

The Epistle

January 2022

Giving Thanks and Looking Forward

Twenty-one and a half years ago, on July 9, 2000, a few members of St. Timothy traveled up highways 101 and 680 to attend my ordination. A little over a week later was my official start day in Monterey. Now, all these years later, I will be leaving you for the last time. Now, I will be headed up highways 101 and 680 to begin serving in Pleasanton and beginning a new phase in ministry.

As I take my leave from you, I think of all of you and how we have grown together as God's people. Think of all those festive worship services at Christmas and Easter. Think of all of those Lent soup suppers and times singing Holden Evening Prayer. Think of the rummage sales, of work days, and other opportunities of service. Think of those Bible studies and other classes. Think of all of those congregational meals and celebrations!

When I think back, I remember red carpet and floor to ceiling draperies in the sanctuary. I remember challenges with the first preschool and then another and then different challenges when we ran it ourselves. I remember working with the pastors of Bethlehem and Faith Lutheran Churches for confirmation and joint efforts to revitalize our congregations. I remember those first fellow staff members Phyllis Grahlman and Pam Lawrence and the others that followed them.

More than all that, I think of all the people who made up St. Timothy over the years. I recall those who came long before me and now rest in God's care. And I think of those who were with us for a time and then moved away, to new ventures across the country or around the globe. And I think of Nancy Opsata, who I believe served on the call committee that brought me here, who most recently passed.

I give thanks to God for all of you that have been part of this community during these years and I give thanks that I have been part of the history of this congregation. I give thanks for all we have done together for the sake of the Good News of Christ. I thank you especially for how you have supported me and my family and helped me grow over the years.

I have heard some expressions of concern over the last few weeks, worry about what might happen next. This kind of change and loss causes us grief. Even so, I want to exhort you to look to the future with confidence and hope, trusting in God who is always faithful and full of grace. There has been much to be grateful for in the past but also more to look forward to in the future. Take courage and do not lessen your efforts on behalf of the Gospel! Remember the way we know well as Christians: an end leads to a new beginning; death into resurrection.

Continued on Page 6

Inside this issue:

Updates & Reminders	3
Family Night Photos	4
Prayer Ventures	7
Calendar & Birthdays	10

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

January - November, 2021

Summary Profit & Loss

	November Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income					
Congregational Giving	\$ 13,107.30	\$ 11,326.68	\$ 113,646.14	\$ 124,733.32	\$ (11,087.18)
Outside Groups	\$ 655.00	\$ 666.67	\$ 5,510.00	\$ 7,333.33	\$ (1,823.33)
Great Beginnings	\$ 3,925.00	\$ 2,825.00	\$ 38,575.00	\$ 31,075.00	\$ 7,500.00
Campus Ministry Wages	\$ 11.30	\$ 500.00	\$ (540.87)	\$ 5,500.00	\$ (6,040.87)
PPP Forgiveness	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,603.97	\$ -	\$ 22,603.97
Miscellaneous		\$ -	\$ 136.93	\$ 6,500.00	\$ (6,363.07)
Total Income	\$ 17,698.86	\$ 15,318.35	\$ 180,474.02	\$ 169,641.65	\$ 10,832.37
				\$ -	\$ -
Expenses					
Administration	\$ 8,481.40	\$ 837.52	\$ 19,851.49	\$ 11,007.50	\$ 8,843.99
Church Staff	\$ 2,735.59	\$ 3,351.42	\$ 38,677.55	\$ 34,840.54	\$ 3,837.01
Committees				\$ -	\$ -
Education	\$ -	\$ 16.67	\$ 126.20	\$ 183.33	\$ (57.13)
Finance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 182.50	\$ 100.00	\$ 82.50
Hospitality & Welcome	\$ 32.19	\$ 16.67	\$ 359.13	\$ 183.33	\$ 175.80
Property	\$ 159.17	\$ 262.54	\$ 4,247.67	\$ 2,887.46	\$ 1,360.21
Service	\$ 12.50	\$ 1,116.26	\$ 9,345.09	\$ 12,278.74	\$ (2,933.65)
Worship and Music	\$ 376.25	\$ 133.33	\$ 2,686.13	\$ 1,466.67	\$ 1,219.46
Total Committees	\$ 580.11	\$ 1,545.47	\$ 16,946.72	\$ 17,099.53	\$ (152.81)
Loan Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Office	\$ 117.97	\$ 41.67	\$ 519.09	\$ 458.33	\$ 60.76
Pastor	\$ 8,394.34	\$ 8,539.42	\$ 92,682.09	\$ 93,933.59	\$ (1,251.50)
				\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 21,847.19	\$ 15,107.16	\$ 179,913.74	\$ 166,047.83	\$ 13,865.91
Net Operating Income	\$ (4,148.33)	\$ 211.19	\$ 560.28	\$ 3,593.82	\$ (3,033.54)

Cash on Hand

Bank Accounts	30-Nov-21	31-Oct-21
Checking	51,593.85	60206.08
Money Market	6,443.93	6443.70
ELCA Savings	25.00	25.00
Total Cash	\$ 58,062.78	\$66,674.78

Updates and Reminders

Thomas Carman Food Pantry— Will be the 3rd Tuesday, January 18 at 3:00 pm and January 29 at 8:00 am . Five people are needed. Debby-Love-Sudduth at: rd-sudd@comcast.net or 408-499-4984.

i-Help Women—Provide a dinner meal for homeless women on January 5th at 5:00 pm. Debby-Love-Sudduth at: rd-sudd@comcast.net or 408-499-4984

Property Committee— will meet on Thursday, January 13 at 10:00. Members of this committee are: Ida Barber, Jim Chinn, Jody Emerson, Jim Helgason, Bob Johannsen, Jeff Nagel, and Susan Smith,

Its Landscaping Committee is comprised of: Ida Barber, Kin Cantrell, Jody Emerson, and Susan Smith.

Council Meeting— Council Members: Adrian Johannsen, President; Jim Helgason, Vice President; Debby Love-Sudduth, Secretary; Nicole Smith & Pastor Clark.

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.



Family Night Photos



Stewardship is Caring:

CARING FOR SELF

By Carrie Hoerauf

Of the four areas of focus in “Stewardship is Caring” – church, community, earth, and self – the New Year seems like a good time to reflect on caring for self.

Self-care is a new buzzword. I like this definition from Oxford Languages: “the practice of taking action to preserve or improve one’s own health; the practice of taking an active role in protecting one’s own well-being and happiness, in particular during periods of stress.”

Self-care includes all the things you do to take care of your well-being: emotional, physical, psychological, and spiritual. When we get caught up in the busy-ness of life, it is easy to just keep working harder to get everything done. One of the most important things we can do is to stop and rest.

What does the scripture tell us about resting? Luke 5:16 tells us that Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer. Psalms 46:10 tells us, “Be still, and know that I am God.”

After learning that King Herod had ordered the death of John, Jesus and the disciples were saddened and distraught – and went by boat to a quiet place so they could rest and eat. They rested up -- and what did they do next? The feeding of the 5,000. The message here is we need to serve ourselves first in order to be well prepared to serve others.

Resting gives us the opportunity to seek God. Matthew 11:28-29 says, “Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

When faced with difficult circumstances, we often are anxious and stressed. The scripture tells us “The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in Him.”

Exercise, healthy eating, hobbies, meditation, resting – these are all ways to practice good stewardship of body and mind. While these are all helpful things on their own, the real focus is to find a way to bring us closer to God -- the real source of peace and joy.

I say goodbye over the next two weeks during a season of Epiphany, the season of Christ's revelation to us. My prayer is that you will continue to have epiphanies of Christ in the coming weeks and months and that St. Timothy will be led on new paths of mission for the sake of the Good News. May we all be led by Christ's love and peace for the sake of all God's people and creation.

In the grace and peace of Christ,

Pastor Clark

Property Committee

On Saturday, January 15, 2022, the Property Committee will be sponsoring the first Work Day of the year at the church beginning at 10:00 a.m. and lasting until approximately noon or beyond. All are invited to participate.

The focus of the morning will be weeding, trimming, and cleanup of the planting beds bordering the Upper Parking Lot. Tools, food, and refreshments will be provided. It is intended that future Work Days will be scheduled for the second Saturday each month beginning at 10:00 a.m. Come join us!

Volunteer to help Thomas Carman Food Pantry

You can provide food for needy households and individuals! Sign up for the 3rd Tuesday and 5th Saturday of the month (January 18 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm and January 29 from 8:00 - 11:00 am) loading and passing out bags at the Epiphany Lutheran and Episcopal Church at the corner of Carmel and California Avenues in Marina. Contact Debby-Love-Sudduth at [408-499-4984](tel:408-499-4984) or email Rd-Sudd@comcast.net.

Volunteer to feed i-Help Women

Provide a dinner meal for homeless women on January 5th at 5:00 pm.

Contact Debby-Love-Sudduth at [408-499-4984](tel:408-499-4984) or email Rd-Sudd@comcast.net





- 1** *New Year's Day* Ask God to ground our aspirational resolutions and ventures in the promise that, through Christ, we will live in grace and freedom, knowing we are not alone in our endeavors.
- 2** Give thanks that, through Jesus Christ, we perceive God's grace, truth, creative might and will for human-kind.
- 3** *Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* Throughout this month, pray for those victimized by human trafficking, which disproportionately affects women and girls. Pray for an end to this global tragedy, and pray that all who suffer its abuse, injustice and oppression will find freedom, healing, support and safety, especially in our communities of faith.
- 4** Ask God to bless the studies, service and travel of college and university students involved in "J-Term" experiences. Pray that they will grow in faith, wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the world, and that their experiences will inspire their vocational discernment.
- 5** Praise God for attending to the needs of humanity through us, utilizing our diverse gifts and generosity to serve our neighbors in need, everywhere.
- 6** Ask the Spirit to make us bright lights in our communities and world, sharing the good news of healing and hope in Jesus Christ and demonstrating God's unbiased love through our actions, words and influence.
- 7** Thank and praise God for restoring our relationships as children of God, so that we can live with faith, hope and freedom as new creations and siblings in Christ.
- 8** After a two-year pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program is getting ready to send volunteers out into the world again. Pray that the Spirit will guide the prayerful reflection of young adults as they discern how to respond to God's call to service and ministry with our global companions and churches.
- 9** Pray that everything we do during our baptismal journey in this world will point to God, who has redeemed us and redirected our lives through the birth, life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus — our Savior, teacher, guide and friend.
- 10** Continue to pray for healing and unity in our nation, and ask God to draw us closer to our neighbors, especially those we perceive as different or opposed to our perspectives, beliefs or values. Pray that we will grow in understanding and respect for one another and will work together for the well-being of our communities and neighbors in need.
- 11** Give thanks to God for our companions and partners in ministry, especially the Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Network, and our full communion partners.

12 Give thanks for the daily, life-giving work of the Spirit, which creates, strengthens and sustains our devotion to Jesus Christ. Pray that the Spirit will renew us and empower us to live as people of faith, gathered and equipped to love and serve our neighbor, bear hope into the world and share the gospel with all people.

13 Join our global companion churches in prayers of thanksgiving and hope for the scholarship awardees of ELCA International Women Leaders, which supports the education of women around the world through seminars, south-to-south exchanges, in-country study programs, and degree programs at ELCA colleges and universities.

14 Praise God, who is mighty and eternal, the creator of all that exists and the source of our blessings and strength.

15 Pray for our neighbors who are struggling with or recovering from COVID-19, discovering the long-term effects that will impact their lives or grieving the loss of friends or loved ones. Continue to pray for the well-being and renewal of health care workers dedicated to serving others in times of illness and vulnerability.

16 By turning water into wine during the wedding at Cana, Jesus taught us how deeply God is engaged in every aspect of our human life — our joys, worries, celebrations, problems and sorrows. Praise God for knowing us so well!

17 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day* Remember in prayer the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his bold work, ministry, vision and sacrifice, which revealed all people to be children of God deserving respect, opportunity, equality and freedom from unjust laws. Ask God's help in righting the injustices that continue in our nation and throughout the world; pray for the wisdom, humility, courage and persistence needed to welcome all people into our church, society and institutions.

18 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* Throughout this week, pray with our siblings in Christ from diverse cultures, traditions and confessions around the world for the unity of the church, so that, together, we will shine a bright light of hope, healing and good news on our troubled world.

19 Give thanks for the variety of gifts manifest among our siblings in Christ and for the unity we have in Jesus, which enables us to accomplish together much more than we could on our own.

20 Thank God for our special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find new strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times.

21 “How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings” (Psalm 36:7). Thank God for surrounding us with love and mercy on which we can rely.

22 Pray that the Spirit will inspire and lead people to respond to God's call to service through ELCA Global Mission as it seeks missionaries, volunteers and interns to walk alongside our global companions.

23 Give thanks that Jesus is our true Savior, light and hope — the Son of God, who lived among us and continues to dwell with us through the Spirit.

24 January is when outdoor ministry leaders begin recruiting staff for our summer camps. Pray that the Spirit will inspire young adults to respond to the call to serve in our outdoor ministries across the country and to share their faith and enthusiasm with campers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

25 Ask God to help us understand that force, vengeance, wealth disparity and dominance over others are inconsistent with God's justice and power, and that these are revealed to us through Jesus' life and teaching, which exemplify humility, compassion, generosity, service, love without prejudice and advocacy for neighbors in need.

26 Rejoice and give thanks to God for uniting us in the body of Christ, which welcomes our diverse gifts, experiences, questions, complexities, ethnicities and cultures.

27 Pray for victims of violence and their families, that God will ease their pain, suffering and grief; pray for those who commit murder or other acts of violence, that God's grace will transform their hearts and lives.

28 Pray for our leaders and congregations, which create opportunities for us to study Scripture, share our questions and thoughts in conversation, and affirm one another's gifts for living the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.

29 Pray for the ministry and impact of Lutheran Services in America, a nationwide network of 300 Lutheran social ministry organizations that serve 6 million people each year, using the gifts and skills of 250,000 paid staff and 150,000 volunteers.

30 Pray that our faith and confidence in Christ will embolden us to be public bearers of good news, hope and wholeness for all people, even in the face of intimidating challenges, criticism or skepticism.

31 Pray that the Spirit will help us understand and practice the qualities of love that God has shown us and that the apostle Paul commends to members of the church in Corinth: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6).

January 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<i>1</i> New Year's Day
<i>2</i> Worship Service 10:00 am	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Bible Study 2 pm i-Help Women 5:00 pm	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i> Worship Service 10:00 am	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Bible Study 2 pm via Zoom and at St. Philips	<i>13</i> Property Com- mittee 10:00 am	<i>14</i> Game Day 1:00 pm	<i>15</i> Work Day 10:00 am
<i>16</i> Worship Service 10:00 am	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Thomas Car- man Food Pan- try 3:00 pm	<i>19</i> Bible Study 2 pm via Zoom and at St. Philips	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> Worship Service 10:00 am	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Bible Study 2 pm via Zoom and at St. Philips	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> Thomas Car- man Food Pan- try 8:00 am
<i>30</i> Worship Service 10:00 am	<i>31</i>					

Rodina, Margaret
Knight, Marjorie
Snyder-Pires, Lucille

January 22
January 25
January 26

