

Weekly Update from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – June 8, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been a troubling week for our nation. There has been more chaos and pain than most of us have ever seen. Protests, riots, looting, cities in flames. We have been focused and worried about the coronavirus for months and now the racial tensions in our nation erupt. It really is overwhelming.

What do we do as Christians? I believe that our faith always leads us into our society, especially when our society is hurting. What do we do? Let me begin by saying that is a question for all of us to ask and wrestle with. Are there things that we as the people of God gathered at OSLC can do? And let me suggest a few ideas.

First, we pray. We pray. In the midst of such hurt and pain and destruction, we need the healing that only God can provide. Christians need to lead the way in prayer. I know our society has become less and less open to God. This is a good time to change that. It is absolutely vital that we pray to God for our nation, our leaders, our communities, for all who hurt, for racial healing. Please take some extra time for prayer.

Second, let's keep caring for the Tyler community. One of the strengths of OSLC has been a long history of care for Tyler. We support for PATH, we support many if not most of the healing and caring agencies in town. Let's keep that focus. Healing is going to take a whole lot of care and we will be part of that.

Third, listen. Try to listen to voices that differ from your own. That is not easy, especially when we are stressed and worried. But it is vital step in moving onward.

Fourth, keep lifting up the name of Jesus. This is a great time to keep our faith at the forefront. I think I have learned a few things as I've gotten older. One of the things I've figured out is that healing comes from Jesus. We proclaim Him as Savior and He is. Healing and hope and reconciling come from Jesus. Let's keep lifting His name into the discussions.

Finally, let me share some words of advise from St. Paul. This is from Paul's letter to the Philippians, the second chapter, verse 2-3, 14-16. Paul has some great advise: *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others..."* *"Do everything without grumbling and arguing, so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world, by holding firm to the word of life."*

May our Lord lead us onward!

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

Food Collection for June

I have a way that we can say thank you to the good Lord. He has and is blessing our congregation through this crisis time. Let's do a food collection for those in need. We are excited to be worshipping together again. How about when you come for worship, bring a non-perishable food item and leave it on the table with the bulletins? We will do this for the month of June. At the end of the month we will bring the food to PATH for those in need in Smith County.

Worship

For the immediate future we are offering an outdoor service on Sunday mornings at 9:00. And we will continue to offer our online services. The sermon will be the same for both offerings. Please make use of the service that works best for you.

Just a note on the outdoor service. We will need to keep an eye on the weather each week. If the weather turns bad we will have to cancel. We will put cancellations on the church website and answering machine as soon as that decision is made.

Service of Sending – June 21

One of the special services we do each year is a Service of Sending for our graduating High School seniors. We are planning on doing this during our worship service on Sunday, June 21. We have 3 seniors – Ambrosia Jackson, Max Lewis, and Chloe Page. Please come on the 21st as we bless and honor our seniors.