



NEWSLETTER

SAINT TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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October 2020

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS ON THE PASSING TIMES

"It is not simply to be taken for granted that the Christian has the privilege of living among other Christians."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the early months of this year, when the church was unable to gather with one another it reminded me of Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together*, and the necessity for Christians to be in community together. In fact, leading a Christian life is to be in community with other Christians. Bonhoeffer writes, "Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ." Jesus Christ's incarnation and life on earth is a testament to community, a physical community.

Christ came into the world with a body, taking on our human nature, a body like ours with a soul, and affirming to us that God cares about physical presence and relationship as much as the spiritual. The bonds of brotherhood and friendship are more easily found and formed when Christians are together. Jesus Christ's resurrection shows us again his grace is not exclusively concerned with our spiritual health and life, but our physical life as well. The resurrection is Jesus Christ remaining in a physical body, so we too might enjoy our physical life. We need the community of Christians to be present with one another.

Personal devotions and even online worship are useful, especially considering the situation we are in today. Still yet, Christians need to be in fellowship with brothers and sisters. Isolation reveals to us that the Christ in our own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of a brother or sister. Your heart is uncertain, but your fellow-Christian is sure. Not because of their maturity in faith or holiness they may possess; rather, it is what they are able to draw out of you, your faith in Jesus Christ. The goal of all Christian communities is that they meet one another as bringers of salvation.

Christian fellowship is not an ideal, but a divine reality. We are not striving to make a Christian community based on our notion of what Christian community ought to look like. God has given you your community here at Saint Timothy, and it is with our brothers and sisters that we are blessed with something good. We do not complain of what God does not give us, rather we thank God for the gifts he does give us. Giving thanks for what has been given to us is not about you living a life of gratitude. Instead, we recognize that in front of us is something good coming from God and we do not wish for what we think is better. What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and glorious to God. Christian community is not an ideal we must realize; it is a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.

I am grateful to be able to participate with you. The difficulty for me I settle in is the inability to share in our fellowship to the fullest. We continue to walk through these uncharted circumstances. Prayerfully, the doctors, experts and professionals will learn and discover ways to diminish the virus's impact. It seems like it will be some time until we can fully experience our physical fellowship and, personally, I would enjoy seeing your faces.

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Even amidst everything going on, we are still privileged to do what we can do. Worship continues with our physical presence, and executed with great care. Bible classes are slowly brought back into the building in accordance with the guidelines set out by our governor. The ladies' and men's groups find clever ways to engage in community. And, the members of the prayer team continue to support Saint Timothy by communicating with our family and upholding members of our community with their prayers. We are grateful we are not alone, and have opportunities to do life together, even though we are doing things differently. The more clearly we learn to recognize that the ground and strength and promise of all our fellowship is in Jesus Christ alone, the more serenely will we think of our fellowship and pray and hope for it. It is not the experience of Christian fellowship, but solid and certain faith in fellowship that holds us together. Through Christ alone do we have access to one another, joy in one another and fellowship with one another. Moving forward into these new surroundings, I look forward to sharing in Christ's fellowship with you. Avail yourself in a life together.

"Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete."-2 John 12

In Christ's love,

Pastor Berry

Rev. Sean Berry

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FELLOWSHIP NEWS

EDUCATION AT SAINT TIMOTHY

Sunday Morning Bible Class is going through the Gospel according to John, one of the 4 Gospel accounts. When talking about the 4 Gospels; Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known to be part of the Synoptic Gospels. While all 4 stories each report Jesus's life and corroborate at various turns, the Synoptic Gospels are different. They include many of the same stories, often in similar sequence and in similar or sometimes identical wording. John, however, is not one of the Synoptic Gospels. John tells us a completely different side of Jesus Christ's life and ministry. In Bible Class we are reading John for John and not making him fit in with the other Gospels. What is the story John is telling that is different from the other 3 Gospels? Join us every Sunday at 9 AM as we discover what it looks like to follow Christ according to John's Gospel, and share the Light and Life in our lives.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class will start meeting again in October and through November. The topic we will go through is appropriate to the season. With a Presidential election approaching and many other concerns going on in the natural world it is an ideal time to walk through Luther's Theology of the Two Realms/Kingdoms. What role do we play as people of the Spiritual and Temporal realm, the visible and invisible world? The topic is significant as Christians in sometimes trying times. Every Wednesday, for 8 weeks, we will explore things such as our responsibilities to church and to the world, church and state, politics, work, and family. Consider joining us the first Wednesday in October at 9:30 AM as we talk about not only religion, but also politics. Fun! I'm sure the discussion will make Thanksgiving dinner all the more pleasant.

PRAYER TEAM

Prayer team takes prayer requests to provide prayer support for members of the congregation, friends and our community. Together, the teams prays through the prayers requested at Saint Timothy. Contact confidentially Patsy Simon or any member of the team if you would like to offer up a petition. No need is too small or answered prayer too little to neglect to mention it to our Heavenly Father.

Patsy Simon – (425) 670-3354

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:12

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Homebound members

Barbara Howe, Millie Molenda, Gertrud Schulz, Mary Stewart, Thirza & Jim Weber, Alex Webster.

Members with health concerns

Major Clay, Wayne Cluver, Sanda Ewald, Rev. Richard Flath, Joyce Hammond, Sharron Kennedy, Rodger Reinig, Sylvia Robinson, Thirza Weber, Alex Webster.

Family members and friends:

Debbie, Bella, Ava, Esther

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Celebrations

Birthdays

October

- 5 -- Beatrice Simon
- 8 -- Grace Hundtoft
- 10 -- Doug Spaulding
- 11 -- Sandy Flath
- 21 -- Debbie Zaske
- 23 -- Pr. Sean Berry
- 31 -- Mary Stewart



LADIES COFFEE TIME

The Ladies Coffee Time (LCT) meets the 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month from 11am - 12:30pm. We are a ladies fellowship group, sharing coffee and life together, the lows and highs in our lives, encouraging one another in the faith, and ending with a devotional and prayer at the end.

During this cooler fall/winter COVID-19 season, we will meet downstairs in the fellowship hall here at St. Timothy's, social distancing prepared, instead of at individual ladies' outside yards.

Every lady is welcome to bring a bread, pastry, fruit or other morning treat. October dates are 10/9 and 10/23 and only one November date, 11/13, due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

You may call Barb Eneberg @ (425)745-0880, if you have any questions.

MEN'S GROUP

St. Timothy's Men's Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 8:30-10:00 am. We always have food, starting with delicious calorie free donuts 😊, coffee, and assorted dishes from egg casseroles, fruit salad, sausages, etc.--but no lutefisk.

We are a casual group that share highs and lows, begin and end with a prayer, get to know each other. Sometimes we have a "Show and Tell" if one in our group has a neat hobby or interest they would like to share. I usually share five positive quotations and/or read a short story that helps build our faith and understanding of what is to be Christian men.

This is not a bible study, but a time for Christian men to hang out together and grow in our faith together. Newcomers are always welcome.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.
Gary Eneberg @ (206)714-8442, or (425)743-0880



2020 Santa Stocking Program - The month of December is fast approaching and as our tradition since 2011, it is time to think about our gathering donation in support of the program. Originally this program was based on a monthly set aside by member of a monthly amount to a Santa Stocking that each member kept for their monthly donation. He donation rational was to put a donation amount in the stocg, one unit in January, 2 units in February.... growing to 12 units in December for a total of 38 units. Over time more chose to give the total amount and not using the physical stocking. In these COVID times, it seems safer for all to use this practice and just collect the amount in a special donation basket around the middle of December.

The Council with recommend a distribution plan to local charities to the congregation after the December Council Meeting, In the past we have chosen local charities, such as: Everett Gospel Mission, Kloths for Kids, Lutheran Ministries and others. Let a Council member know If you have a favorite local charity, that you would like to be considered this year. **Mel Suelzle**



Please remember to check the flower chart in the church narthex. Members are asked to donate flowers for the altar whenever possible. It is a wonderful way to recognize family birthdays, anniversaries or to beautify our altar to the glory of God. If you prefer, we keep a altar fund that can be used to decorate the altar .

Council Report – Mel Suelzle



As of August, our financial performance for the months of July and August is mixed. The major expenses for our new pastor are becoming clearer and the timing of our budgeted amounts although in line with our budget, some items are occurring in different times than we expected and budgeted for. This is no surprise as we expected the rest of 2020 will be a settling in period and we will be more stable and our budget for 2021 will be more accurate.

Favorable items are many of our members are continuing their contributions even if they cannot attend services. This is very much appreciated and helping us meet our financial obligations. Our plans include using our savings each month to balance our income and expenses. For the first two months our saving withdrawals are less than two-thirds of our plan. Our expenses are generally are in line with our plans. Overall, this is good and while we are settling in with the new strategy costs, we will continue to monitor our needs for savings to meet our new expense level and plan according in our 2021 financial plan. *If you have any questions, or would like more details, please let me know.*

Financial Report for FY2020 YTD July – August

Income	Budget	Actual		Remaining \$\$
Worship Service Offerings	10,726	13,441	125%	-2,715
Other	435	57	13%	378
Savings Withdrawal	9,000	5,764	95%	3,236
Facility Use Income	335	190	57%	-145
Total Income	20,496	19,451	95%	1,045
Expense				
Elders	18,157	17,111	94%	1,046
Trustees	2,060	1,729	111%	330
Council	1,470	1,474	112%	-4
Administration	1,330	1,612	73%	-282
Worship & Music	900	1,019	94%	-121
Education	0	0	94%	0
Fellowship	0	0	64%	0
Social Ministry	0	0	0%	0
Stewardship	140	138	130%	2
Evangelism	0	0	100%	55
Total Expense	24,057	23,085	98%	972
Income Less Expense	-3561	-3,633	102%	1,234



Currently we are assessing our needs in the office to determine the level of services we should plan on for our search for an Office Secretary. Our response to two periods of help wanted sign messages to have not been successful. Barb Kunkel has offered to help out for a few hours on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. We very much appreciate Barb's generous donation of her time and skills for the important tasks of the church office while we continue to search for a permanent replacement.

COVID 19 REOPENING PLANS

As the state guidelines allow, we are working to allow groups to resume meeting at St Timothy. We have developed plans for AA groups to perform special cleaning and distancing procedures for their meetings. As those groups are able to accept these new guidelines, they have resumed meeting at St. Tim's. Currently the Saturday night group continues to meet in the parking lot as their group size is larger and they are unable to maintain the distancing requirements in our meeting room.

After a few cancellations due to Covid 19 issues, on September 14th we held another Lifeline Screening event at St. Timothy. The group that sponsors these events agreed to pay for an additional cleaning by our contractor following the event.

During our September Council Meeting we reviewed the need to mask requirements for those when greatly distance from others (Pastor hoped to remove his during his sermon) after much discussion, it was decided that the current guideline did not consider distance and everyone was required to wear a mask while indoors.

Also, in the September we discussed and approved the purchase of the Lutheran Service Builder software available from Concordia Publishing. The cost is \$425 for the first year and \$225 for successive years. Also, an annual fee of \$75 is for hymn copyright. This software would result in a more complete Sunday bulletin, ease of preparation by the pastor and office administration. Also, this software can include all hymns and is compatible with covid restrictions not allowing use of our hymnals. Pastor was also familiar with the software and could immediately begin its use. The council unanimously voted to approve the purchase and use.

It was reported the with Pastor move complete, the total **relocation expenses** totaled \$5774 for Moving his goods and travel expenses to his apartment in Everett.

During the September meeting it was discussed if we should include a "Giving" function to our website. Most churches include this feature as a way to electronically receive and process contributions. Anyone can have their donations directly from their accounts to the church's accounts. There are several companies the offer this service and charge a fee that typically is about 2-3%. The council agreed that we should move to implement this function to our web site. Once this function is in place more information will be provided.

Our next Council Meeting will at 7pm on October 13th.

to include in Newsletter
-Musician/Organist situation