



The Reverend Dr. Douglas H. Spittel
Vice-President, Eastern Region
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The Reverend Alfred Thiagarajan
The Lutheran Church of our Saviour
888 Rockaway Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11581-2102

Dear Pastor Thiagarajan and Beloved Brothers and Sisters at Our Saviour,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. I rejoice with you as your congregation celebrates ninety years of proclaiming the Gospel and celebrating the Sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ. What a joy and privilege we have to bring the merciful presence of our Saviour to people who would otherwise have no hope.

As you look fondly back at the legacy given to you by our Lord for nine decades, I invite you also to look forward in faith to the blessings and opportunities that our Lord has in store for your future. While the world in which we live may seem much different than that of our faithful fathers and mothers in 1932, people are still dealing with the same sinful human condition with which they contended. Human frailty, suffering, grief, pain, and loss still challenge us. Even more, though, the forgiveness, mercy, and consolation of Jesus, who died for us and rose victorious from the dead, remains a changeless promise and foundation of our faith and hope.

Your congregation is a pillar of the community not only because of its longevity and stately presence in the neighborhood. Your congregation is a pillar of strength, a font of charity, and a rock of faith because you are the body of Christ on Rockaway Avenue. It is in your church and among your people that Jesus makes Himself known to your community. From the lips of your pastor, Jesus speaks words of correction and words of forgiveness. At your altar, the crucified and risen Body of Christ is given to you for the forgiveness of sins. And where there is forgiveness, there is life and salvation!

God bless you all as you celebrate and God bless you all as you continue to live in faith in your community.

In Christ our God,

The Reverend Dr. Douglas H. Spittel
Eastern Region Vice-President
The English District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod