

Weekly Update from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – August 10, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of my friends, both in person and on Facebook, is Rev. Eric Reisen. Eric is the new president of our seminary in the NALC. He is using this pandemic time to share posts that teach and support faith in trying time.

He shared a post, a story, that I found particularly powerful. It speaks to me as we go through these times of trial and struggle. I thought I'd share it with you:

Preaching Before the Pit

During the last days the Third Reich, as the Nazi terror struggled in its final throes and allied bombs rained down on Stuttgart, Helmut Thielicke preached a remarkable series of sermons based on the Lord's Prayer. These were days of uncertainty and death. On more than one occasion the shriek of air raid sirens interrupted the sermon.

Thielicke writes that during this period there were times when he felt utterly stricken: "My work in Stuttgart seemed to have gone to pieces; and my listeners were scattered to the four winds; the churches lay in rubble and ashes."

In one of the messages from this series, based upon the petition "Thy Kingdom come," Thielicke describes an encounter with a woman from his congregation. It happened as he was standing in the street looking down into the pit of a cellar—all that remained from a building that an allied bomb had shattered. The woman approached him and declared, "My husband died down there. His place was right under the hole. The clean-up squad was unable to find a trace of him; all that was left was his cap."

What does a pastor say in a moment like this? "I'm sorry," hardly seems adequate. But the woman had not come to Thielicke for sympathy. She wanted to express her gratitude. "We were there the last time you preached in the cathedral church" she continued. "And here before this pit I want to thank you for preparing him for eternity."

This is as good a definition of preaching as I have heard. Better, perhaps, than many, because of its stark realism. Preaching is preparing others for eternity. Preaching is having the last word. To preach is to take your stand before the pit and bear witness to the rubble of this ash heap world that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mark

Communion at the Church

Let me share a reminder of an offer I made a few weeks ago. I know that a good number of our members are staying home during these days of pandemic. I certainly understand and respect that decision. But that has meant that a good number of people have not received communion for quite a few months. If you would like to receive communion, we have a unique and good solution. Give me a call and we will set up a time for a "drive-through" communion. We will set up a time for you to drive to the church. You will pull in under the overhang on our

building. I will come out to your car and share communion with you. I will wear a mask and gloves. The whole process takes about 5 minutes.

We have done this a number of times and it is working very well. If you would like to do so, please give me a call!

Thank You for Wearing Your Mask

Thank you for wearing your mask when you are in our church building. I know a lot of us really don't like doing so. But it is so important, especially when we gather on Sunday mornings. Thank you for doing this and helping to care for your neighbors!

A Prayer in Closing

Lord, send your mercy and your truth to rescue us from the snares of the devil, and we will praise you among the people and proclaim you to the nations, happy to be known as companions of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

LBW Psalm 57 Prayer