LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH GARNER, NC

Sanctified

In the name…

Let us pray…

The sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces. He will remove His people’s disgrace from all the earth.

The Tree of Life Synagogue invited all Christian congregations to Hebrew temples and synagogues for Shabbat yesterday. What a simple, moving gesture. We could wipe our tears away together.

Even since that awful day, 10 other shootings have occurred in the United States so I think perhaps we may have to include this as part of our All Saints Day.

Reading Revelations we are still waiting God to make everything new. We are still waiting for God to bring the New Heaven and New Earth. And we know of the sure and certain hope of eternal life with God.

Monday evening had the pleasure of hearing Jonathon Weisman at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. He wrote the book entitled “Semitism” and I mention him because several years ago he singled out for hate emails and threats and he was amazed because he admitted he was not living his Judaism. Oh, he had been sanctified “qodosh” in a prominent “temple” in Atlanta, but he was not practicing. He married a non Jew and he did not require his daughters to go through Jewish education except one insisted, demanded that she be allowed to do so. As a result of the threats brought about his Judaism.

If you dust off your catechism in your minds, think of the explanation of the third article of the Apostles Creed. Luther writes, “I know that I can not, by my own reason or strength believe on the Lord Jesus Christ or come to Him, BUT the Holy Ghost has called me by the gospel , enlightened me with his gifts and SANCTIFiED and kept me in the one true faith.”

Without the Holy Spirit we can not even have faith (adds to last week, we are justified through faith by grace). BUT with Holy Spirit we are called by the Gospel, enlightened with His gifts (time and talent sheets are out there, Wednesday I saw the gift of a grandmother who brought her daughter and granddaughter to the greatest trick or treat event in North Carolina or beyond. A simple gift, she heard about it through me and did something about it.

So the Holy Spirit calls us by the gospel. Enlightens us with His gifts and sanctifies us in the faith. Sanctifies us, makes us holy, first in our baptisms, but we still with the Holy Spirit work at it all our lives.

I say that because like Jonathon Weisman we are set apart, sanctified and through faith by God’s grace we will experience life with God when everything is new, a new heaven and a new earth where we will leave our burial cloths behind and dry our tears. And that is all fine and dandy, but what about our sanctification now? Will we embrace our Christian Sanctification and stand with the families and friends of the victims of just the 54 victims I have included in the bulletin, various races, various sizes, various cultures.

I hope you will in me in embracing our Christian Faith based on love and stand with the families and friends of these sanctified saints .

And that is just one way by which we live sanctified lives here and now in this place and time.

In the name…