

Weekly Update from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – August 24, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the things I'm realizing is that part of my job as pastor is to be sure the congregation knows all the ministries we are involved in. Sometimes we do a ministry for years and I come to see it as part of the routine. But I need to be sure that the whole congregation knows what we are doing. The fact is there are numerous great ministries that we are involved in and that we need to celebrate. And part of my job is to be sure I keep you up to speed on that.

We have some mission partners that we have supported for a number of years. Just a bit of background, when the NALC was formed, the request was made that every congregation in the NALC have at least two mission partners, one domestic and one overseas. The idea was to have each of our congregations in direct mission relationships. It is a great idea and we at OSLC have done that faithfully. The fact is we at OSLC are sharing and supporting some great work.

Our domestic mission partners are the three NALC Hispanic congregations in Dallas-Fort Worth. They are San Miguel Lutheran Church in Fort Worth, Iglesia Santisima Trinidad Lutheran Church in Irving, and Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Irving. We have worked with their pastors and congregations for a good number of years now and they are most appreciative of our support.

San Miguel is a strong congregation in Fort Worth. In pre-COVID days they were averaging 200 to 300 worshippers on Sunday morning. Their area and congregation have been hit hard by COVID and so they have struggled these last months. But they are committed and determined and they will rebound. They are in a poor area of Fort Worth but are doing great work. I've shared with them on numerous occasions and I love being with them, especially for the fiestas and meals they have! When this COVID stuff subsides we need to make plans to have a group visit and join with them for worship.

Iglesia Santisima Trinidad and Transfiguration are smaller but both special ministries. Transfiguration is presently looking for a place to worship but they remain strongly involved in their community. And Holy Spirit has an exciting ministry lead by Rev. Jose Galvez.

One of the fun ministries I've been able to share in this to have the pastors of these ministries join Karen and I at our home on Lake Palestine for a few days of prayer, theology, and fishing. The pastors of these churches have pulled more than their share of fish out of the lake. We look forward to being able to do that again.

Our overseas mission partner is the West Gibe Synod of the Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Ethiopia. It is a huge synod, with over 100,000 members and growing rapidly. As far as I know, we are the only mission partner for this synod and they deeply appreciate our support. I need to be more intentional about lifting them up in prayer in our worship services; I know they pray regularly for us.

I visited in the West Gibe Synod on my first trip to Ethiopia. They were so gracious and wanted to know all about ministry and life in East Texas. They are definitely a rural area, they are 30 miles from the nearest paved road. At the time their area was just getting internet access. One of our hopes and dreams was to set up something via the internet where we could actually worship with them on a Sunday. In the intervening years there has been much unrest and political turmoil in Ethiopia and I'm afraid it's not possible to do that yet. But I hope that the day will come. And in the meanwhile I know they value and appreciate our support.

One of the things I need to be better about is sharing with you the impact and ministry that we do through OSLC. We really are sharing in exciting ways in the work of the Gospel. Jesus connects us with the barrios of Fort Worth and the back country of Ethiopia. I'm proud and excited of all that we do.

Let's keep up the great work. I will try to do a better job of keeping you up to speed. And let's celebrate the privilege of sharing in such exciting ministries!

To God be the Glory!

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

Start for Sunday School

Just a reminder, we have tentatively set the first Sunday in October as the day to resume Sunday School. Let's keep all of this in our prayers as we seek to resume this vital ministry!

Looking for Change

Remember to bring your loose change to the church building. We have put out a container in the church and are asking for you to donate your loose change. We have labeled the container "Looking for Change" and will leave it out for 4 to 6 weeks. Please donate any loose change you have. All the money collected will be used to support either PATH or the East Texas Food Bank.

We figure we can do a couple of important things with this.

First, we will put some change back in circulation. We keep reading reports that the government is short of coins and needs to put some back into use. We will help with this.

Second, we will help to feed people. As our nation and area continue to struggle with unemployment, we as the church will continue to help. All proceeds will be given to those in need. We are asking for change, but if you drop in a bill or two we will use that also!

So, we are literally "Looking for Change". Please bring and drop off your coins at the church. And thank you!