed on a small town on the coast of South India. This became the birth of protestant missions in India. Yes, it is because of missionaries, that I am standing here today as a Christian!!



my Confirmation

They are true disciples. Like Jesus said, "Leave everything and follow me." And they did just this. They left their homes, their families, their country, their comforts to spread the Gospel to people who have never heard the name, Jesus Christ. They did not approach these people living in poverty by beating their Bibles. They first attended to the poor, sick, and hungry...they began by clothing them, providing medicines, and giving them food, such as milk powder, beans, and rice. It all worked out very well, because now they had willing listeners who trusted them.

At one time, my parents came from a long history of Hindus. My mother's parents were the first Christians in their small village, again because of missionaries. My father's father is different story. He was a very stubborn man who refused to convert to Christianity, which meant no one in his family was allowed to convert either. After he passed, my father suffered from night blindness. Someone in the neighborhood told him to go see the local missionary, who many believed were doctors, too. After his visit, they provided him with a bottle of Vitamin A. After taking the vitamins, his vision improved. It was a simple fix to cure his vitamin Deficiency, but to my father, this was a miracle!



This changed his life and this is when he and his family began to believe in Jesus Christ. He became a very active participant in his church and proudly spread his love for Jesus Christ. As a lay person he wrote a book called, "THE FRUIT OF TREASURE FROM THE HOLY BIBLE" in Tamil. He even legally changed his very traditional Hindu name of Parasuraman to James. After my parents married, they decided to raise their 6 children as Christians as well. They would be so proud to know that 12 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren later, our family continues to be devout Christians. We even have 3 ordained Lutheran pastors!!!



Of course, not all of us are called to live as missionaries. However, there are many other ways to spread God's Word. I decided to find my own missions to share the love of our blessed Father. In 2013, on my annual visit to India, I was invited to visit many small towns and villages. One particular town of about 30-35 people really touched me. They were all Christians but did not have a church to worship.

They placed one bench to act as an altar in an open lot and worshipped on the street.



They owned the land but they had no funds to build a structure. I prayed with them that day and asked the Lord to intervene and find a way for this poor people. When I returned to the US, that small village weighed heavy on my heart. I decided to invite my close family and friends to my house for a prayer meeting. At the end of the meeting, I shared the story of the village and one of my friends immediately wrote me a \$100 check. This was only the beginning. I was able to collect about \$2000 total. I asked my sister who still lived in India, how much was needed to construct a small church. She said about \$5-6 thousand. I sent her the money I had collected and they began construction of the foundation. By the time, I returned to India, I was somehow able to provide the remaining amount, a lot from my own savings, and the church was built. And in honor of my vitamin deficient father, the church was named James Lutheran Church. This was my personal mission.





From then on, every year, I choose a different mission, no matter how small, to share my blessings with others. It is just another way to show the unfortunate that God loves them. One year, I sponsored one month's supply of food for two separate orphanages. Remember the dollar value is great in India. Another time, I purchased new uniforms for students in a very poor village. I've sponsored bibles and hymnals for small churches. This year, I purchased backpacks and school supplies for another school and I also purchased new saris and provided a meal to poor AIDS victims.





I am not a millionaire by any means but somehow the Lord provides. A little bit always seems to go so far with prayer and faith. I feel so blessed to be able to share my story with you today. I may not be traveling the world or living in a mansion in the primetime of my life but I feel so rich in my heart. It's just the small things in life, the small deeds, the tiniest actions...but if it is done in the name of our Father, it can move mountains!!!



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