

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2020 Newsletter

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Lent is here again. Lent began on Feb. 26 with Ash Wednesday, we are now in our Lenten journey. Lent is a special and deep time of the church year. It is a time to acknowledge our sin and our need. It is a time to face our brokenness. Most of all it is a time to focus on all that Jesus has done to redeem us from our sin and brokenness. It is a time to look to the cross, as there God works new life for us.

During Lent we add special Wednesday evening activities. That is a long tradition in the Lutheran Church; the intent is that Lent be a time of renewal in faith. I enjoy our Wednesday evening activities. I've always found these to be special, fulfilling, and meaningful. It helps me on my Lenten journey. On the Wednesday evenings of Lent we will have a soup supper at 6:00, a time for congregational prayer at 6:30, and Bible Study/worship at 7:00.

We begin our Wednesday evenings with a soup supper. The idea is for you to be able to come right after work and have a simple meal at the church. There is no cost, these are always times of great food and fellowship.

At 6:30 we will again invite those interested to come into the worship space for a time of prayer. One of our growing edges as a congregation is to get more and more people involved in praying together for our congregation and for a variety of needs. This 6:30 time is a great time for this. The gatherings are simple, no experience necessary. Please try this out. My hope for Our Saviour's is that we grow into more and more of a people of prayer!

We finish the Wednesday evenings with worship. We have some special services planned. I will begin each evening by leading a study on Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The Small Catechism is one of the great resources we have as Lutherans; it is an incredible teaching tool. We will work our way through the various sections of the booklet. After the study we will have a worship time of confession, reflection, and refocus. The format for all of this will be similar to what we did on the Wednesday evening services during Advent. That worked out very well, we plan to continue with that for Lent.

So, Lent is here. Please plan to join us for our mid-week Lenten activities.

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

Garage Sale – March 7

Remember the Garage Sale here at the church on Saturday, March 7 from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm. Thank you to all who have donated! 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.

Sunday School Spring Break – Sunday March 8

Sunday, March 8 will be our spring break in Sunday School. Classes will not meet on that day but will resume on Sunday, March 15.

Midweek Lenten Activities

We offer special Wednesday evening activities during the Lenten season. We will begin on Wednesday, March 6. 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 - Our worship this year will be a bit different. We will begin with a study of Luther's Small Catechism lead by Pastor Mark, and then conclude with a time of Lenten worship.

Service of Renewal of Baptism

On Sunday morning, March 1, we have a special service planned. The worship service will focus around a Renewal of Baptism. This is a most appropriate service for the Lenten Season, and a very special time of worship!

Debbie's Hours in Office

Here are hours for Debbie Miller in our church office:

Tuesdays - 10:00 to 2:00

Wednesdays - 10:00 to 2:00

If you would like to catch Debbie at another time, please call her and she will set up a time with you.

Planning Ahead for Summer

We know this is early, but here are some dates for your summer planning:

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 19-24. For more information call Pastor Mark.

High School Students who want to be in the LYLE program, we are looking at the session for July 19-31.

Dates for Day Camp

Our annual day camp with Lutherhill will be June 22-26. Our Day Camp is for children age 3 through the 6th grade.

Discounted Registration for Lutherhill ends March 5

There is a discounted registration fee for campers at Lutherhill that ends on March 5. You can register your children after that, but the cost goes up \$40. We try to register our students before the deadline to save money.

If you know your child is going to camp, please let Pastor Mark know by March 3 so that he can get them registered under the discounted rate! Thank you!

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 \$475. Thank you.

Church Council for 2020

Here is our Church Council for 2020. Please keep them in your prayers as they work for this congregation.

Bill Videtto	Becky Chambers	Amber Jackson
Chris Burris	Kristen Blaise	Amy Norris
Erin Henriksen	Bob Tardiff	Carmen Nazario
Helen Siebert	Ken Pontious	

Collecting Clothing for India

Glory Gopinath is one of our members. She is originally from India. Her home area has a great deal of poverty. Glory is starting a project to send clothing to her home area. She will be leading a collection here at OSLC. We will collect gently used men's and children's clothing and then ship them to India. Please bring your donation to the church.

VANCO – Automated Giving

We offer a service for automated giving here at Our Saviour's. We work with a company called VANCO that makes this possible. We intentionally want to give our members a number of options for their financial giving. Of course we will pass the offering plates every Sunday! (That is a long and time-honored tradition in the church!) But some of our members have asked for automated giving. We provide that for those who find that more convenient. Right now, you can sign up for weekly withdrawals from your checking account or credit card. Just talk to Carol or Debbie in the office about this.

We have also just set up on our church website a path for signing up with VANCO. Please check this out. We are also looking at an option of using a mobile app. We have some great possibilities we are just starting to work on and we will be sharing more about this in the next few weeks.

Thank you for your giving! However you choose to give, we appreciate your faithfulness and support!

Egyptian Coptic Worship – Saturday, Feb. 15

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

PRIMETIMERS

What a great February meeting we had with record attendance of 40+ and a fantastic speaker. This will be a hard act to follow, but here are the plans for March.

The March meeting will be March 12th, 2020 at 12 noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. The luncheon menu will be pizza, salad, and dessert. The pizza will be provided. Attendees are to bring salad or dessert.

Instead of a speaker this month, we will have an activity entitled "Who's Who". Each attendee is to provide a picture or copy of a picture of him/herself that does not look like him/her

now. It could be a baby picture, a school picture, a snap shot; just as long as it doesn't look like him/her now. Please get the picture to Mary Ferguson before March 9th so that the pictures can be displayed on a board. You may email, snail mail, or give the picture to her in person. Do not put your name on the picture because the activity will be for each person to identify "Who's Who". This will be a contest with a prize for the person identifying the most pictures correctly.

Hostesses for the meeting are Theresa Ford, Mary Thompson, and Donna Bowers. It is important to RSVP to Mary Ferguson by March 9th so that an adequate amount of pizzas can be ordered.

Contact info for Mary Ferguson: email is mkvjhf@aol.com; snail mail is 4353 Madera Dr., Tyler, TX 75707; phone is 903-565-6607.

Mark your calendars and do 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".

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.

Sales Tax on Congregational Purchases

We thought it was time to run a reminder that we run every few years. If you purchase supplies or materials for the congregation, please do not pay sales tax. Purchases for the congregation are tax exempt. We have a tax-exempt form; it is available in both Debbie and Pastor Mark's office. Pick up a form before you shop; when you check out just give the clerk the form. There is no paperwork or things to sign. It is quite simple and does save the church some money. Thanks for your help with this!

Church Website

Have you checked out our church website lately? If not, please do. It is a great website and we continue to update it and develop it. It is a great source of information for our members, and a great introduction for new members. Our website is to be found at www.oslctyler.org Also, Our Saviour's is on Facebook. Check us out!

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: Our March contributions include Meals on Wheels, Tyler Smith County Child Welfare Board, the postage for sending clothing to India, and For The Silent, an effort to end sex trafficking and exploiting by empowering the voices of vulnerable and exploited youth.

PATH: Again this February, we participated in a Canned Soup Drive for PATH. Your generous donations made this another successful effort in helping feed the hungry in our community.

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

In February, the Quilters delivered quilts to the Fire and Police Departments, to Scottish Rite, Children's Advocacy Center, Shriners, and Hiway 80.

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.

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