

# OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## August 2019 Newsletter

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have been reading in the Old Testament books of Psalms and Job. I am amazed by the many laments and cries of pain in those books. I would estimate that at least half of the Psalms are lament Psalms, Psalms in which the writer cries out to God because of the trouble in his life. Often the Psalmist is angry at God, or hurting, or bewildered by life, and he expresses all that as he writes.

And then there is the book of Job! People say that a patient person has “the patience of Job”. The fact is, Job is not at all patient. In a book of 42 chapters, Job is patient for the first two chapters. Then for most of the rest of the book he cries out in some of the deepest and most agonizing sorrow in human literature. He often cries out against God, his pain is so deep.

The Old Testament people knew who to talk about their hurts. They realized the agonies that occur in life, and they expressed that forcefully.

I fear that we have lost much of that in our faith today. There is a popular idea that to be Christian is to be always happy. Following God is seen as an escape from the turmoil in life. But such an idea just is not Biblical. In the Bible, faith is not an escape from the pains of life. In fact it is often the God-fearing people in Scripture who suffer. The difference for the Biblical writers is not that those who know God avoid all trouble. It is rather that even in the midst of trouble, those who know God are held by the hands of a loving Savior.

As Christians we do not avoid the pains of life. Like Job and the Psalmist there will be times when we want to cry out. (And following Job and the Psalmist's example, usually the best thing we can do is to cry out to God.) There is hurt in human life. But the promise of the Bible is that even in the hurt God will care for us. Our Lord will sustain us, even in the most trying times that life can be.

One of my favorite passages of Scripture expresses this conviction. It is found deep in the Old Testament, Second Chronicles 20:12. The people of Israel are about to be attacked by a massive army. Things are at their worst. The king of Israel prays to God. He prays, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”

There will be times in our lives when we will not know what to do. But let us keep our eyes on God. The remarkable promise of the Bible is that He will sustain us. We can trust in Him.

God Bless,  
Pastor Mark

### **Rally Sunday**

Our Rally Sunday, the day when we kick off all of our fall activities, will be Sept. 8. On that day we will move to our fall schedule of Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and worship at 10:00.

### **Starting to Plan for Sunday School**

We are beginning to plan for our Sunday School this fall. If you would like to help with Sunday School, either as a teacher or in some other role, please contact Kristin Blaise or Amber Jackson. We offer Sunday School classes for ages 3 through adult, we are looking forward to resuming this special ministry!

### **Prayer Time**

On Sunday, September 1 at 9:30 we will have a time for congregational prayer in the conference room. We are looking forward to a busy and special fall; we need to take time together for prayer to support all of this. Please come as we undergird our ministries with prayer!

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to all who helped and supported our Day Camp/VBS last month. We had an incredible week again this year. What a marvelous time of ministry, learning, celebration, singing, playing, and fun! Thank you to all who helped!

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Egyptian Coptic Worship**

The Egyptian Coptic congregation that uses our worship space will worship here on Saturday, August 17 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

### **City Fest – October 5 and 6**

On October 5 and 6, many of the churches in Tyler are joining together to support City Fest – a time of worship, outreach, celebration, music, prayer and fun for the whole Tyler community. It will be held in downtown Tyler in the Square. More information will be coming as the event gets closer, plan to attend!

### **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.

### **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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