



NEWSLETTER

SAINT TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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November 2020

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS ON THE PASSING TIMES

"We are torn out of our existence and set down in the midst of the holy history of God on earth. There God dealt with us, and there He still deals with us, our needs and our sins, in judgement and grace. It is not that God is the spectator and sharer of our present life, howsoever important that is; but rather that we are the reverent listeners and participants in God's action in the sacred story, the history of the Christ on earth. And only in so far as we are there, is God with us today also." -Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am dealing with a strange transition. Over the last two months I have been struggling to live outside of school. While moving to a new area and living in a new place is an adjustment, that part is not incredibly different for me. Over the last 10 years, my life has been defined by moving. Every year since 2010 I have packed my stuff and moved. What is challenging and new to me is being out of school. My day with other people has changed.

My day to day used to be filled with different stresses, joys and work. Turning in assignments, being assessed by teachers, and working different jobs defined my days. Now my days are oriented outside of the world of academia and as people say, "now, you can begin your real life." I do not think real life has just begun, but I understand what people are trying to say. "You get to spend your days with different and various people in real ways."

Spending your day with others is real life whether you are in school or out of school. The only difference are the tasks needed to fulfill your day with others. Your responsibilities change. As Christians, you know that who you are before God does not change. Before God, you continue to live under his grace and guidance for your life. Jesus Christ's claim on your life does not change no matter what station, what time, which people or what circumstances of your life changes. Yet, how you live out the truth of Christ's claim on your life during the day does change.

Christians are not Christians because they act like one for an hour on Sunday morning. Nor are they defined by the number of times they are in the church building doing church stuff. Those things are a part of being a Christian and very important. Your identity is wrapped up in the saving work of Jesus Christ who plucked you out of a messy and confusing world to make your whole life his own. Your whole life is lived out in that reality and informs your day to day with others. You are not simply an autonomous individual with God watching you and waiting for you to mess up or do good. You are participants in God's story. Like a playwright who crafts a story with characters undertaking specific roles to fill out the narrative, God writes you into his sacred story with a part to play. Your Christian life is not limited to specific moments in church, or times reading your Bible but is lived in your day with others.

To be sure, time in church and in the Scriptures are of utmost importance, especially as we seek guidance and direction for the day's work. But, no matter the changes and transitions that come, you have an important part to play in God's story, wherever you may be in life. He invites you to play your role, the role he gives you, and it is important to him. When you take time for your devotion remember the verb is "to devote." You are God's own, welcomed and placed in his story. Now, devote yourself to the role he has given you to play. Your role as a father, a mother, son or daughter, grandfather or grandmother, an employee or employer, a volunteer or leader, or a friend is important to God. You have a role to play with others throughout your day. God does not need you to devote anything to him, but your neighbor needs what you have to offer. Insofar as we remain in today devoted to others, God is with us today also.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Berry

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

EDUCATION AT SAINT TIMOTHY

Sunday Morning Bible Class is still going through the Gospel according to John, one of the 4 Gospel accounts. 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? We are going into chapter 6 and reviewing John's I AM statements concerning Christ. 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 is walking 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? We finished covering some of the heavy portions for understanding our place within the Two Realms. Through the month of November we are tackling concrete realities we deal with as Christians in our home life, work life and church life. Consider joining us on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM.

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 Ewalt, Rev. Richard Flath, Joyce Hammond, Sharron Kennedy, Sylvia Robinson, Thirza Weber, Alex Webster.

Family members and friends:

Debbie, Bella, Ava, Esther

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Celebrations **November**

Baptisms

8 – Jason Gorsuch
11 – Peggy Haase
28 – Sandy Flath

Birthdays

14 – Trenton Nebel
20 – Mel Suelzle

Wedding Anniversary

28 – David & Joyce
Hammond



LADIES COFFEE TIME

The Ladies Coffee Time (LCT) will meet on Friday, November 13 at 10:30 AM (instead of 11 AM) in the fellowship hall. Ladies may bring a refreshment, coffee will be made. Ladies Coffee Time will meet one day this month and for the month of December. December 11th to be exact, but another announcement will be made before then.

Every lady is welcome to bring a bread, pastry, fruit or other morning treat.

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

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

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

COVID 19 Considerations

As Covid 19 cases seem to be on the upswing and many states are considered tightening of defensive measures, it is good to review the measures we are taking to protect our congregation during services.

As part of the reopening process, we have taken the following measures.

- Required face masks throughout all church buildings
- Blocked off Sanctuary seating areas to maintain 6 ft. spacing
- Removed all materials from pew hymn holders
- Open selected windows to improve ventilation
- Made sanitization supplies readily available
- Implemented recording of attendees in support of contact tracing efforts
- Cleaned all high touch areas following use

While these measures were required to resume live church services, there are measures that every visitor to our church should do to help keep our Church safe for everyone and minimize the danger of anyone contracting the virus during a visit to our church. Below are some guidelines members should try and follow:

- Some of the more common symptoms or conditions that everyone should consider are:
 - *Have you traveled internationally recently?*
 - *Have you been exposed to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 without the correct PPE?*
 - *Had a temperature at least 100.0°F?*
 - *Had new or increased shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?*
 - *Had a new cough?*
 - *Had at least two of the following symptoms together: chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.*

If you answer “Yes” to any of these questions, please consider staying home.

- *Another area of misunderstanding is when are individuals considered a single group for purpose of distancing. Remember, not all family members are to be considered a single entity. Only persons living in the same HOUSEHOLD, regardless of if they are family members, are excluded from distancing guidelines.*

If everyone remains diligent in following safe practices of distancing and masking, as well as any new guidance issue from the State Health Department, we can minimize the risk of our members being infected and risk further restrictions on our church services and activities.

Council Report – Mel Suelzle



September results were positive as our missing Parking Lot Income was offset by a near equal reduction in expenses. Expenses were below plan largely due to the absence of salary expense for the office admin. In summary our contributions are strong, and our expenses controlled.

September marks the end of our first quarter results. The quarter results are shown below. In summary, contributions are strong and offset the lost income from the parking lot which we expected to resume in September. Covid issues has kept that from happening and will continue to see the impact on our performance for the rest of the year. If contributions remain strong, we can avoid having to make up this loss with additional withdrawals from our savings account.

We need to begin our planning for our new calendar year 2021. Meetings and discussions should start now to meet key dates in November and December. If you have any questions, or would like more details, please let me know.

Financial Report for FY2020 YTD July – September

Income	Budget	Actual		Remaining \$\$
Worship Service Offerings	15,700	20,497	131%	-4,797
Other	435	57	13%	378
Savings Withdrawal	11,550	6,213	54%	5,337
Facility Use Income	2,870	190	7%	2680
Interest	1,897	1,802	95%	95
Total Income	32,017	28,702	90%	3,315

Expense	Budget	Actual		Remaining \$\$
Elders	28,627	23,469	88%	3,158
Trustees	3,907	3,118	80%	789
Council	2,205	2,211	100%	-6
Administration	1,795	2,705	151%	-910
Worship & Music	1,630	1,520	93%	110
Education	0	0		0
Fellowship	0	0		0
Social Ministry	0	0		0
Stewardship	140	138	99%	2
Evangelism	100	0		100
Total Expense	36,404	33,161	91%	3,243
Income Less Expense	-4,387	-4,459	102%	72



After discussing our current needs in the office and lack of response to our help wanted sign postings, it was decided to post our opening on Indeed.com. This is a paid job opening and job wanted web site costing approx. \$100 for a one month listing online. In the meantime, we very much appreciate the ongoing help of Barb Kunkel to assist in the office 3 days each week.

Worship Discussion – The Service Bulletin program is in place and the new bulletin format is working out well. Pastor is developing a framework for funerals using the format used for Pastor’s installation service. **We appreciate the anonymous donation of \$500 to cover the purchase of the Service Builder software.**

Music Programs Kristina Berger has been helpful with organist/musician scheduling. She informed Pastor that she can help schedule and play through the month of December. We should start looking into a more permanent replacement for this scheduling process and consider searching for a permanent organist. We will be talking to the organist from Lamb of God for ideas to find musicians.

Scholarship Program – Having recently received an anonymous donation of \$5000 to fund a church scholarship program. It was decided to form a 2/3-person committee. Karen Herrick show interest in participating and will know later in October if she is able to participate. Janet Anderberg is also willing to work on a committee.

2021 District Convention – Our 2021 District Convention is Jun 17-19, 2021. We need to define our delegates and report them to the District by Dec 17th. We have scheduled a Voters Meeting following services on December 13th to finalize our delegates and nominations for District President and Vice Presidents as well as a Regional Vice President. The format of this meeting is being evaluated at this time. Members can give thought to any candidates that would like to nominate.

2021 STLC Budget Planning

Our 2021 income and expense budgets need to be prepared by the council and have our recommendation prepared for congregational approval by mid-December. Normally we have a full Voters Meeting for this purpose. Given the COVID 19 situation we may need to choose a different format that will need to be defined and communicated not later than mid-November. We ask all members to give some thought of what we need to focus on for next year and perhaps some contingency plans depending on COVID 19 developments.

Our Next Council Meeting is on November 10th at 7 pm.

RODGER REINIG



On October 24th, along with his family and members of St. Timothy I attended a memorial service for Rodger Reinig. Pastor Berry presided over the service that included many music selections by his family including a duet by his granddaughters.

It was a nice service appropriate for those gathered to pay respects to Rodger. Rodger was good man highly respected and loved by his friends and family of course, and his church family many of which were in attendance.

Many of those who are a part of Rodger's church Family shared the many church activities that Rodger was part of. Rodger was always a strong influence in church matters and leaves a legacy of his landscaping and grounds care that he loved so much. Each Sunday members arrived to beautiful grounds, well maintained and lovingly supported by a dedicated group formed, trained, and led by Rodger. When the church was heavily modified in 2007, Rodger was asked to design the new landscaping plan needed to address the major changes to the front areas of the church.

When Rodger fully retired from his ground keeping career with the school district, he turned his attention to the church's need for maintenance and devoted not only his time and skills, but formed a group that also benefited from this skills, experience. His legacy is truly his design and the group he trained and left behind to carry on and continue to look after the grounds of God's house here at St Timothy.

Rodger was hard to satisfy in matters of landscaping and gardens, Following one of his last times he was able to attend church, we had a conversation that Rodger confessed he made a mistake in his design and wanted to initiate a plan to correct his mistake. I remember that he wanted the Juniper plants replaced in the front of the church and office areas. What I do not remember is what he wanted to replace them with. Perhaps Kim can help us out there. Our gift to Rodger should be to implement his plan as best we can.

But to me, Rodger made many other contributions to St Timothy. He cared much about his church and played key roles in guiding the future. While my experience is more recent. I will always remember Rodger's support during a difficult time of my early presidency of the church council. One Sunday afternoon, following a stressful Voters meeting, I was giving serious thought about my own ability to continue to provide leadership for St Timothy. It was Rodger that called me and provided much needed support and encouragement. This is only one example of the support I received from Rodger, as well Kim, that help me so much over the years.

Additionally, Rodger was responsible for bringing back the popular Oktoberfest celebration that was enjoyed by all for the last 6 or 7 years. More recently both Rodger and Kim participated in the lengthy call process that was successfully concluded with the call of Pastor Berry.

Rodger and I had a running joke each Sunday as he and Kim seemed to be unable to arrive to church on time. I joking made a comment on those rare occasions they arrived before the greeting and we were able to shake hands. Rodger blamed it on Kim, but I questioned that and noticed that recently Kim has been on time.

But RODGER, we love you and take comfort in knowing you are with Jesus now. We also know that each Sunday you will be with us in spirit and we welcome you. And Rodger, it's OK if you are a little late.

Mel Suelzle