

“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.” (Psalm 130:5)

“Hurry up...and wait!” It seems like that phrase has been going through my mind non-stop these days. And what a couple of days we’ve had. In less than a week, the greater Houston area has been struck with tornados, hurricanes and flooding – and at record levels! Some of it we’ve seen on the news. Some of it, we see in our own backyards. Needless to say, it’s been a rough stretch.

And so, it’s natural that we want to do something. And fast. But as much as I want to hurry and act...I find I have to wait. Hurry up...and wait. We wait for the mandatory evacuations of Sienna Plantation and parts of Sugar Land to be lifted. We wait for the Brazos River to crest. We wait to see what new damage, if any, will be in store. We wait to see how our homes are. We wait to see what the condition of Sienna Lutheran Academy is. But here’s the thing: waiting is hard. There is a reason that patience is a virtue!

But in times like this, we also wait for something else. And it’s a good thing. As the Psalmist wrote, we wait for the Lord! This verse reminds us that even when moments seem bleak and current situations are dark, we can wait them out with the ultimate confidence that the Lord continues to be who He has always been: our saving God that can and will work even the effects of Hurricane Harvey – for as bad as they might be – for the good of his people. What untold blessings can come from these dark days? What doors of opportunity for letting our Christian light shine will be opened that were previously closed? I don’t know these answers yet, but we wait for the Lord...with confidence. God’s word has not changed. His love for us endures. And our hope can remain firmly placed on the Lord. As we are in a rush to get back to normal, join me in daily waiting for the Lord and seeing how his plan will unfold!

Updates

Some have asked about how Sienna Lutheran Academy is doing. As most of you know, a tornado went through the property last Friday evening. Significant damage was done to the trees on the property, some fence line, and the playground. There was also some minor damage to the roof. Most of the building, however, appears to be fine. We are now waiting to see what happens as the Brazos crests. Initial reports are that no flood waters have entered the building...and we pray it stays that way!

Next week we will have SLA checked over by a structural engineer to verify that all is sound. We will also have an insurance adjuster come out and see what our path forward is. In the coming days we will schedule some work days where we can clean up trees and other debris on the outside as well as tidy up the inside. All in all, we are thankful that there wasn’t more damage.

In addition to the damages at SLA, we are also trying to create a list of members who have had their homes flooded or been displaced. As we find that information out, let's rally around them and help as we are able!

Sunday Schedule

Some have asked about church this Sunday and I'm eager to get the congregation back together in the midst of all that has happened! Although we can't meet at our normal place, we are planning the following:

Sunday Morning – We are encouraging our Sienna members to attend the Alief Campus (4410 S. Kirkwood Rd) this Sunday. The English service has been rescheduled for 9:30am (as opposed to 8:30am) to help accommodate schedules. And I even get to preach! Hope to see you there.

Sunday Afternoon – At 5:00pm we are inviting all CTL-Sienna family and friends to Pete and Fran Palmer's house (4235 Burford Lane, Fresno, TX) for a devotion and time of fellowship. Pizza and drinks will be provided. It will be nice for us to get together, share stories about the recent events, encourage one another and talk about how we can help each other and our community in the coming days.