

President's Note for October 2020

Well, the days grow shorter, we've had the autumnal equinox and fall is now officially here. Other than shorter days it doesn't feel much like fall here in California as yet though. The weather is still hot and we continue to be plagued with multiple fires throughout the region and much of the west. As I write this column Calistoga and surrounding areas are being evacuated. We pray for those displaced, those in harm's way, firefighters, linemen and all who serve. We also pray for cooler weather and healing rain to come soon. We will once again post the address for Lutheran Disaster Response later in this newsletter for those able to assist the many affected and in need.

We are putting the final touches on our outdoor Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Ministry worship service and celebration. As stated previously, this special service will take place on Sunday October fourth at ten-thirty. What has changed is that rather than hold worship on the south lawn area, we have decided it will work out best to hold worship in the breezeway. The breezeway should be simpler to manage and should be better for those with mobility issues and for those unsteady on their feet. A light lunch will follow worship with sandwiches, fruit cup, potato or macaroni salad and such. As much as we have enjoyed our potlucks in the past we are trying to keep things simple and follow COVID-19 protocol as much as possible, so please don't bring any outside food. As has now become customary, social distancing, face masks and sanitation will be part of the gathering protocol and, of course, if you don't feel well or may have been exposed to the virus please don't attend out of love and respect for fellow believers. We do look forward to gathering again. We will have communion for believers who desire to partake with a slightly amended method of distribution. Please RSVP to the church office phone at (916) 456-8523 so we'll have an idea of how many chairs to set up and how much food to obtain.

Our church council continues to explore different avenues and options for worship. For the foreseeable future we will continue to have our Sunday YouTube virtual worship service as our church synod leaders and health officials recommend. You've likely observed the air time has moved from ten-am until ten-fifteen am. This change in time was not based on our wishes, but on what times the site offers

for airing. We'll do our best to keep everyone informed of any other changes in terms of online and in person worship. As I intimated earlier our world is full of breaking news and as I write this column Sacramento County may be about to move from purple to red on the State's restriction protocol list which may ease restrictions on physical gathering for worship. Stay tuned.

Please continue to pray for our nation, our world, our church and for all in need. There are many right here within our own little community of faith who struggle with their health, finances and other matters, hold them in your prayers and help when and where you can. Thanks to all who continue to submit your church offerings, know they are being put to good use. Last month I concluded my column with words attributed to Luther. A scholar and long time friend of St. Paul's wrote me a note indicating Luther may not of said or written those words and that in fact the essence of those words contradict some of Luther's known teaching. While I've found the quote on God and nature in multiple places, none of those sources indicate where or when Luther used those words. I had no intent to confuse or misrepresent, only to illustrate that you can get a glimpse of the Creator in creation. Now that I've rambled a bit and spoken of words, quotes and prayer I'll close with an admonition from our Lord:

"In your prayers do not go babbling on like the heathen, who imagine that the more they say the more likely they are to be heard. Do not imitate them. Your Father knows what your needs are before you ask him." Matthew 6:7-8 NEB

Respectfully,

Chuck Prewett

Council President