

# The Epistle

DECEMBER 2021

SHARING GOD'S LOVE  
TOGETHER

## Close to Home

Over the last twenty months, most of us having been spending a lot of time “close to home,” even if that was not our first choice. For some of us that has meant being nearly confined to home, isolated and alone. It has been and continues to be a difficult time to live through. Being home because of the pandemic has not been a positive experience.

The idea being “home” can mean a lot of different things for us. For some it conjures a particular house or the place they grew up. For others it is mainly connected with people. Maybe that word brings fond memories of childhood, of holiday celebrations with grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and all of our beloved. For some of us, however, maybe that idea of home is complicated by conflict, hurt, or trauma.

The positive idea behind “home,” however, is that of being safe and welcome, known and loved, where a person can be most fully themselves in peace and joy. In that sense, we all long for home. We long for that sense of home as we have faced the pain and losses of the pandemic. We long for home during those places and times where we are not safe or welcome. We long for home whenever we think of people, known and unknown, who suffer from injustice, insecurity, or deprivation.

The season of Advent is a time for us to reflect on these things; on how we are yearning for God to come to us and to bring healing to us in so many different ways. It is a season of almost but not yet. This year we will be using resources to enrich our worship from A Sanctified Art with the theme “Close to Home.” Our hope is that the visual art, poetry, and other resources will help us see more clearly how God is coming to us; how we are only truly at home in God’s loving embrace.

We begin this Sunday with the theme of “Homesick” and then move through “Laying the Foundation, A Home for All, Seeking Sanctuary, and Invited Home” (Christmas Eve). We will use these themes for worship as well as for our Advent Evening Prayer and Reflection on Tuesday evenings at 6:30PM.

I hope you can join us for these worship opportunities and I pray that Christ would indeed draw us in, close to home.

In the grace and peace of Christ,  
Pastor Clark

### Inside this issue:

Updates & Reminders	3
Foundation News	4
Prayer Ventures	7
Calendar & Birthdays	10

## St. Timothy Lutheran Church

### January - October, 2021

#### Summary Profit & Loss

	October Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
<b>Income</b>					
Congregational Giving	\$ 7,284.00	\$ 11,326.67	\$ 97,538.84	\$ 113,406.64	\$ 15,867.80
Outside Groups	\$ 315.00	\$ 666.67	\$ 4,855.00	\$ 6,666.66	\$ 1,811.66
Great Beginnings	\$ 3,925.00	\$ 2,825.00	\$ 34,650.00	\$ 28,250.00	\$ (6,400.00)
Campus Ministry Wages	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,516.58	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,483.42
PPP Forgiveness	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,603.97	\$ -	\$ (22,603.97)
Miscellaneous		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,183.08	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,816.92
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 11,524.23	\$ 16,318.34	\$ 163,832.64	\$ 154,323.30	\$ (9,509.34)
<b>Expenses</b>					
Administration	\$ 1,570.58	\$ 837.51	\$ 11,370.09	\$ 10,169.98	\$ (1,200.11)
Church Staff	\$ 3,994.74	\$ 3,076.42	\$ 35,851.96	\$ 31,489.12	\$ (4,362.84)
<b>Committees</b>					
Education	\$ -	\$ 16.67	\$ 126.20	\$ 166.66	\$ 40.46
Finance	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 182.50	\$ 100.00	\$ (82.50)
Hospitality & Welcome	\$ 21.97	\$ 16.67	\$ 326.94	\$ 166.66	\$ (160.28)
Property	\$ 242.31	\$ 262.49	\$ 4,088.50	\$ 2,624.92	\$ (1,463.58)
Service	\$ 12.50	\$ 1,116.26	\$ 9,332.59	\$ 11,162.48	\$ 1,829.89
Worship and Music	\$ 449.00	\$ 133.34	\$ 2,309.88	\$ 1,333.34	\$ (976.54)
<b>Total Committees</b>	\$ 725.78	\$ 1,645.43	\$ 16,366.61	\$ 15,554.06	\$ (812.55)
Loan Expenses	\$ 509.94	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,788.35	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (788.35)
Office	\$ 220.09	\$ 333.33	\$ 3,908.49	\$ 3,333.34	\$ (575.15)
Pastor	\$ 8,560.32	\$ 8,539.42	\$ 84,287.75	\$ 85,394.17	\$ 1,106.42
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 15,581.45	\$ 14,932.11	\$ 157,899.05	\$ 150,940.67	\$ (6,958.38)
Loan Principal					
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	\$ (4,057.22)	\$ 1,386.23	\$ 5,933.59	\$ 3,382.63	\$ (2,550.96)

#### Cash on Hand

<b>Bank Accounts</b>	31-Oct-21	30-Sep-21
Checking	60,206.08	66,796.58
Money Market	6,443.70	6,443.47
ELCA Savings	25.00	25.00
<b>Total Cash</b>	\$ 66,674.78	\$ 73,265.05

## Updates and Reminders

**Thomas Carman Food Pantry**— Will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, December 21 at 3:00 pm. Five people are needed. Debby-Love-Sudduth at: rd-sudd@comcast.net or 408-499-4984.

**Property Committee**— Jim Helgason, Jim Chinn, Ida Barber, Matt Schultz, Jody Emerson, Jeff Nagel, and Susan Smith. Meeting Thursday, December 9 at 10:00. They have also established a new Landscape Committee with Matt Schultz, Jim Helgason, Jody Emerson, Ida Barber, Kim Cantrell, and Susan Smith.

**Council Meeting**— Council Members: Adrian Johannsen, President; Jim Helgason, Vice President; Debby Love-Sudduth, Secretary; Nicole Smith & Pastor Clark. Meeting: Thursday, December 2nd, 5:00 pm

**The Stewardship Committee** is reconvening and plans to meet this month. We welcome any newcomers to join our group in planning year around Holistic Stewardship awareness and events. Please contact Pastor Clark at the office 375-2042.

## SETTING THE TABLE

### *WE NEED YOUR HELP!*

Each week we come to the table to receive God's grace in the tangible things of bread and wine, wafers and grape juice. It is a gift that connects us to God, to each other, and to life in Christ. We are moving now to a new way to set up communion each week and we need your help. Could you or your family help set our table for one month?

Yes, we will show you how! Pastor Clark will provide training and it will not take too much time or require any meetings.

If you can help, sign up in the church office or call Pastor Clark at 375-2042 (or cell phone 521-1818) to offer your much needed and appreciated help.



## Christmas Eve Worship

**A**s we expect to have higher attendance for Christmas Eve than our usual Sunday worship, we want to make sure that we can safely accommodate everyone for our beautiful candlelight celebration of Jesus' birth. (Yes, COVID is still with us.) To do this, we are proposing two times for worship, 4 PM and 6 PM. We would like you to let us know if you plan to attend, the number of people in your group, and which service time you plan to attend. We will have a sign-up sheet in the church office, and you can also let the office know by phone (831-375-2042) or email ([office@sttim.org](mailto:office@sttim.org)). Please let us know as soon as possible so we can make adjustments to this plan as needed.

## St. Timothy Foundation News

### FOUNDATION BOARD

It is with pleasure that the St. Timothy Foundation extends a warm welcome to Bob Johannsen and Jody Emerson as its two newest trustees. They join current trustees Pastor Clark Brown, Jon Gerdes, Barbara Grace, Larry Hawkins, Jim Helgason, Lucille Snyder-Pires, and TJ Racoosin in making up the Foundation's Board for 2022.

Elected officers for next year are: Jim Helgason-President, Jon Gerdes-Treasurer, and Jody Emerson-Secretary.



Pastor Clark Installing Cable

### GUARDIAN ANGEL RELIEF FUND

A reminder that St. Timothy Foundation continues to be available as a means of providing assistance to those who are financially impacted by the pandemic. If you, or someone you know may need assistance in this manner, please contact Pastor Clark via email at [PastorClark@StTim.org](mailto:PastorClark@StTim.org) or call the Office at 831-375-2042.

Information provided will remain confidential.

### MATCHING FUNDS

In conjunction with Faith Giving and for the month of December, the Foundation is pleased to offer a Matching Fund Program of Giving. For contributions made to St. Timothy L.C. during this time, it will match total funds contributed up to and including \$5,000. If you wish to participate, simply indicate "Matching Funds" on the memo line of your check.

### SANCTUARY WORSHIP

The Foundation recently authorized a Grant to fund the cost of equipment and materials (screens, camera, wiring, hardware) to enhance the worship space. Screens will allow congregants to see the text from Readings and Hymns as well as additional displays (i.e., artwork). Currently, these displays are only visible on the livestream feed. Utilizing screens would also allow recordings to be shown in-house during the service (i.e., if Desma, or someone else, was unable to attend, she could record at a prior time). When not in use, screens would be retracted against the wall.

Pastor Clark, his father Michael Brown, and others have begun the process of installation by securing the wires and cables necessary for each screen, as well as mounting a third camera in the rear of the Sanctuary.

A relay race is run in a set of four stages or ‘legs.’ Each leg run by a different member of a team. The runner finishing one leg is *required* to pass on a baton to the next runner, and that runner runs the next leg, passes the baton, and so on and so on until all four runners have completed the four legs.

In the Bible, ‘run’ is a metaphor that teaches about strength, endurance, encouragement, and faith. Such as in Hebrews 12:1-3; “and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” I am taking the verse out of its context so I may refer to our running a race here at St. Timothy. I am especially referring to the race being run, as the above defined Relay Race, and specifically to the passing of the baton.

Try to imagine you are running a race. For many of us at St. Timothy, that is quite a stretch of imagination, as we have not run in a long time. I know I have not. But try to imagine you are running a relay race, your hand, firmly gripped around the baton, wet with perspiration as you approach the end of your ‘leg’ of the race, heart pounding wildly, leg muscles constricted and cramping, lungs heaving. You persevere, as you have 100% faith that the next runner will soon come up at your side and you will pass on that baton, your body relieved, your leg of the race run!

You are in the home stretch, your hand on the baton, your arm outstretched. No one has come to grab it from your hand. You keep going, your endurance waning, but you continue as you wait to hear his approach. He is not there so you keep running, and running, your mind screaming, WHERE IS HE?

Here at St. Timothy, we have several wonderful ‘runners’ who have ran and ran and ran with endurance, faith, and hope...Hope that the ‘leg’ of their race could end, with another runner coming up behind them to grasp their baton. The ‘baton’ another metaphor for service. We wish to give relief to our runners to not let them become weary and discouraged. To ‘run the race’ metaphorically is to do the best that one can, to respond gratefully in service.

Please give relief and grasp the baton of runners who serve as Assistant Minister, Cantor, Altar care, Alter decor and Communion care, grounds upkeep, usher, streaming technician. These are but a few and they each require less than an hours’ time, once a week, every other week, once a month.

On the last day of this month another ‘leg’ on our race to the finish will be run- 2021 passes the baton to 2022 as the big ball in NYC drops at midnight. Please make your New Year Resolution one of donning your running shoes in a leap of faith and grasp another’s baton.



Relay Race

## Community Garden Shed

The shed that has been under construction this past year is now fully completed and ready for use by gardeners. As a beautiful, spacious, and functional addition to the church's property, many thanks to Lance Wright, Jody Emerson, Eric Johnson, Matt Schulz, and others for their vision, guidance, and contributions, in monies, efforts, and time spent.



## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Attention ladies of St. Timothy's! You are cordially invited to a Christmas Luncheon at 1:00 PM on Friday, December 10, 2021, at the home of Carrie Hoerauf, 1150 Patterson Lane, Pacific Grove. For those who are unable to attend at lunchtime, an Open House continues through 7:00 PM. No need to bring anything! RSVP to Carrie at 541-992-1487 (call or text), or email carrieyano@yahoo.com.

## STEWARDSHIP

by Carrie Hoerauf

The Stewardship Committee met and began preliminary plans for 2022. Continuing our focus on holistic stewardship, we discussed four categories of care: God's creation, God's church, God's community, and care of self. During each month of 2022, we will pay special attention to one of these categories of care. We are seeking a few people to join the Stewardship Committee who have a special interest in care of creation, church, community, or self. You can work on whichever category speaks to your heart. There is no expectation that you help with everything.

Thank you to all who turned in Estimates of Giving for 2022. If you have not already turned yours in, please put it in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Your estimate is confidential and you will not be reminded during the year.

And thank you to all who have participated with the Shoe project. As of the date of writing this article (11/21/21), 60 bags of shoes have been collected – that's 1,500 pairs. Wow!



- 1** *World AIDS Day* Join in prayer with our siblings around the world to remember all in our communities who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS. Pledge to God that we will work together to raise awareness and recommit ourselves and the church to a faithful and dedicated response.
- 2** Give thanks for Advent wreaths and other faith traditions that remember and celebrate God's dwelling among us in Jesus, God's gift of eternal life, and Jesus' enduring presence and light in the world and within us.
- 3** *International Day of Persons with Disabilities* Pray that we will grow stronger and more aware in our church's commitment to seek full inclusion and equitable participation of all people within the life of society and the church, embracing the whole person — abilities, questions, life experiences, complexities and all.
- 4** "Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation" (Psalm 25:5). Pray that God will be patient with us as we strive to be faithful followers and students of Christ; ask the Spirit to stir our hunger for understanding the word of God and reveal its implications for our daily lives.
- 5** Pray that we will be eager to share the gospel and will welcome the Spirit to use our gifts, abilities, insights and life experiences to prepare the way for others to believe in Christ.
- 6** Give thanks for the opportunities provided by the new ELCA Good Gifts catalog to respond generously to the unique needs and priorities of congregations, companion churches and partners — close to home and around the world.
- 7** Pray for congregations in your community and for ELCA congregations and ministries across the country, that we will thrive in our witness and service and will encourage one another in doing God's work in the world.
- 8** Pray for our global companions and our companion synods as we journey together during Advent, drawing on our diverse traditions and practices to focus on the coming of Jesus, the gift of salvation and our unity in the body of Christ.
- 9** Praise God for looking upon us with mercy and love, for liberating us from the consequences of human weakness and sin, and for restoring our relationship as children of God.
- 10** Reflect on your hopes and what you anticipate as a child of God; express them to God and thank God for accompanying us in times of waiting and anticipation and for remaining faithful to the promises God has made to us.
- 11** Give thanks for how our siblings in Christ observe and celebrate Advent, Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ in diverse cultures. Pray that these rich and meaningful traditions, practices and perspectives will deepen our understanding and appreciation of the gift and good news of Jesus Christ — God's sacrificial expression of love and mercy.

**12** Pray that, through the work of the Spirit in us, every aspect of our life will manifest the good fruits of love, generosity, justice, peace, service and faithfulness to the word of God.

**13** Pray for congregations and youth ministry leaders who are making decisions about participating in the ELCA Youth Gathering and for those who have decided to attend and are beginning to prepare for their faith-building experience.

**14** Remember in prayer seafarers and fishermen of all nations whose work separates them from family, friends and community for long periods of time. Pray that they will be uplifted and sustained by the assurance that they are remembered, valued, loved and always connected with their siblings in Christ, everywhere.

**15** Pray that we will be filled with “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7) and that our most burdensome worries, concerns and anxieties will be calmed and diminished.

**16** Las Posadas (“The Inns”), a tradition observed in Latin America and in some congregations in our country, remembers and reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter just before the birth of Jesus. Give thanks for his birth and remember in prayer refugees, immigrants and people everywhere who are homeless and seek shelter, rest, sanctuary and hope.

**17** Living in the promise and reality of the new covenant God has made with us in Jesus Christ, remember in prayer the words of Isaiah: “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:1-2).

**18** *International Migrants Day* Pray for our siblings who are refugees and immigrants around the world, in our country and at our borders. Ask the Spirit to fill us with generosity and renew our commitment to justice, compassion and empathy, recognizing both our unique needs and our common desire for safety and security, the best for our children and families, meaningful and life-sustaining employment, caring communities, opportunities to use our gifts and skills, and mutual acceptance and respect as children of God.

**19** Rejoice in God our Savior, who shows us love and mercy and attends to the needs of people who are poor, hungry, ill, neglected or excluded by society. Pray that God will work through us, using our unique gifts and passions to respond to, serve and embrace our neighbors in need while respecting their dignity.

**20** *Katharina von Bora Luther (1499-1552)* Remember and give thanks for the witness, leadership and service of women who help strengthen our faith, share the gospel, grow and provide leadership for the church, deepen our understanding of Scripture, and serve neighbors in need around the world.

**21** *Winter solstice* As the days get shorter in our hemisphere, pray for people of all ages who suffer depression and loneliness, especially during the holiday season; pray that they will be comforted and uplifted by their faith and the knowledge that God is ever-present and sees our suffering, loneliness and despair; and ask the Spirit to help us be attentive, caring and empathetic friends and siblings in Christ for one another.

**22** Pray that God will hear and attend to our every prayer — spoken or silent, individual or communal — and that God will restore us, strengthen our faith, guide our lives and help us respond to perplexing problems in our communities and the world.

**23** Let our prayers echo Mary's song of praise for God's power, presence and life-giving activity in the world, and for looking upon humanity with undeserved love and mercy and blessing us with the promised messiah, Jesus Christ.

**24** *Christmas Eve* What an awesome gift has been given to us in the birth of a tiny, unassuming baby — the son of God, our true Savior and the redeemer of the world. "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14)!

**25** *Christmas Day* Sing and shout prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God for living among us in the person of Jesus to help us experience and understand the good news of God's saving grace, truth and amazing love for humankind and all creation. Again, we say, "Glory to God in the highest!"

**26** Pray that our life together in the church and as siblings in Christ will help us mature in faith, understand God's word and ways, face the challenges of daily life, serve our neighbor and be confident in inviting others to believe and have faith in Jesus.

**27** Kwanzaa begins this week. Give thanks to God for the richness and significance of the traditions, cultures, values, stories, faith and leadership of our siblings of African descent.

**28** Let us join earth and the heavens in praising God, from whom all things are brought into being and imbued with life and purpose.

**29** Pray that our lives will shine brightly with the love and mercy God has shown us, so that we are clear witnesses to the gospel and bold and unconstrained in serving our neighbors in need who yearn for hope, relief and good news.

**30** In a world where anger, vengeance, division, impatience and self-interest are all too familiar, pray that we embrace together the freedom, new self and purpose that we have received in baptism, so that we, too, will take to heart the words of encouragement Paul wrote to the Christians in Colossae: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love" (Colossians 3:12-14).

**31** *New Year's Eve* Give thanks that we are new creations in Jesus Christ and that we can begin each day of every year with hope, renewed faith and restored vision for the work that God calls us to do in the world.

# December 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<i>1</i> Bible Study 2 pm via Zoom and at St. Philips <b>I Help</b>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> Worship Service 10:00 am Pastors' Forum 11:15 am	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> Advent Prayer 6:30 pm	<i>8</i> Bible Study 2 pm via Zoom and at St. Philips	<i>9</i> Property Com- mittee 10:00 am	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> Worship Service 10:00 am Pastors' Forum 11:15 am	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Advent Prayer 6:30 pm	<i>15</i> Bible Study 2 pm via Zoom and at St. Philips	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> Worship Service 10:00 am Pastors' Forum 11:15 am	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> Thomas Carman Food Pantry 3:00 pm Advent Prayer 6:30 pm	<i>22</i> Bible Study 2 pm via Zoom and at St. Philips	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Christmas Eve Services 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm	<i>25</i> Christmas
<i>26</i> Worship Service 10:00 am Pastors' Forum 11:15 am	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> Bible Study 2 pm via Zoom and at St. Philips	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> New Year's Eve	

Knight, John  
Johannsen, Bob  
Pedranti, June

December 3  
December 19  
December 29

