



The God of Blessings

Richard Ondicho's Newsletter 3/2021 – 31.5.2021

“The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24-26.)

Dear friends, the triune God is the only God who blesses. I know the other religions of the world claim that their gods blesses. But if you listen closely, the blessings they claim come from their god are not truly gifts freely given but rather awards merited at least in part. The blessing points us forward to our heavenly Father's ongoing care in our lives and in our communion of believers. He continues to bless you and me, each day giving us our daily bread, and he continues to keep us safe, guarding and defending us day after day even at this challenging time of Covid-19 Pandemic. His mercy and compassion are new every morning. *“The LORD bless you and keep you.”*

It is already May and I have delayed writing something on how I am doing here in the Immigrant ministry. Not worshipping together or using our church building actively for the past months has been a challenge to our membership and small community. The recording of sermons weekly will never have the same impact as the live Divine service. The impact of Covid-19 has brought about new ways on how to serve the congregation.

We continue to find ourselves within the COVID restrictions. I'm aware of the many people asking, “Why and when will our international Lutheran congregation re-open for Divine services. Yes, I admit that I keep on following on the news every day on how things will be in the near future. Even medical professionals are a bit confused and frustrated with all the news reports. We Christian are not different from the world. During this time of social isolation, we can remember our faith and our call as disciples through shared faith practices.

There have been many difficulties in terms of the restricts as many places are facing the same situation as us. However, the Lord God has continued to work in our

congregation by bringing new people who are searching for the truth of God's word. Our weekly Bible studies have continued as usual and at times I feel that many people are more committed in attending than the previous years. Most immigrants are searching for something solid on which to lean on after losing their jobs and are just at home. The youth hall at Luther-Church has been a blessed sanctuary for the brokenhearted people. They don't have really touch of their families instead they put their connection with the people who worship in the same area. I felt that this time of covid restriction pastoral counselling has been needed more than any other time in my life.

God in His mercy brought to our Church people who are searching for the meaning of life and more especially those from other religions. At Pentecost Sunday we had one baptism of a sister who came to Christ through pain and much suffering. More than one month of teachings and instructions brought a lot of clarity to her on who God is and His saving grace. Many have come to join her in listening while I have been teaching. Myself I think that I have been reading the small Catechism.

Lately, I have encouraged members of our congregation to remain patient, we're in this together. As a Christian family this has never been more true. I send my love and best wishes to each of you with confidence that by God's grace a time is coming for us to meet freely again. As we look ahead to the summer months, little is certain about how Covid-19 may challenge us as a church. While I am hopeful we can find safe ways to congregate in person, I am also realistic and remain concerned about the health and safety of our community and pray that Gods will keep each one of you safe in His able hands.

Thank for remembering us during this challenging time. Please continue to pray that we will continue to reach more people for God's kingdom.

Have blessed sunny days ahead.

In Christ I remain your servant and His.

Richard

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