

Weekly Update from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – May 25, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are going to gather for worship! I know we've been waiting on this for a long time; this Sunday it will happen. This Sunday, May 31, we will offer a worship service at 9:00 a.m. (Please note the earlier time!) We are going to worship outside, in our backyard area. We have a huge and beautiful area for worship. We can easily social distance, we will have everything set up. We will worship. Here are some things to know as we look to Sunday:

\*Please keep an eye on the weather. If the weather turns bad we will have to cancel and have our first service the following week. We will share updates both on the church website and on our answering machine at the office (903-561-1865).

\*We are sharing worship together, but please don't come if you aren't comfortable. A good number of our members have shared that they have health concerns that worry them. Some of our members just aren't comfortable getting together yet. Don't feel like you have to come. For those who aren't present, we will continue to offer the online worship services. The online services have become so popular that we plan to continue them even after the pandemic is over. It has become a great way to reach our shut-ins and others who don't usually come.

\*If you can, please bring a lawn chair. If you can't don't worry, we will have plenty of chairs available.

\*There will be extra ushers on hand to guide you.

\*Please have a face mask. Our quilters have made numerous face masks so if you need one we will have them available.

\*When you arrive an usher will give you a bulletin and a pre-sealed communion pack.

\*Please be in prayer for all of this. As we worship, either together or online, we want to undergird all of that with our prayers.

One more thing for this week. I found a prayer shared by the Reverend Eric Reisen, who is the president of our North American Lutheran Seminary. It is short and to the point. Let me share it with you:

*Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

May our Lord continue to guide and bless us!  
Pastor Mark

### Sharing a Meal

Our congregational care committee is bringing meals to one of our families a couple of times a week. We could use a few more people helping with this. If you would be able to cook and deliver a meal, please call Becky Chambers.

### Zoom Class on Holy Communion

We are going to offer another Zoom class this week. We have been having some fun with this! Our next class will be this Wednesday evening at 7:00; the topic will be Baptism.

For those of you who have been part of this, the invitation you have received continues to work. If you are new to this and need an invitation, please send me an email at [mbraaten@oslctyler.org](mailto:mbraaten@oslctyler.org) I will send you an invitation that has all the information for how to connect.

### Some Fun News

Here is some fun news. Our Saviour's is getting some national exposure! Do you remember the stewardship program we did last winter, where we gave out money? That was so successful that our national church is publicizing it. There is a great article about this in the latest NALC newsletter, which is sent out to all the congregations of the NALC. You can find the article at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org) Just look for the tab on newsletter.

### Guidelines for Reopening Worship

We are planning to have our first worship service together on Sunday, May 31 at 9:00 a.m. in the backyard. Here is some information we want to share about that.

**We are working to set up our worship service in accord with the recommendations that the Governor of Texas has shared for worship, and also to be sensitive to the concerns of our members. We realize that some of these recommendations might be controversial for people. Please bear with us as we work this out. This is going to be a process and inevitably one that we will revise as we proceed.**

**Here are the guidelines we are working with:**

- First and foremost is our concern for the health and safety of our members and guests.
- Given the governor's recommendations, we are urging those most at risk, namely those aged 65 and up and those who have pre-existing medical conditions to continue to join us for **online** worship. (We do realize that some people over 65 will want to attend worship and feel comfortable doing so. In fact many of our congregational worship leaders, and our pastor for that matter, are 65 or over. If you are over 65, please make careful and wise decisions. And if you do have pre-existing medical conditions, or if you are exhibiting any symptoms, please do join the online service.)
- We will hold our first worship service in the "back yard" area behind the building. We think that an outdoor service will be safest so we will begin with that.
- If you can, please bring a lawn chair or folding chair. If you can't we will have plenty available.
- We will have a ushers available as you arrive to answer questions and to give directions. The ushers will wear masks and gloves.
- One of the pluses of outdoor worship is that we can easily do social distancing. Families of course are encouraged to sit together, but beyond that please do socially distance.
- There will be no childcare available at this time.

- We will have hand sanitizer readily available
- We are going to ask you to wear a mask. If you can please bring your own. If not we will have masks available.
- Bulletins and communion supplies will be passed out as you enter.
- The rest rooms in the church building will be open.
- We will be serving Communion. We have prepackaged packets with the bread and wine for you to pick up as you enter. We will open them together during the communion service.
- We will have a stationary offering plate for people to give their offering. We will not pass an offering plate during the service.
- We will not be serving any coffee or refreshments at this time.

**One additional thought, working out how we will worship is going to be a process. We will inevitably make changes as we work things out and as the circumstances change. If we are going to err, we hope to err on the side of being overly concerned and safe. Please be patient, and do share your suggestions and ideas! Thank you!**