

Weekly Update from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – May 11, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

I found a most appropriate Bible verse that I'd like to share with you. It is Galatians 6:9. Paul is writing to the Christians in Galatia and he shares – “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

I think those are most helpful words for us in our present situation. Paul reminds us not to grow weary in doing good. It would in fact be easy to do so. We have been in trying and anxious times for quite a few weeks now. People want to move on, people are getting tired of restrictions, and yes some people are getting a bit ornery. But Paul reminds us of two things. First, don't grow weary of doing good. Keep at it. In these trying times, acts of kindness and care are so essential. In fact some simple acts of kindness can make all the difference. As Christians we have all sorts of opportunities before us for ministry. Do good, be kind to people.

And second, don't give up. Even when times are tough, continue to be a people of hope, a people of care. We know that God is finally in charge of this world. We know that Christ has overcome evil with His Easter victory. In that we find assurance and hope and confidence. In that we can keep at it.

Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Those words are both a calling and a promise. The calling is to continue our work as Christians. The world so needs that work! And the promise is that the final victory is ours in Christ.

May God bless you as we journey onward!

Pastor Mark

**Planning for Worship**

As I have shared, our church council and worship folks have been working hard to plan for worshipping together again. We are all so looking forward to that! Right now we are looking at Sunday, May 31 as our first worship service. We are keeping that date flexible; if things improve we can move that up and if things go badly we can move it back. Also May 31 is Pentecost, which is to be a great celebration in the church!

The plan is to worship outside. We have looked at both worship in the sanctuary and outside in the back yard. Worship inside with proper social distancing will only allow 30 people, and that will still be some close quarters. Outside we have a huge area so it will allow for plenty of distancing. We believe outdoor worship will be safer. We are working on layout and sound systems and all of those things as we look to worship. We think we can put together a very special service!

One more important point, we know that even when we do resume worshipping together, a good number of our members will not immediately come back for worship. We understand that and we want to encourage you not to feel any pressure to come back to worship until you

feel safe. Because of that we will continue with the online worship services. They will continue to be posted each week as we are doing now. In fact we will most likely keep an online presence as we move forward in ministry. We have been wonderfully surprised at how many people we are able to reach online.

Please keep all this in your prayers as we move onward!

### **Zoom Class on Holy Communion**

We are going to try something this week. We are going to use the Zoom computer program to have a class this week. Zoom allows us to talk together and see each other through our computers; it is a great avenue for study and discussion. So, we are setting up a class using Zoom. The class will be this Wednesday evening at 7:00. The topic will be Holy Communion. I will share some insights and understandings of communion. And we will have time to discuss some new topics like virtual communion and “drive by” communion. We look forward to a helpful and fun discussion.

If you would like to be part of this, 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. And thank you to everyone who is working to set this up!

### **Canceling Day Camp**

I’m sorry to tell you that we have decided to cancel our week of Day Camp/Vacation Bible School for this summer. Day Camp is one of our highlights each year. We had scheduled the week of June 22-26 with Lutherhill Bible Camp again this year. But after a lot of conversation with Lutherhill and with our own folks, we decided there just isn’t a way for us to do the Day Camp safely. We will cancel for this summer and then come back full force next summer. Again we really hate to do this, but it is the safest way to proceed.

### **Financial Update**

As we shared last week, we have done well with our church finances during this time. Thank you to all for your faithful giving. For the last two months our expenses and income have about been equal. That is wonderful for these challenging times as we are meeting all of our expenses. In addition we have received some special gifts for benevolence that have allowed us to do some important sharing beyond ourselves.

As we have said, we know that some of our members are facing challenging financial times and we understand that you must restrict your giving. And for those of us who are doing fine financially, we appreciate your ongoing support.

If you would like to give online, there are instructions for doing so on our church website. You can do a one time gift, or set up regular online giving. Just go to the tab marked “Giving” and you will find all the information you need. And of course it works just fine to mail a donation to the church office.

Again, thank you for your faithful giving. You have done well and that is enabling us to share in some very special ministry and caring.

***And last but not least, a belated Happy Mother’s Day to all the mothers in the congregation!***