

The Epistle

August 2022

SHARING GOD'S LOVE
TOGETHER

August 2022 Pastor's Column

As we enter our third month together, I would like to share a few updates about what I've been doing and what I am planning to do. As you know, June and July threw a curve ball as my husband, Chad, recovered from the bicycle accident that occurred June 9. He continues to recover from multiple injuries, and we continue to be deeply grateful for the prayers and concern.

The majority of my time since June I has been spent in three areas: Worship, Administration/Technology, and the Community Garden. I have also had the opportunity to visit some St. Timothy folks and plan to do more of that in the coming months.

WORSHIP

Worship planning, sermon preparation, and leading worship tends to take any pastor about 10 hours a week. I have deeply enjoyed serving in a setting where we sing the liturgy. Both of the settings we have been using were new to me, so it has been a joy to learn them! My gratitude goes out to all who are a part of preparing for and leading worship.

ADMINISTRATION/TECHNOLOGY

While this category is far from glitzy, it is an important part of running a congregation. Council meetings, emails, reviewing financials, writing columns like this one, and technology are part of the larger whole. Recently, I changed the office emails and system to a Google Workspace (we were using a Microsoft Network), and you may notice Melody and I smiling a bit about this. Google Workspace is easier to navigate and is free. We continue to use Microsoft Office software (also free) for documents. Chad and I also worked together to enable the copier to scan documents and send those scans as emails. The copier had the capability, but was tangled up in the world of technology. Now, the copier, the internet, and the internal network are all on speaking terms.

Many of you have heard me say I'm a church nerd. I am also an administration nerd! Part of my role as interim pastor is to review the congregation's documents (Constitution, Bylaws, policies, etc.) and work with you to update them. In the coming months, we will turn some of our focus to this category in earnest.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

One immediate priority when I began serving at St. Timothy was to address disagreements related to St. Timothy's Community Garden. I have met with several people over the last two months, including several of the gardeners, the preschool director and staff, Council, and other

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St. Timothy members (if you have input to offer, please let me know!). Additionally, I have read through the emails related to this situation and also reviewed St. Tim documents relating to preschools dating back to 2004.

Briefly, questions arose in 2021 related to the use of the garden space that is shared between the Community Garden and Great Beginnings Preschool. The plot of land where the garden resides has been a part of the preschool's leases since 2008. Perspectives vary about how and when the area is used. Tensions have risen as the disagreement has continued, and the hope is to bring some clarity and resolution to the situation.

SYNOD NEWS

You may have heard that Megan Rohrer resigned as bishop of our synod in June. On July 10, Interim Bishop Claire Burkat began serving in the Sierra Pacific Synod. She served 12 years as bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (2006-2018) and is respected for her abilities and leadership. Sometime in the fall, Bishop Claire will meet with the congregations in our conference. As plans evolve, I will be sure to share them with you.

PLEASE REACH OUT!

I welcome conversation and questions. I will be in the office most Mondays and Thursdays as well as after worship on Sundays. Appointments on other days are often a possibility, too. Please do not hesitate to reach out. The best ways to reach me are at sandiolsondecker@gmail.com and by text or call at 831-262-6222.

Still and always in one Peace,

Pastor Sandi

Calendar for Worship Assistants

Sign up in the office to help

Aug 2022	Sept 2022
August 7, 2022 Usher: Matt Schulz & Debby Love-Suddeth Altar Care: Stone Family Assistant Minister: Cantor(s): Adrian & Bob Johannsen Sound: Jim Helgason Video: Jon Gerdes Counters: Refreshments:	September 4, 2022 Usher: Altar Care: Assistant Minister: Cantor(s): Sound: Video: Counters: Refreshments:
August 14, 2022 Usher: Debby Love-Suddeth & Lucille Snyder Pires Altar Care: Assistant Minister: Cantor(s): Jon Gerdes Sound: Jim Helgason Video: Counters: Refreshments: Helen Edwards	September 11, 2022 Usher: Altar Care: Assistant Minister: Cantor(s): Sound: Video: Counters: Refreshments:
August 21, 2022 Usher: Debby Love-Suddeth & Lucille Snyder Pires Altar Care: Stone Family Assistant Minister: Cantor(s): Adrian & Bob Johannsen Sound: Video: Jon Gerdes Counters: Refreshments: Matt Schulz	September 18, 2022 Usher: Altar Care: Assistant Minister: Cantor(s): Sound: Video: Counters: Refreshments:
August 28, 2022 Usher: Debby Love-Suddeth & Lucille Snyder Pires Altar Care: Assistant Minister: Matt Schulz Cantor(s): Sound: Jim Helgason Video: Jon Gerdes Counters: Refreshments: Dee Holland	September 25, 2022 Usher: Altar Care: Assistant Minister: Cantor(s): Sound: Video: Counters: Refreshments:

The Garden Picnic

The garden picnic held after church on July 3rd brought members and friends of St. Timothy together for fun, food, and connection in a safe, outdoor environment. Turn out was strong, with thirty or more adults and children attending. Many of those attending commented on how much an event like the picnic was needed to bring people of St. Tim's together in celebrating our having come through the isolating times of Covid and starting a new era with the interim pastor Sandi Olsen Decker and her family. The picnic lasted for about two hours from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The main course consisted of grilled hamburgers, polish sausages, and hot dogs. Potluck dishes included potato salad, baked beans, and various salads including fresh greens from the garden. Chocolate and vanilla ice cream, in cones and dishes, with sauce and other trimmings, was enjoyed from beginning to end. Attendees also enjoyed playing bean bag toss on the lawn and strolling around the garden viewing the berries, tree fruits, and other garden produce, some of which was ripe for picking and enjoying on the spot! Thanks to Jodi Emerson and Matt Schulz for organizing the event, to Dorothy Kirk for making the calls to predict attendance and see that enough food and supplies would be on hand, to Dorothy's son in law, Greg Sondern, for doing the grilling, and to practically everyone else who helped at the end to clean up and return chairs and tables to the social hall. Apologies for not having pictures of the event. We were all enjoying ourselves too much to remember to take pictures!

Property Committee

Property Committee will meet on
Thursday, August 11 at 10:00 a.m

SAVE THE DATE



Worship Service and BBQ Potluck

Sunday, October 16, 2022

11 AM – 2 PM

Casanova Oak Knoll Park

735 Ramona Avenue, Monterey
(Corner of Ramona and Euclid)

Join your friends to worship and pray
St. Philips and St. Timothy's members can play
Bring meat to cook and a dish to share
Plates, cups, napkins, and forks will be there

There's lots to do at this park in the sun
Be sure to join in and have some fun
More info will come as the date draws near
Add this to your calendar for later this year



1 Pray for musicians and worship leaders as they develop and broaden their skills and explore existing and new worship resources at the Augsburg Fortress Summer Music Clinics.

2 Pray that we will look to God's wisdom as we ponder the world, our purpose in life and how we might live with one another in global community.

3 Give thanks to God for the ELCA International Leadership Development Program, which provides financial support for the short- and long-term academic training of established and emerging leaders in global companion churches and institutions.

4 "Now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another" (Colossians 3:8-9a). Give thanks that, through our baptism and the ceaseless work of the Spirit, we are being transformed in every way to reflect the image of God in which we were created.

5 Pray for the leadership, wisdom and well-being of our presiding bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, as we and our siblings in Christ try to unify this church in a world of ever-evolving complexity, conflict and division.

6 Give thanks for the chance to combat hunger around the world through ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge, and for the generous donors matching our gifts to reach the fundraising goal of \$525,000.

7 Praise God that we find our true treasure in God's love and mercy given through Jesus Christ, a relationship that endures for all eternity.

8 Pray for voting members, leaders, guests and staff of the churchwide organization participating in the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. Ask the Spirit to guide and inspire their decision-making and spiritual discernment together on behalf of the entire church and to strengthen and unify them for doing God's work in the world.

9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples There are over 476 million Indigenous people living in 90 countries around the world. They have unique languages, traditions, cultures, knowledge systems, worldviews and systems for governing themselves. Pray that we will value them as children of God; respect their rights, freedoms, dignity and lands; and ensure their right to participate fully in political and economic activities. With repentant hearts, ask God's forgiveness for our harmful and unjust actions and policies throughout history, for taking what was not ours, and for forcing our own language, culture, religious beliefs, worldview and authority upon Indigenous peoples. Pray that we will work to rectify injustices and inequities, develop new relationships of trust and respect, and do the work necessary for reconciliation and healing.

10 Ask the Spirit to bolster us in praying for worldwide peace and reconciliation and in supporting people, ministries and organizations committed to making peace, providing relief, bearing hope and defending the vulnerable.

11 Pray that God will equip, inspire and sustain new synod bishops for serving in diverse contexts across the ELCA, and pray that they will find support, care and encouragement for their ministry and personal lives.

12 International Youth Day Give thanks for the gifts, wisdom and perspectives of youth around the world, and remember in prayer young people who live in areas of war and conflict, suffer poverty and hunger, long for educational opportunities, provide care for their siblings and parents, and live in hope for a better future.

13 Remember in prayer and give thanks for nurses, who use their gifts and skills in global mission, responding to disasters and serving their communities. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association and its work supporting and equipping parish nurses, helping congregations develop new health ministries and encouraging people to pursue nursing as a vocation.

14 Followers of Christ can suffer criticism and opposition. Ask God for courage, boldness and patience to share the gospel and serve our neighbors in need; pray that, when people oppose or criticize us, the Spirit will give us the confidence to respond with respect, love and humility.

15 Give thanks to God that, following a two-year pause due to COVID-19, Young Adults in Global Mission will send 25 new volunteers into the world to serve alongside our global companions and churches.

16 Ask God to help us discern between those who speak and teach God's word faithfully and those who deceive others by preaching and prophesying for personal gain, recognition or power.

17 Give thanks for the chance to enjoy the awe and beauty of God's creation in wilderness areas and city, state and national parks. Pray that, working together, we will make these treasures more accessible to people of all ages, abilities and economic circumstances.

18 Remember and give thanks for people now and throughout history who have inspired and strengthened our faith, helped us to understand God's word and ways, encouraged our service and witness in the world, and influenced our lives and actions through their fearless pursuit of justice and healing for all people.

19 Give thanks for the gifts, leadership, service and generosity of the laity of our church, who respond to God's call to serve our communities of faith, our society and our world.

20 Pray for companions and care providers who help people deal with illness, disability or the demands of aging. Ask that they will find the spiritual, physical and emotional strength necessary for their work, and that they will be renewed by rest, sabbath, self-care and the support they receive from others.

21 Ask God for forgiveness when, intentionally or not, we have discouraged total inclusion and involvement of all people in the church or society. Pray for an open mind and a willingness to listen to the stories and needs of those who are excluded or feel unwelcome; ask the Spirit to unite us in changing our practices, traditions, facilities and institutions to remove all barriers and deterrents to full inclusion and participation.

22 Pray for the young people gathering from a variety of backgrounds, churches and geographic regions for the World Council of Churches Stewards Program assembly in Germany. Ask God to bless their time together, nurture ecumenical unity and understanding, and inspire them to bring their experiences and ecumenical enthusiasm back home to their local contexts.

23 Give thanks for the ministry of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA, which supports and encourages professional and volunteer leaders who advance lifelong faith-formation ministries through congregations and partner organizations.

24 Express awe, reverence and thanks for the new covenant God has made with humanity and sealed in Jesus Christ, an enduring covenant of unconditional love, forgiveness and restoration of our relationship with God.

25 Pray for students beginning the new school year, especially those feeling uncertain, hesitant, insecure or fearful. Ask the Spirit for opportunities to care for students with tutoring, mentoring, counseling, family support and safe programs before and after school.

26 “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love” (Psalm 103:8). Bless the Lord and give thanks!

27 The end of summer is a time of transition for many people in seasonal jobs. Pray that they will be appreciated for their skills and service, find employment and housing, have consistent and affordable access to insurance and health care, and be welcomed and supported by communities and congregations wherever they go.

28 Pray that we might not rate ourselves above others because of their life circumstances, race, ability, appearance, education, income, religion, social status or political affiliation. Ask the Spirit to fill us with respect, thoughtfulness and compassion for our neighbor, no matter who they are.

29 Remember in prayer teachers, classroom assistants, student teachers, counselors, coaches, school staff and school administrators. Ask the Spirit to sustain their enthusiasm and inspire their wisdom, creativity, patience and concern for students and their parents.

30 Paul’s instructions to the Hebrews couldn’t be more timely: “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:1-2). Pray that we will turn to Scripture and the wisdom shared by our communities of faith for guidance on how to live and serve our neighbors in these times of deep division and conflict.

31 Pray that the fall programs and community ministries of our congregations will flourish, welcome guests, inspire faith, spread the gospel, respond to our neighbors’ needs and equip people for doing God’s work in the world.

August 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3 Bible Study 2 pm Help Women 5:15 pm	4	5	6
7 Worship 10:00 am	8	9	10 Bible Study 2 pm	11 Property Com- mittee 10 am	12	13
14 Worship 10:00 am	15	16	17 Bible Study 2 pm	18	19	20
21 Worship 10:00 am	22	23	24 Bible Study 2 pm	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:00 am	29	30	31 Bible Study 2 pm			



Smith, Owen
Dallmann, Connie
Barber, Ida
Cantrell, Gayla
Gibfried, Marilyn

August 6
August 13
August 17
August 26
August 27

Boelter, Ia
Johannsen, Adrian
Johnston, Michael
Smith, Amelie

August 27
August 29
August 29
August 31