
Letter for the week of March 23, 2020

1 message

Our Savior's Lutheran Church <mail@flocknote.com>

Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 9:48 AM

Reply-To: Our Savior's Lutheran Church <6426650.6kumwlpjtwl4ibfi5qjwvrzizgxfwa4bz8f09umhwh2xh86ghx@reply.flocknote.com>

To: Merry Burris <Burris.Merry@gmail.com>



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Update for March 23, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are going to try something different for our communication for the next few weeks. Usually we send out a monthly newsletter. I'm going to stop that for the time being. At this point I really don't know what our schedule will look like in April.

Things are changing just too rapidly. In an effort to be more timely, we are going to send out weekly messages. For those of you who receive flocknotes, our electronic weekly update, this will be very much the same as what we've been doing. For those of you who receive the paper newsletter, you will get a shorter mailing each week.

Let me begin by sharing a devotional. This is actually part of an article written by Pastor David Dykes of Green Acres Baptist Church here in Tyler. You have to love it when a Lutheran like me is quoting a Baptist preacher because the Baptist is doing some great teaching about Martin Luther! Pastor Dykes wrote:

LAST SUNDAY, I spoke about how Martin Luther stayed and ministered to sick people during the plague in Wittenberg in 1527. My friend, Jim Denison, wrote in his Daily Article yesterday about Luther's commitment to ministering to people during the crisis. But Luther also was careful to practice personal hygiene and a form of social distancing.

LUTHER WROTE: *“I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence.”* Throughout the plague Luther continued to preach and help those who were hurting. No doubt, this experience increased his confidence in the power of God and his desire to live for God.

TWO YEARS after the plague he wrote his famous hymn *“A Mighty Fortress is our God.”* These powerful words encourage me and I hope they encourage you.

Luther began:

***“A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.”***

Then he asked:

***“Did we in our own strength confide?
Our striving would be losing.
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God’s own choosing.***

***You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth (Angel Armies) his name,
From age to age the same;
And he must win the battle.”***

And Luther concluded:

***“Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God’s truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever!”***

Thank you Pastor Dykes!

Let also share some updates from OSLC with you:

- We are posting Sunday morning sermons and Wednesday evening studies for your viewing. Both will be posted on our church website – www.oslctyler.org and on our Facebook page. The first sermon is already up, we will have the first study posted early this week. We’ve had a great response to the first sermon, please check this out and share it.

- This is a time for ministry. Keep yourself safe, but also keep your eyes open for the needs of others. One great thing we can all do is call people. Especially people who you know are alone or isolated, give them a call.
- Pray. One of the great services we as Christians can and must do is pray. Let me share a prayer for those in the medical field:

*Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people: Continue in our hospitals and clinics Jesus' gracious work among us; console and heal the sick; grant to the physicians, nurses, and assisting staff wisdom and skill, diligence and patience; prosper their work, O Lord, and send down your blessing upon all who serve the suffering; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mark



Sent by Merry Burris

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