

Saint Timothy Lutheran Church

Newsletter



Saint Timothy Lutheran Church,
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March & April 2021

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Pastor's Thoughts on the Passing Times

"Why is it that it is often easier for us to confess our sins to God than to a brother? God is holy and sinless; He is a just judge of evil and the enemy of all disobedience. But a brother is sinful as we are. He knows from his own experience the dark night of secret sin. Why should we not find it easier to go to a brother than to the holy God?"

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Bonhoeffer ends his little book on Christian community, *Life Together*, with this final piece: "they(the church) cannot have fellowship with one another as believers and as devout people until they are a fellowship of undevout sinners... we must acknowledge our sins." Therefore, appropriate for the Lententide, Bonhoeffer points us to confession and repentance as the breakthrough to Christian community.

Unfortunately, many Christians are unthinkably horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the church. But, if we continue in repentance and confession, we can dare to be sinners. For God gives us a faithful friend to help us. A brother or sister who hears our confession and, in Christ's stead, forgives our sins in Christ's name. When I go to my brother to confess, I am going to God. Oddly enough, we find that it is easier to confess our sins to God rather than our brother or sister. Why? Perhaps because we have deceived ourselves toward self-forgiveness. Self-forgiveness is not forgiveness from God; it is a deception. You do not need to forgive yourself, for the root of all sin is pride. To think you can forgive yourself is to justify your own actions. Satan and sin demand to have you by yourself. Sin withdraws you from the community. The more isolated you are, the more destructive will be the power of sin over you, and the more self-deceived and self-involved you might become. Sin wants to remain unknown, hidden, and concealed. Sin shuns the light of truth and honesty. Confessing before a sister or brother is concrete and certain. Our faithful friend breaks through the circle of self-deception. When you confess your sins to a fellow-Christian, you are no longer alone. You experience the presence of God in the reality of the other person. If you are by yourself, your sins remain in the dark. But, once you confess them to a sister or brother, they come into the light.

To be sure, confessing before a fellow Christian is embarrassing and frightening, and it reveals a side of you that is vulgar and wretched. No one wants to reveal the most hidden and private part of themselves. Yet, your sister or brother knows the humiliation because they are sinners too. Lack of love for the crucified Jesus Christ can make us poor and inefficient in brotherly confession. But in the presence of a fellow Christian, you can dare to be a sinner. The sinner surrenders and gives up all evil. You give your broken heart to God, and you find the forgiveness of all your sins in the fellowship of Jesus Christ: the church. The faithful fellowship bears the sin of another. You can confess your sins and in this very act find fellowship for the first time. Mutual, brotherly confession is given to us by God in order that we may be sure of divine forgiveness.

Ultimately, repentance is the renewal of the joy of Baptism. Here, new life breaks through. It is a gift that we can confess to a fellow-Christian. God has given us faithful friends, that even here and now, we may be made certain through them of the reality of God in his grace. The forgiveness of sins is the sole ground and goal of confession. Only then are we free to follow Jesus Christ and live under his love. We are free to be the people of God, who are gracious and merciful, who forgive the sins of our brother or sister. Here we can enjoy life together as Christ's beloved children. May God continue to bless your Lenten season as we look forward to experiencing the fullness of Christian community once again.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Berry

UPCOMING DATES AND SERVICES – MARCH & APRIL

3/7/2021 - 9:00 AM: Bible Class – Gospel of John
10:00 AM: Worship Service – 3 rd Sunday in Lent
3/10/2021 - 7:00 PM: Lenten Midweek Service – Evening Prayer
Series: “You Are What You Love” – You Worship What You Believe
3/13/2021 - 8:30 AM: Men’s Group
3/14/2021 - 9:00 AM: Bible Class – Gospel of John
10:00 AM: Worship Service – 4 th Sunday in Lent
3/17/2021 - 7:00 PM: Lenten Midweek Service – Evening Prayer
Series: “You Are What You Love” – You Believe What You Worship
3/21/2021 - 9:00 AM: Bible Class – Gospel of John
10:00 AM: Worship Service – 5 th Sunday in Lent
3/27/2021 - 8:30 AM: Men’s Group
3/28/2021 - 9:00 AM: Bible Class – Gospel of John
10:00 AM: Worship Service – Palm Sunday
4/1/2021 - 7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday Service
4/2/2021 - 7:00 PM: Good Friday Service – Tenebrae Service of Darkness
4/4/2021 - 10:00 AM: Easter Day – Service for The Resurrection of Our Lord
4/10/2021 - 8:30 AM: Men’s Group
4/11/2021 - 9:00 AM: Bible Class – Gospel of John
10:00 AM: Worship Service – 2 nd Sunday of Easter
4/14/2021 - 9:30 AM: Wednesday Bible Class – What is the Word of God?
4/18/2021 - 9:00 AM: Bible Class – Gospel of John
10:00 AM: Worship Service – 3 rd Sunday of Easter
4/21/2021 - 9:30 AM: Wednesday Bible Class – What is the Word of God?
4/24/2021 - 8:30 AM: Men’s Group
4/25/2021 - 9:00 AM: Bible Class – Gospel of John
10:00 AM: Worship Service – 4 th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd)
4/28/2021 - 9:30 AM: Wednesday Bible Class – What is the Word of God?

SAINT TIMOTHY NEWS

ANNOUNCING SCHOLARSHIP!

To Members of St Timothy:

We have received an anonymous donation for an educational scholarship that the donor wishes to go to a student from within our congregation.

The scholarship is in the amount of \$5000.

Anyone interested in applying for this scholarship should send a letter to the newly formed St Timothy Scholarship Committee. The letter can be simple and straight forward.

Please include the following:

- 1. Express your interest in receiving this scholarship**
- 2. Briefly describe your qualifications**
- 3. Briefly describe why you would like to receive this award**

We would like to award this scholarship by May 2021 so, please submit your letter of interest by March 31, 2021.

Send your letter via an attachment in an email to St Timothy's email address: stlc_office@frontier.com

*St Timothy Scholarship Committee
Janet, Doug and Laura*

FINALLY SOME GOOD COVID NEWS

Compared to the gloomy news of a few months ago, some Covid news is finally becoming more positive. Millions of vaccine doses are being produced every day; States are finally learning how to get them into arms of people at higher rates. As the vaccinated population grows, so does the data on effectiveness of the vaccine at various stages. By now approval is expected for a vaccine that requires only a single dose and does not need to be kept at the extreme temperature as others do. All this facilitates a higher level of immunity in the population and moves us closer the "herd Immunity" that will further reduce the pandemic. Herd Immunity, once predicted for 2022, is now being projected by some as early this summer. ALL GOOD NEWS AND ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS

Today at St Timothy we look forward to a gradual but certain return to "Normalcy" with restoration of our religious practices we believe are important to our faith. While we have already opened in ways that restore our worship service, there still is a ways to go. Still much of our social oriented practices are restricted or eliminated. We should all expect more positive movement soon. It comes at a great time to allow us to enjoy the upcoming Lenten season to its fullest.

Last year we were so blessed to get an answer to our call for a full time Pastor. Pastor Berry, fresh from his completed studies at the Seminary was eager for the opportunity to fulfil his vision and chosen mission in life. I am sure he is eager to see some of the limitations ended and finally able to serve our Lord in ways he imagined for so long.

Personally, after a month or so of frustration trying to get a vaccine shot, I finally did succeed and am anxiously waiting for my second shot which is scheduled for mid-March. With positive reports of first shot benefits I am feeling more comfortable with group meetings and activities which we all miss.

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SOME GOOD FINANCIAL COVID NEWS TOO!

As you know, in June of 2017 we entered into an agreement with a company to lease a major portion of our parking lot during weekdays. This company managed park and ride services for T-Mobile. The income from this lease was substantial and required us to add the parking lot area used to the tax rolls which was previously was exempt from taxes. The income well exceeded the taxes. However, in February of 2020 the lease was discontinued as COVID closed business and employees worked from home. Of course, our income stopped, but property taxes continued. HERE ENDITH THE BAD NEWS!

As I was more and more convinced that business strategy would likely not return to pre-COVID levels, I planned to restore the property to exempt status and avoid the tax payments. However, 2 hours after I submitted the application to the State Department of Revenue, I received a call from the manager of the company we had the lease with. He had a positive report that he fully expected the lease to resume in July as that was when T-Mobile planned to resume full operations. That certainly was particularly good news. BUT WAIT- THERE' S MORE! He also offered to reimburse us for the taxes we paid for the time the lease was not effective (Mar 2020- June 2021). The taxes were approximately \$190/month so the total for 18 months is over \$3000!

This program has always been considered one of the many blessings from the LORD. The proceeds from the program have been reserved for our future and new strategies. While we are grateful for the many benefits we have already received, we are thankful for the continued blessings that will help us address some significant maintenance needs or our church including exterior painting and parking lot maintenance.

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS BENEFITS TO HIS CHURCH HERE AT STAINT TIMOTHY

-Mel Suelzle

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Men's Group

St. Timothy Men's Group usually meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 8:30-10:00 AM. For the months of March and April the Men's Group will meet the 2nd and 4th Saturday. 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.

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

LADIES COFFEE TIME

Ladies Coffee Time 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. 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.

After Church-Fellowship Walks

In the Fall a number of St. Timothy's folks joined up for walks or mild hikes after worship service in order to have time to visit and fellowship. We abide by social distancing in the open air at local parks and it is enjoyable and healthy. A pair of walking shoes is recommended and umbrella if it seems likely to rain. Every other Sunday, barring terrible weather, there will be walk. In March that would be on the 14th and the 28th and April 11th & 25th. Thank you, Patsy Simon

Education at St. Timothy

* **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** On Sunday morning we continue to study the **Gospel of John**. John's Gospel invites us to see Jesus Christ's ministry and work on earth differently from the other three Gospels. We are exploring what John has to say to our situations. In John, Jesus is the Word, I AM, the Light in the darkness revealing his purposes for the creation and for his people. The class is a great way to see how we might live out God's truth based on the account John offers.

* **Wednesday Morning Bible Class:** Is looking to gather again. The plan is to start Bible class following Easter with a discussion and learning on the topic of **the Word of God**. The conversation will focus on issues surrounding the Bible itself, as well what is the Word of God exactly and what counts as the Word of God. How are we to understand and receive the Word of God since it is so central to worship life? Find out on April 14.



Bible Study

May 2021 NEWSLETTER

Articles and Calendar information needs to be submitted by **Wednesday, April 28**. Please Email OR hand to Pastor Berry. Email to:

pastor@stlc-edmonds.com
stlc_office@frontier.com

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

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 be in the rhythm of God's Word to connect, hear, and receive. We now have setup a way for sermons and worship services to be listened online.

visit:

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.

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; Doug Spaulding

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 March & April:

March

1 Chris Allen
 Dougsun Shinn
 6 Major Clay
 9 Gerold Herrick
 16 Bill Hauge
 17 Thirza Weber
 19 Diane Herrick
 20 Richard Eaton
 21 Millie Molenda
 23 Joyce Hammond
 26 Gary Eneberg

April

5 Jim Weber
 9 Sanda Ewalt
 16 Jeanne Allen
 25 Cari Weber
 26 Carol Hauge

PRAISE BE TO GOD!

Wedding Anniversaries in March & April:

March

6 Gary & Barbara Eneberg
 51 years
 19 Jim & Thirza Weber
 61 years

April

6 Mel & Ginny Suelzle
 58 years
 25 Karl & Patsy Simon
 29 years

PRAISE BE TO GOD!

Baptism Anniversaries in March & April

March

20 Beatrice Simon
 21 Linda Gorsuch
 24 Mel Suelzle
 30 Pr. Sean Berry

April

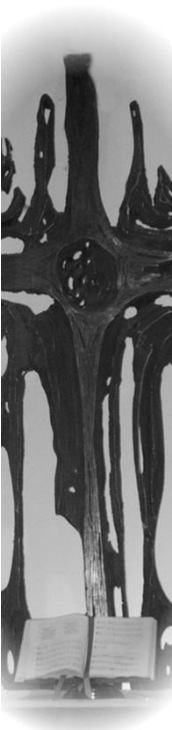
6 Bill Hauge
 7 Sylvia Robinson
 18 Sanda Ewalt
 28 Lenn Gorsuch

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



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

MEDIA MAIL



St. Timothy Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

***Serving Lynnwood, Edmonds, and
Southwest Snohomish County***

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Website: www.sainttimothy.lutheran.net



SUNDAY

**9:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship Service**



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod