

# NEWSLETTER



ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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December 2017 / January 2018 A.D.  
THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we enter December we are entering a brand new church year. The scripture readings for December and January take us back to God's promises to send a Savior, then to the Savior Christ the Lord coming into the world, and then to the Savior Jesus beginning His work to save all people.

In getting some thoughts together for our 3 midweek Advent services (on December 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00 p.m.), I came across an old clipping that I had saved from 37 years ago. I read through it again for the first time in probably 30 years. It's a poem about many of the events of the fuller Christmas story. I enjoyed reading and think about its words. I hope that you will too.

## A Christmas Alphabet

**A** is for the **ANGEL** shining bright, telling of Jesus that first Christmas night.  
**B** is for **BETHLEHEM**, crowded and old, the **BIRTHPLACE** of Jesus, by the prophet foretold.  
**C** is for **CATTLE**; their manger His bed, their trough for His washing, God's star overhead.  
**D** is for **DAVID**. His long-ago throne God promised forever to Jesus alone.  
**E** is for **EAST**, where men saw the star, and rode on their camels to follow it far.  
**F** is for **FRANKINCENSE**, myrrh, and fine gold that the wise men gave Jesus. (In Matthew it's told.)  
**G** is for **GOD**, who so loves every one that He sent us from heaven His own beloved Son.  
**H** is for **HEROD**, whose murderous schemes were told to the wise men, and Joseph, in dreams.  
**I** is for **INFANT**, taken by night with His mother, far from the wicked King's sight.  
**J** is for **JOSEPH**, quiet and just, who obeyed all God's orders with absolute trust.  
**K**'s for "The **KING** of the Jews" to be. "But we'll worship Him now", said the wise men three.  
**L** is for **LOVE** that brought Him to earth and made Him for ever our Brother by birth.  
**M** is for **MARY** His **MOTHER**, so brave in believing God faithful, and mighty to save.  
**N**'s for **NIGHT**, most holy and still, when heaven proclaimed peace -- to men of good will.  
**O** is **OMEGA**; it tells Jesus' station -- with Alpha -- beyond and before all creation.  
**P** is for **PROPHETS** who saw Jesus' story in visions of Bethlehem, Calvary, and glory.  
**Q** tells how **QUICKLY** the shepherds who heard hastened to act on the heavenly word.  
**R** says, "**REJOICE!**" with God's friends old and new - Mary, the shepherds, the wise men and - you!  
**S** means **SALVATION**, prepared by the Lord in the **SAVIOR** whom Simeon and Anna adored.  
**T** says to **TELL** the good **TIDINGS** to all, like the shepherds, who told of the Child in the stall.  
**U** stands for **US**, for to **US** God has given the "Child" born of Mary, the "Son" sent from heaven.  
**V** means the **VIRGIN**, from earliest ages, pictured in stars, and in prophecy's pages.  
**W** is for **WONDERFUL**. That's the Lord's name, for with **WONDERFUL WORKS** and **WORDS** He came.  
**X** is for "**CHRIST**" when in Greek it is read. He's your Savior and Lord, the angel said.  
**Y** is for "**YES**" to all of God's ways like Mary, whose "**YES**" fill her spirit with praise.  
**Z** is for **ZEAL** that burned in God's Son from His childhood years till His work was done.

If **OUR** hearts truly in Him belong, He becomes our salvation, strength, and song.

Pauline C. Bormann (printed: PULPIT HELPS, December, 1980)

A very blessed Christmas to each of you in the name of your Savior who is Christ the Lord! May our wonderful heavenly Father continue to bless and keep us in the new year of 2018!

May the love of the Lord Jesus always be in your hearts!

Pastor Richard E. Flath ( [pastor\\_r\\_flath@msn.com](mailto:pastor_r_flath@msn.com) ); H: 360-568-6580; W: 425-743-2323; C: 425-210-1795 )

# LWML NOTES

## LWML MISSION MITES

are collected on the fourth Sunday of



every month. Please bring yours on December 24 and January 28.

Donations will be collected during the church service when you come to the front for communion.



*SERVE THE LORD  
WITH GLADNESS*

Psalm 100:2

Please note:

Items and events concerning the **Lutheran Women's Missionary League** will continue to appear in the newsletter and in the Sunday bulletin

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## Fellowship News

### Mites

Mites for projects of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League are still being collected during the worship service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. An oversized Mite Box will be placed before our altar to receive our generous donations. For over 60 years, mites have been gathered in many congregations across our Synod to support various mission ventures locally and around the world. We thank the Lord that over the years pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters (as well cash) have added up to accomplish much for the Kingdom of God.

### Small Mite Boxes

If needed, small mite boxes are available in the Narthex for your monthly collecting of coins.

### Red mesh stocking project

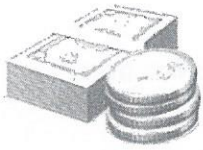
This monthly coin collecting project will be concluding on December 10, 2017. Your coins will be gathered together with those of fellow church members. The funds will go to special Christmas gifts to those needy in the congregation and /or to local charities.

Then in January of the new year, the red mesh stocking project for 2018 will begin! Ask Grace for a red mesh stocking if you would like to be a part of this social ministry project next year. Please put a few coins into your stocking each month. Then you will be asked to bring it to church in December 2018.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kits

One 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit is kept in the draws near the mailboxes in the Narthex. The other is in the Fellowship Hall closet where kitchen supplies are stored. Ice-packs are in the basement refrigerator's freezer in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

## Church Council Report – Mel Suelzle



**October 31st** marked the end of our fourth month of our fiscal year 2018. The financial results for this point of the fiscal year are shown below. Our income was slightly better than our plan at 101% of our budget. This resulted from all types of contributions and income but EXCLUDES the income from the rental agreement for use of our parking on weekdays. Expenses were under our budgeted amounts by 1% or \$139. As result our income after expenses was \$337 above our plan for the first four months of our fiscal year. A good start to the year.

### Mid-Year Financial Report for FY2018 July – October

Income	Budget	Actual		Remaining \$\$
Worship Service Offerings	27,381	27,481	100%	-40
Other	800	959	120%	-159
Facility Use Donations	720	720	100%	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28,901</b>	<b>29,099</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>-198</b>
Expense				
Elders	14,427	13,838	96%	590
Trustees	5,221	5,634	108%	-412
Council	2,824	2,851	101%	-27
Administration	1,504	1,678	112%	-174
Worship & Music	2,487	2,176	88%	-27
Education	0	19	--	-19
Fellowship	50	202	404%	152
Social Ministry	0	0	--	0
Stewardship	150	124	83%	26
Evangelism	282	284	100%	-2
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>26,946</b>	<b>26,807</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>19,55</b>	<b>2,292</b>	<b>117%</b>	<b>337</b>

### Security Measures at STLC

During the past year a number of men's group projects have been completed that enhance the security of our church. We have greatly improved the exterior lighting with LED lights in our parking lot and the recently installed LED lights on the rear of the building to replace the old and defective mercury vapor lighting. In response to 2 break-ins we have installed several deadbolt door locks, and security panels on windows that could be used to access the building.

Most recently the Elders have decided to initiate the policy of locking the front doors shortly after services have begun. Ushers will open the door for any one coming after the doors are locked.

These measures seem only prudent given the two break-ins we experienced and other tragic events we all read about with increasing frequency these days.

## Church Council Report – Mel Suelzle (continued)

### Office Painting

Many thanks to **Gary Eneberg, Lenn Gorsuch and Rodger Reinig** for their help in painting the office area. This area was neglected for many years and has benefited greatly from a fresh coat of paint and repair of the window coverings.

### A New Roof for God's house

Our reroofing project is well underway and will be completed soon. Many have commented favorably on the darker charcoal color chosen for this project. The decision to also do the Narthex allowed us to consider a color change. This project includes some necessary repairs to the gutters especially on the Education Building which were wooden and some sections needed replacement. Once the project is completed our minor leaks in the Sanctuary will be gone and we can schedule a Men's group project to paint the Sanctuary walls. We hope to get the completed before Easter 2108.

### Advent Plans

Advent begins on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. In preparation we will be decorating the Church on December 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 10:00 a.m. The Men's group will be on hand and welcome any other church members that would like to pitch in and prepare our church for the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Soup suppers will be held prior to Advent services on December 6, 13, 20 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The men's group will host at least one of these dates. If any other groups or persons would like to host a dinner. Please let a Council member or Pastor know asap. Midweek Advent services begin at 7:00 p.m.

### Reformation 500 Celebration

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, many from our congregation joined the 2300+ who attended the Reformation Service in Redmond, WA. Everyone was very impressed with the wonderful service to give special honor to the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation by Martin Luther. This two hour long service was very well done and appropriate for such a momentous occasion. Of special note was the performance of the 200 voice choir. The large and talented group produced some very moving and wonderful singing. We especially want to thank **Pastor's family members, Sandy Flath, their daughter and granddaughter** for participating and representing St. Timothy in this very special event.

Organizing and putting on a huge affair such as this is a lot of work. The LMS group is to be commended in their effort and the results in arranging this nice event. Unfortunately, the costs of such an event can be difficult to predict. We have been advised that the event contributions were short of the amount needed by over \$20,000. Previously, STLC donated \$500 to support this event.

If members wish to make an additional contribution, they can do so with a designated offering to in our plate on December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> services. Or if you prefer, you can send your contribution directly to: Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest, 7040 36<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Seattle, WA, 98115.

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

**Please Remember in Your Prayers:**

**Our homebound members:**

Barbara; Wilma; Millie; Gertrud; Alex

**Folks with Health Concerns:**

Major; Steve; Wilma; Doug; Thirza; Liese  
Family members and friends: John; Ava;  
Jeff; Logan; Todd; David; Betty; Katie

**Those with Birthdays:**

December 6 – Laura Washabaugh  
8 – Amanda Nisbet  
12 – Gertrud Schulz  
23 – Orville Bodenstab

January 14 – Karen Herrick

**Those with a Wedding Anniversary:**

December 28 – John & Karen Herrick  
30 – Pastor & Sandy Flath

January 14 – Willie & Liese Whitfield

Please inform Pastor Flath if any birthdays and/or wedding anniversaries have been overlooked. Thank you!

## LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Listen to:

### THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Sundays

6:00 a.m. – 1320 AM KXRO  
6:30 a.m. – 880 AM KIXI  
7:00 a.m. – 1380 AM KRKO  
7:00 a.m. – 107.3 FM KAWZ  
7:00 a.m. – 105.3 FM KCMS  
9:30 a.m. – 1180 AM KLAY



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### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck Coming Soon

The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck is scheduled for December 31, 2017, following the Sunday morning worship service.

The theme for the potluck is:

“New Year’s 2018”

## OUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER IS ONLINE

The St. Timothy monthly newsletter and calendar is available online! To catch up on current news, events, and see what we have scheduled in this month’s calendar, please visit:

[www.sainttimothylutheran.net](http://www.sainttimothylutheran.net)

Let us know if you prefer to read your St. Timothy news online, and we will print one less copy – email us at:  
[stlc\\_office@frontier.com](mailto:stlc_office@frontier.com)

## February / March NEWSLETTER

Articles and Calendar information need to be submitted by

**Tuesday, January 23, 2018!**

Please have all information printed or handwritten and place in the NEWSLETTER mailbox, OR hand it to Pastor Flath, OR send it via e-mail to [stlc.office@frontier.net](mailto:stlc.office@frontier.net).

Please let us know if we have missed your birthday or anniversary. Thanks! 😊

## Call Committee Update -- November 20, 2017

The Call Committee has been meeting a couple of times a month since September. The Call Committee consists of representatives of the Church Council, the Elders and members of the congregation. Karen H got the group going with some structure and organization for both the group mechanics and our purpose. At that first meeting, Janet A and Laura W were selected as the co-chairs for the group. Kim R is doing the secretarial work. Pastor Flath is guiding us through this process together with Pastor Malone (our Circuit Visitor Pastor).

The committee is going through the process to prepare to call a new pastor using the District Call Process Checklist for Congregations. The first substantial steps involved completing the "Congregational Self Study". This document includes information for both the District and prospective candidates such as the size and make up of our congregation. It also includes information about our financial, spiritual and social strengths and weaknesses and our community. In one part we needed to include information about what we would value in our next pastor. To be able to complete this section we spent considerable time reviewing and discussing what we would consider the top qualities, abilities and interests that Saint Timothy would like in a pastor from a list of 33 qualities. We ranked and ordered them and came up with a 'top ten' list to include in the Self Study. The list included things like: Preaching content, assimilation of new members, disciple (helping people grow in their faith), worship and teaching strengths, people skills, initiative, leadership and others. Discerning our values is an important task and the Call Committee was very thoughtful and had really good discussions surrounding this topic.

At our most recent meeting we looked at two different demographic studies that were done in our area. Each of these studies include information about our community (the area that geographically surround our church). Part of the Congregational Self Study is about the community our church resides in so this information was timely and helpful for us to be able to fill out this part of the Self Study. If you are interested in seeing the demographic studies – they are available to share either in print format or electronically. Just ask a committee member! These are a little complicated and quite lengthy but they include very detailed information about the ages, ethnicity, religious affiliation, belief systems, life concerns, income, education, children, and more. Some of the information was surprising. For example: more than 20% of people in our community believe that Jesus was just a good moral teacher and no more. We have a lot of work to do! This is really interesting information and hopefully will be really useful down the road too.

We are currently scheduling a couple of meetings each month. Let a Call Committee member know if you have any questions or concerns. We welcome input!

For the Call Committee, Janet A

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

## BIBLE STUDIES AT ST. TIMOTHY

### Sunday Morning at 9:00 AM -

We are studying the book of **Jude**, led by Pastor Flath, in the Fellowship Hall.

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study -

We continue a study of the book of Proverbs Wednesdays at 9:30 - 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. This class is led by Pastor Flath. Both men and women are invited to dig deeper into the Word of God with their brothers and sisters in Christ.



**Issues, Etc.**

Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

## TALK RADIO FOR RECOVERING EVANGELICALS....

You can listen to interviews on various topics, groups, individuals, and more. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen to what you want when you want at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

## St. Timothy Prayer

### Suggestions



- 1) Pray for those without saving faith in Jesus Christ
- 2) Pray for those who are traveling to visit loved ones and friends
- 3) Pray that St. Timothy may continue to be a light of hope in this world of sin and death
- 4) Pray for the spread of the Gospel all over the world
- 5) Pray for a thankful heart for of the blessings that God has blessed you with
- 6) Pray for those who serve in the Armed Forces and in all the other protecting agencies in our land

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* **Romans 12:12**



## St. Timothy Lutheran Church

*Come Celebrate The Birth  
of Our Savior*

December 13 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> Advent	7 PM
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve	10 AM
Candlelight Service	6 PM
December 25 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Day	10 AM

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