

Saint Timothy Lutheran Church

# Newsletter



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December/January 2020/21

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## *Pastor's Thoughts on the Passing Times* **The Day Alone**

*"Let him who cannot be alone beware of community... Alone you stood before God when he called you; alone you had to answer that call; alone you had to struggle and pray; and alone you will die and give an account to God. You cannot escape from yourself; for God has singled you out... but the reverse is also true: Let him who is not in community beware of being alone."-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the third chapter of Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*, he speaks to the experience of a Christian's "Day Alone." I believe fitting for this newsletter because I sense we all are feeling an uptick in loneliness. Even if we are blessed to have family near with us, the fact of the matter is that as much as we experience a worldwide pandemic together, each of us also deal with the changes alone.

I believe we deal with aloneness more so today. Before, we were able to move on from extended periods of loneliness by filling it with noise, family time, activities and even church events. Yet, as the cases increase our ability to escape aloneness decreases. But there is something necessary to the practice of being alone. Not that we should think about the difference between being an introvert or extrovert. Instead, we should see that we need to be alone so that we can be together, and together we can learn to be alone.

The difference for us as Christians is that we believe both community and individuality are important. Into the community of faithful brothers and sisters you were called, and the call was not meant for you alone; in the community of the called you bear your cross, you struggle, you pray. You are not alone, even in death, and on the Last Day you will be only one member of the great congregation of Jesus Christ. We recognize that only as we are within the fellowship can we be alone, and only the person that is alone can live in the

fellowship. Only in the fellowship do we learn to be rightly alone and only in aloneness do we learn to live rightly in the fellowship. It is not as though one came before the other; both begin at the same time, namely, with the call of Jesus Christ. We do not create community because we are alone, we receive community because we each are called.

Sometimes we deny receiving community by focusing on ourselves and my needs, as if my practical needs or individual expression matters more than the community I am called to. In essence, I want to serve myself. Nonetheless, you receive the community because it existed long before you or I were called into it. Very much like our own small community within the family. Those good gifts that are given to you and your creative expression are there for the community, not for yourself. But our moments to gather are now limited. We are alone more often.

To be sure, I am not talking about "if you are alone," I am talking about "when you are alone." Because pandemic or not, loneliness happens. So, the question we ask is not, "why am I alone?" The question for you should be, "how am I to be alone?" Because how we deal with aloneness not only impacts us individually but informs our time when we are together in our communities: when we are gathered in the Body of Christ.

You know as well as I do that what we do alone is never alone. Because what I do alone begins to affect others,



particularly those closes to me. In the same way, the actions of the community impact each of us individually. Yes, you are an individual, but you are one incorporated into a larger whole that norms you, claims you, lifts up prayers to sustain you, loves you and ultimately remakes you. Through the community of the church, Jesus Christ remakes you individually to be who he created you to be: his beloved child. That's who you are!

How am I to be alone? First, I live as one created and claimed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I trust in what he has given me to do and I can go to him in prayer when I am alone and in silence reflect, receive and inwardly digest his Word to guide me. Secondly, God gives me a community who prays for me. Do not be afraid to reach out to the people in your church when you are alone. But also find courage to reach out to loved ones who struggle; or to those whom you have not seen in a while. Lastly, be comforted not only by the prayers from your community at St. Timothy but, more importantly, in the one who prayed the High Priestly Prayer with you in mind.

*"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word...As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them[the Apostles] into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their[the Apostles] word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.... I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." -John 17 selected verses*

Having a church is a gift because we are joined by Jesus Christ's call on us. Time alone is its own gift. There, God's Word can take hold of you and prepare you for that time when we are together with others. One does not take precedence over the other, both are needed. Let your lives be an example of God's reality. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all when the time is right and all of you will continue to be in my prayers. Have a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Berry

[pastor@stlc-edmonds.com](mailto:pastor@stlc-edmonds.com)  
(303)898-6268

## **Thoughts on Managing COVID**

One Response to COVID-19:

My journey to find a way to "survive" during this coronavirus pandemic began in August 2019, when I got a new cell phone. That meant a better camera feature. I soon stored up a cache of photos showcasing lovely [I think] beach, sand art, rocks and stones, and flower scenes.

Fast forward to March 2020. Everything shut down. No church. No Bible Class. No Ladies Group. No lunches with friends. Zoom meetings where once we met in-person. No chats with gym buddies, including Diane Herrick. In early February, using Shutterfly, I had started putting together notecards from photos I had taken. Just before the big shutdown, I ordered a large batch of cards to use as "hostess gifts" for lunch get-togethers and visits with family. But the shutdown "shut down" those fun times also! And, I had all those pretty cards with photos of flowers or beach scenes I thought were unique or beautiful. I was bored; I had all those cards...h-mm...what to do?

I sat down one afternoon in late March and sent out some notes on those Shutterfly notecards to people in church as well as friends and family. The notes were simply to say hello and let them know they were thought of. The next week, I sent out more to a wider band in my circle of life

Then, those who had gotten cards from me started sharing how much the notes and thoughts had lifted their spirits. I knew personally from cards I had received from Sandy Flath how touching personal notes could be. But never did I imagine how much they might mean to some to whom I had sent a card. I have re-kindled old friendships from college and nurtured bonds with family. From comments, I learned I helped some through a tough time. Mostly, I learned a new "old way" to touch friends and family and let them know they are special to me. What do I write? It depends on the person – sometimes it is only to say "you are thought of"; sometimes I know the person needs a diversion so I chat about how I took the photo; sometimes I chat about "old times".

But there is more. You see, as spring came, I found walking the same old circular path at Meadowdale Playfields was really, really starting to bore me. I missed my gym workouts and gym buddies. So, to circumvent some of the boredom, I

started walking the neighborhood streets and sidewalks. I discovered a whole world of flowers, bushes, plants, bugs and even weeds that were absolutely delightful to look at but even more beautiful to photograph so I could remember them. Click, click, click...I could easily come back from a walk with 50 new pictures and 50 new potential cards. It was fun; it got me outside; it also got me reflecting on God's creation and the beauty therein. It also got me about 75 more notecard templates.

Now my sister Peggy is living here. We walk together on many days; we talk and talk and click and click. She is the better photographer. But I am the card maker. I write cards to people to let them know they are special to me. I would guess I spend maybe three hours a week now doing this – not a lot of time, really. I do feel a bit more connected than if I did not write the cards. I hope in the words I share in the cards that recipients also hear the message of God's love in some small way. And maybe reflect on the beauty of His creation.

*-Karen Haase-Herrick*

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### In Remembrance

Thank you to Pastor Richard Flath and Sandy, Pastor Sean Berry and all of the members of St. Timothy Lutheran Church for all of your visits, prayers, cards, calls, texts, e-mails, love and support during Rodger's illness. It meant so much to both of us and helped us to get through a very difficult time. God's Blessings to all of you.

*-Kim Reinig*

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### 2020 Santa Stocking Program

The time is here to gather donations in support of the Santa Stocking program. As per tradition, the Church Council will recommend a distribution plan to local charities to the congregation after the December Council Meeting. Let a Council member know if you have a favorite local charity that would like to be considered this year. **Please bring donations on December 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Council will inform everyone the charity on December 13<sup>th</sup>.**



### LADIES COFFEE TIME

The Ladies Coffee Time will not meet in December because of the increased restrictions in Washington and the rise of COVID cases. Ladies Coffee will meet again in January for one meeting. **Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.**



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

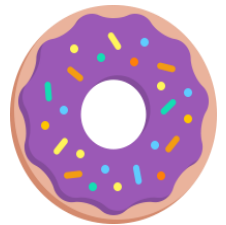
You may call Barb Eneberg at (425)745-0880 if you have any questions.




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### Men's Group

St. Timothy Men's Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month from 8:30-10:00 AM. We are causal 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. 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.



Men's Group will not be meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in December. But will plan for **Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** and plan to resume.

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



**After Church-Fellowship Walks**

After church fellowship seems to hardly exist anymore. The virus has discouraged the time we used to enjoy one another’s company outside of church service. To bring a sense of fellowship in a safe way, Patsy Simon has been planning hikes/walks for members of St. Timothy at local parks. Those who join get an opportunity to spend a little more time conversating and catching up while being able to distance themselves.

Here are some photos from the fellowship walks.



**Education at St. Timothy**

\* **Sunday Morning Bible Class** is currently on hold until further notice. Study on John’s Gospel will likely continue after the Governor’s restrictions are lifted.



\* **Wednesday Morning Bible Class** successfully finished studying Luther’s Theology on the Two Realms. The class will resume in January with a study on another important Theological topic.

**Stewardship**.....Mel Suelzle



**Tis’ the Season!**

Not the season many of you are thinking about these days, but when we changed our fiscal year to match the calendar year, the biggest problem with this change was having to finalize our church budget just about the time we are wanting to focus on our new Church Year and Advent and all the holiday events we love to celebrate.

So, your council is spending some of their time these days thinking about plans for 2021 and what financial considerations should be included in this process. 2021 has some new considerations to say the least. First we are in the middle of a pandemic that impacts much of what we can do, also we are blessed with a new pastor and have only 3-4 months of experience on which to base our plans for the next twelve months. We plan to have a preliminary budget for you on December 13<sup>th</sup> and your approval on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

As a result, we expect to have anything but a normal year to base our financial plan on for the coming months. Forecasters predict that the new vaccines will begin taking hold mid-year and the “new normal” will begin to emerge. But plan we must and do our best with what real information we have.

With our “New Strategy” in full swing, we need to implement spending plans that prioritize the success of programs and initiatives that support our growth goals. Overall, I think we have done a good job in controlling spending and minimizing expenses in many areas. However, we will continue to look for ways to be more efficient and cost-effective ways for all our processes.

One way that COVID has impacted us is the changes in our giving. Fortunately, many members have made efforts to continue to maintain their offerings even when the church was closed or other reasons their attendance was not possible. This has been very much needed and appreciated as most of our church expenses are the same when the church is full on Sundays or when it has been necessary to close completely.

The inherent generosity of St Timothy members has made stewardship programs somewhat unnecessary, but todays unusual situation

is cause for some simple reminders for the coming year.

Here are some things about Stewardship that we all need to consider:

1. As said before, Church costs are much the same regardless of Sunday attendance. Your contribution is important every Sunday.
2. There are many ways to make your contribution
  - a. Offerings in the plate on Sunday morning
  - b. Catch up on Sundays you are unable to attend
  - c. Mail in you envelops to the office
  - d. Drop off you envelops in the mail slot on the office door
  - e. Direct deposits using your banks free transfer to the Churches account
  - f. Using the new online gifting function on our website. This method will allow you to make your contribution online or from your smart phone.
3. It is important to remember each year operating costs increase due to inflation and other factors. While many already are trying to keep their contributions in line, others are reminded to consider this practice as well. These days a small increase of 2-3% is all that is needed to keep up over the years.
4. As an attempt to simplify our fiscal reporting, I am planning to report on a regular basis, both the monthly costs and the monthly income. This will be a simple, easy to understand summary report for members with the option to receive more detailed analysis if desired.

St Timothy is certainly blessed with a generous giving congregation and external donors. Over the years we have accumulated substantial savings that are critical to our long-term plans. We need to continue to look for ways that improve our fiscal health to give our plan the time to work. Your continued cooperation is critical to our success.

## February NEWSLETTER

Articles and Calendar information needs to be submitted by **Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please Email OR hand it to Pastor Berry. Email to:

[stlc\\_office@frontier.com](mailto:stlc_office@frontier.com).

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

### Saint Timothy Prayer Team

Prayer Team takes prayer requests to provide prayer support for members of the congregation, friends and our community. Together, the team 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)770-3354

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” -Romans 12:12*

### **Please Remember in Your Prayers:**

#### **Our homebound members:**

Barbara Howe; Millie Molenda;  
Sylvia Robinson; Gertrud Schulz;  
Mary Stewart; Alex Webster

#### **Folks with Health Concerns:**

Major Clay; Wayne Cluver; Sanda Ewalt;  
Rev. Richard Flath; Joyce Hammond;  
Sharron Kennedy; Sylvia Robinson;  
Thirza Weber; Alex Webster

#### **Family members & friends:**

Debbie (Pr. Flath's sister), Bella and Ave (Bill & Carol Hauge's granddaughters), Esther (Grace Hundtoft's sister), Emily (Mel Suelzle's great-granddaughter)

**Birthdays in December & January:**

December

- 6 ..... Laura Washabaugh
- 8 ..... Amanda Nesbit
- 13 ..... Craig Skrede
- 21 ..... Gertrud Schulz

January

- 2 ..... Pam Rudy
- 14 ..... Barb Kunkel
- 14 ..... Karen Haase-Herrick

**Wedding Anniversary in December & January:**

December

- 28 ..... John & Karen Herrick
- 30 .... Rev. Richard & Sandy Flath

January

- 17 ..... Major & Linda Clay

**Baptisms**

December

..... Barbara Howe

January

.....None recorded

Please inform Pastor Berry or the office if any birthdays, baptisms, or wedding anniversaries have been overlooked. Thank you!

**RECORDED SERMONS & SERVICES ARE ONLINE**

**Obviously, COVID changed everyone's routine. We have been doing things to try and make sure the people at St. Timothy continue to connect, hear, and receive God's Word. We now have setup a way for sermons and worship services to be listened to online.  
visit:**

**[www.santtimothy.lutheran.net](http://www.santtimothy.lutheran.net)**

**Click the link on the right that says "Pastor Berry's Sermons" and you can listen to just the sermon, or listen to the whole service from Sunday.**

**LWML MISSION MITES**



**are collected on the fourth Sunday of every month. Please bring yours on December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup>.**

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

## December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  6:30 PM Elders Meeting	2	3	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent  9 AM No Bible Class  <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> Santa Stocking Donations Collected	7	8  7 PM Council Meeting	9  <b>7 PM Advent Midweek Evening Prayer</b> (No Soup Supper)	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent  9 AM No Bible Class  <b>10:00 AM Worship / Communion</b>	14	15	16  <b>7 PM Advent Midweek Evening Prayer</b> (No Soup Supper)	17	18	19  8:30 AM Men's Group
20 4th Sunday of Advent  9 AM No Bible Class  <b>10:00 AM Worship</b>	21	22	23	24  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  <b>6 PM: Candlelight Service</b>	25  <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>10 AM: Service for the Nativity of our Lord</b>	26
27 1st Sunday after Christmas  9 AM No Bible Class  <b>10:00 AM Worship / Communion</b>	28	29	30	31  New Year's Eve	<b>St. Timothy Lutheran Church</b> 16431 52nd Ave. W. Edmonds, WA 98026 Church office: 425-743-2323 Stlc_office@frontier.com	

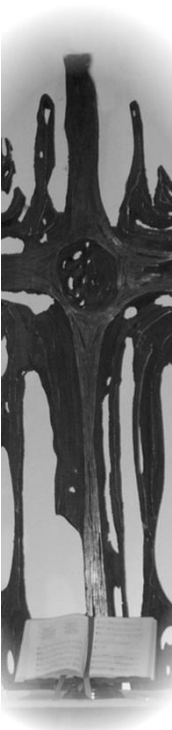
January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2 8:30 AM Men's Group
3 2nd Sunday after Christmas 9 AM Bible Class: <i>Gospel of John</i> 10:00 AM Worship	4	5 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	6 Epiphany 10:30 AM Bible Class	7	8	9
10 Baptism of our Lord 9 AM Bible Class: <i>Gospel of John</i> 10:00 AM Worship / Communion	11	12 7 PM Council Meeting	13 10:30 AM Bible Class	14	15 10:30 AM Ladies Coffee Time	16 8:30 AM Men's Group
17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9 AM Bible Class <i>Gospel of John</i> 10:00 AM Worship	18	19	20 10:30 AM Bible Class	21	22	23
24 3rd Epiphany 9 – 10 AM Bible Class: <i>John</i> 10:00 AM Worship / Communion	25	26	27 10:30 AM Bible Class	28	29	30
31 4th Epiphany 9 – 10 AM Bible Class: <i>John</i> 10:00 AM Worship						





St. Timothy Lutheran Church  
 16431 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue W.  
 Edmonds, WA 98026-4718

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



***St. Timothy Lutheran Church***

*(The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)*

*Serving Lynnwood, Edmonds, and  
 Southwest Snohomish County*

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



**SUNDAY**

**9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service**



THE  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 Missouri Synod