

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2020 Newsletter

4900 Kinsey Drive Tyler, Texas 75703

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The North American Lutheran Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we move into February we are continuing with our stewardship emphasis for this winter. As you know, we are focusing on the parable that Jesus tells in Matthew 25 about a master entrusting servants with various amounts of money. The master “gives out” money and sees what the servants do with it. We are living out that parable. In January we gave out various amounts of money to the members of our congregation and now we are asking you to be creative with it. Toward the end of February we will ask people to return their profits and tell us what they did.

I’m hoping that you are having some fun with this. I’m seeing and hearing some creative ideas. It is great to see all the activity. I’m excited to be doing this, and personally I’m putting in place some things with the money I received. I think I’m going to do well!

In addition to living out this parable, we are also using these winter months to talk about other aspects of stewardship. There is one concept that I’d like to share with you. That is the concept of growth giving. The Bible calls for us to give of our finances for the work of the Kingdom. Scripture often talks about giving a tithe, giving 10%. That presents a challenge for many of us. Lutherans tend to give at a lower percentage than that, and moving up to 10% seems like a huge and impossible step.

This is where growth giving come in. A helpful approach is to figure out what percentage of your income you presently give. For example, if your income is \$1000 a week and you give \$10, you are giving 1%. Figure out your present giving, and then raise that one percent. That is a doable number. If you are giving 1%, raise that to 2%. If you are giving 3%, try raising that to 4%. You increase your giving in doable increments. It is a nice way to grow in our stewardship.

By the way, our congregation is doing this. We realized a few years ago that our giving to benevolence in our budget was 6%. After talking and praying about that we decided that was too low and we wanted to rise it to 10%. So each year we are raising our giving to benevolence by 1%. We have been faithfully doing this for a number of years; this year we are up to 9%. Next year we will be at 10%. We have done very well with this and we’ve done a great job of increasing our benevolence. It has worked out very well. And by the way, thank you congregation for your faithful giving that is making this possible!

Growth giving – it is a great idea. Do give it a try. And please continue to have fun with this winter’s focus on stewardship.

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

High School Retreat at Lutherhill

High School youth, we are going to Lutherhill for a retreat. The annual High School retreat will be Feb. 7 - 9. We will leave Friday evening and return late Sunday afternoon. This is a great time of worship, small groups, ultimate frisbee, and all sorts of fun. The cost for the gathering is going to be \$80. Please register with Courtney if you plan to attend.

Congregation-Wide Garage Sale – March 7

We have set the date for our congregational garage sale, and it will be Saturday, March 7. We are sharing this news with you early so you can start setting aside items to donate for the sale. We have already started to receive items. Items for donation can be dropped off at the church and stored in the old music room on the Sunday School wing.

All proceeds from the sale will be used for our fund which provides financial support for our senior members and other members in need. Come share in the garage sale and also help to minister to our members!

Church Council Retreat

Our newly elected church council will have its annual retreat on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9:00 until 3:00 at the church.

Lent Begins on February 26

Lent begins on February 26, which is Ash Wednesday. We will again offer mid-week worship services on the Wednesday nights of Lent.

Midweek Lenten Activities

We offer special Wednesday evening activities during the Lenten season. We will begin on Wednesday, February 26. Here is our Wednesday schedule:

6:00 p.m. – Soup Supper – We share a simple meal of soup and salad. Please come for a time of fellowship and food. Also, please sign up to help with a supper!

6:30 p.m.—Congregational Prayer Time - Please mark this Lenten season by joining with others in prayer for our congregation.

7:00 p.m. — Lenten Worship - We will begin on Ash Wednesday with a traditional Ash Wednesday service, including the imposition of ashes, confession of sin, and communion. On the following weeks we will begin with a study of the Small Catechism, then conclude with a simple Lenten service of confession of sin, prayers, and liturgy.

New Folks Luncheon – Sunday, Feb. 16

We would like to have a luncheon for people who are new to our congregation on Sunday, Feb. 16, immediately after worship. We will get acquainted and introduce you to OSLC. If you are new to OSLC, please plan to attend!

Egyptian Coptic Worship – Saturday, Feb. 15

The Egyptian Coptic congregation will worship here on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 8:30 until about 2:00.

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: This month we contribute to East Texas Food Bank and Salvation Army.

PATH: In February, we will participate in a Canned Soup Drive for PATH. Please help by bringing canned soup this month. Your donations may be placed on the designated table in the narthex.

Quilters: The Quilters have a variety of quilted wall hangings for sale. Watch for them in the next few weeks.

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

The February meeting will be February 13th, 2020 at 12 noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. After getting our fill of delicious chili in January, the menu will be built around chicken. The chicken will be provided and attendees will bring the side dishes, like veggies, salads, and desserts.

Since it is so close to Valentine's Day, bring one valentine card. Sign your name but don't address it to anyone.

The speaker for February's meeting will be Mr. Tom Mullins who is President/CEO of both the Tyler Economic Development Council and the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce. He has over 30 years of experience in regional and community economic development. In 2002, he was appointed to Governor Perry's Council on Science and Biotechnology Development. He has been a Certified Economic Developer since 1986 and holds a master's degree from the University of Minnesota in regional and community development.

Please RSVP to Mary Ferguson at mkyjhf@aol.com or 903-565-6607 by February 10th to let her know if you are planning to attend. This is important so that an adequate amount of chicken is ordered.

Mark your calendars and do bring friends for some fantastic Christian fellowship. Hosts to help set up for the meeting are Glory Gopinath, Larry & Pat Holm, Joseph Byers, and Jenny Videlto. 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".

Reminder – Cleaning Up

Just a reminder to all of our groups – when you have an activity that uses the church kitchen, please bring out the garbage to the dumpster as you clean up. We depend on our members and groups to do this as we keep our kitchen clean. Thank you! Also, if your group is the last group in the building, please be sure you turn off the coffee pots and lock the doors as you leave. We have had number of groups forget that lately.

Did You Know...?

Just a few things that some of our members aren't aware of:

*We have hearing aids in the sanctuary for worship. They are stored in the sound booth. Just ask an usher for assistance.

*Council minutes are posted each month on the bulletin board going into the fellowship hall.

*The daily devotional "Christ in our Homes" is available in the church entry area.

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