

The Epistle

November 2017

Sharing God's Love
Together



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Performance Anxiety

At a recent rehearsal for Young Frankenstein, one of my fellow actors shared that she had a dream the previous night. In the dream, somehow, it was opening night but this was a surprise. She thought she had more time, another week. Everyone was in costume and rushing to the stage and she was panicked. Then, she was on stage and she could not remember her lines!

Most actors and other performers have had that dream at one time or another. It's like the dream where you walk into your organic chemistry class only to realize that you're an hour late for the final exam.

One of the important lessons performers learn is that if opening night is six weeks away, you don't have six weeks to learn your lines. You don't aim to be performance-ready on the night of the opening performance, but truly as soon as you possibly can. Why? The simple fact is that you want to know your lines early so that you can become comfortable with them and let yourself take on the character you are portraying. Besides this, you have to work with the other actors so that the whole play has a more organic and genuine feel for the audience.

This is all a good lesson for life in general: get ready early and commit to the important stuff from the start of the day. We sometimes go through life postponing what is truly important and life-giving while filling our time with lots of details and distractions that just don't matter as much. We too often tell ourselves that we will get around to it, and the deadline is not for weeks, months, or

years to come. Time slips away and before we know it, we find ourselves unprepared; we find that we no longer can complete what is important and life-giving.

This is the time of year when we are called once again to wake up and look at what time it is. It is November: another year is almost over. It is 2017: and when were you born? What time is it? What is most important to you? What gives you life and what do you want to do to give life to the world? What time is it for us as followers of Jesus? Is there some aspect of our faith life that we have just been putting off again and again?

I ask this of myself as much as I ask all of you, beloved people of St. Timothy. What time is it for us as a congregation? If sharing God's love is what we intend and what gives us life and joy, how can we do that more deliberately and more broadly? How do you want to be part of that?

In the grace and peace of Christ,
Pastor Clark

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2017	Actual	Budgeted	Diff
Income			
Offerings	\$8,042	\$9,681	(\$1,639)
Building Use	\$6,316	\$3,542	\$2,774
Faith Giving	\$1,120	\$667	\$453
Misc Income	\$500	\$750	(\$250)
Special Donation	\$2,083	\$2,083	\$0
Total Income	\$18,061	\$16,723	\$1,338
Expenses			
Loan Principal	\$576	\$576	\$0
September Net	\$3,140	\$1,415	\$1,725

YTD 2017	Actual	Budgeted	Diff
Income			
Offerings	\$89,021	\$87,161	\$1,860
Building Use	\$32,943	\$31,875	\$1,068
Faith Giving	\$5,745	\$6,000	(\$708)
Special Donation	\$18,750	\$18,750	\$0
Misc Income	\$5,227	\$6,750	(\$1,303)
Total Income	\$151,686	\$150,536	\$1,150
Expenses			
Loan Principal	\$5,125	\$5,125	\$0
YTD Net	\$15,091	\$11,129	\$3,962

November —

November 5-All Saints Sunday.
Daylight Saving Time End. Turn clock
back an hour.

November 19—Thanksgiving Feast
after Service. Please check the signup
sheet And note which yummy item
you would like to contribute

December

December 10th—Cookies for the
Home Bound & Nancy's Project —
bring toys and shoes for migrant work-
ers' families

December 12th—Altar Guild Luncheon
at noon. Location to come.

December 19th—WELCA Holiday Tea
at 1:00pm hosted by Carolyn Hawes.

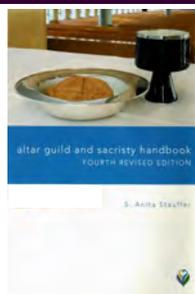
REFORMATION CELEBRATION

For the 500th anniversary of Luther's Reformation, we decided to observe this momentous occasion with two things that Lutherans do so well: beautiful music and delicious food. On Sunday October 22, we held our 3rd St. Timothy and Friends Concert where we showcased all of the wonderful talent that we enjoy here at St. Timothy's. Our performers ranged in age from 7 to 82, and entertained us with a wide variety of musical styles, including classical, sacred, and folk music, Broadway tunes, and American standards. Our featured performers were Todd Weber, Professor of Philosophy at MPC, and Christiana Meeks, a Monterey local who recently returned to the area after receiving her Master's degree in vocal performance from Boston Conservatory.

After the concert, we gathered in the social hall to enjoy some delicious bratwurst and sausages dutifully prepared by Matt Schultz, and beer and cider provided by Rosa Lopez. Let's give a special shout-out to Matt who spent several hours downstairs cooking and then serenaded us upstairs with guitar and voice!

Please join me in thanking the following St. Timothy members and friends for their participation in our concert: Ida Barber, Tom Barber, Clark Brown, Jon Gerdes, Christiana Meeks, Silas Schultz, Sophia Schultz, Matt Schultz, Linda Swaffer, and Todd Weber. I would also like to recognize Carolyn Hawes for her tremendous efforts in advertising our events. Finally, thanks to all of you faithful members who came out to support our efforts. We hope to have a full house next year!

Thanks, Desma Johnson



ALTAR GUILD INVITES YOU!

I found it!

My Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook

If you have ever wondered about what you might experience if you joined the Altar Guild (or in other words, become a Sacristan), you might read this interesting book, ...or ask an Altar Guild Member.

Yes! We do want to increase our numbers.

Yes! We experience many rewards when doing this work.

No! We don't need to be perfect...for instance... Last week, did you notice that Pastor Clark was wearing red and the altar and ambo (old name=lectern) were wearing green? That was not "according to the handbook," but mistakes are made, and it did not detract from our Praising God for His gift of "Loving us, no matter what!"

The A.G. is, in part, about celebrating by decorating for the seasons of the church year...other important tasks are to make sure oil is in the altar candles (almost all the time.);

2. The Christmas tree, crèche, and greenery are there to lead us through Advent to Christmas. Etc., Etc.

3. And the "little/big" things go on. i.e. Communion is served without a hitch, with the wine and bread on the altar; the offering plates are ready for the ushers; the water in the baptismal font is fresh...Many of the familiar experiences we have in worship happen because the A. G. was there/is there. Please consider joining us. Altar Guild meet at 1:00pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Thank you,

June Pedranti, Marjorie Knight, Dee Holland, Barbara Grace, and Ida Barber



SERVICE COMMISSION

Look in your mail boxes for *Rebuilding Hope* Gift Catalogs which will benefit Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services. Following that you'll receive the ELCA Good Gifts Catalogs.

Our I-HELP for Women date has been switched to the 1st Wed. of the month. The next I-Help for women dinner we will serve will be Wednesday, December 6th.

Thank you,

Your Service Commission

Connie Dallmann, Lucille Snyder-Pires, Dee Holland, Barbara Grace, and Ida Barber



1 *All Saints Day* Today we remember and honor saints, martyrs and loved ones who have gone before us and made an impact on our lives, the church and history. Pray for people who mourn the loss of someone they love or value that they find healing through the support given by friends, family and faith communities, and comfort from faith in Jesus' victory over death and the promise of eternal life.

2 *National American Indian Heritage Month* We give thanks for the gifts and witness of American Indian and Alaska Native members of the ELCA, 30 native congregations, new ministries and the work of the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association, all grounded in reconciliation and the mutual building up of the saints – people of all backgrounds, tribes, regions, communities, congregations and unique needs.

3 Pray for relief and recovery from the widespread destruction caused by recent hurricanes and storms across the Gulf Coast and Southeastern states, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other locations in the Caribbean. Pray our concern translates into actions, gifts, support and empathy for people and communities engaged in the long, hard and sometimes discouraging work of rebuilding and recovery.

4 Remember in prayer the young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Australia and their coordinators, the Rev. Kim Crawford and the Rev. Henry Martinez, that God will bless and further their witness and service alongside leaders of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

5 Ask God for clarity in discerning which leaders, teachers and prophets to trust and listen to, for the wisdom to know whom to follow and emulate as humble, disciples of Christ and to know that we have one teacher who is unfailing and trustworthy in leading us in God's ways and truth – the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

6 Give thanks that our church believes that cultural, ethnic and racial differences should be seen and celebrated as what God intends them to be – blessings rather than means of oppression and discrimination – and pray for courage and self-reflection to face and change the uncomfortable things within ourselves, culture and society that selectively cause suffering and harm of others.

7 On this day when elections are taking place across our country, we pray the Spirit of God will guide our church and members in defending human dignity, standing with poor and powerless people, advocating justice, working for peace and caring for the earth in the processes and structures of society.

8 When we experience criticism or oppression for our faith and living from the gospel, pray for renewed faith and trust in God's light and truth that lifts our spirit and encourages us forward as bold disciples serving our neighbor and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

9 We remember in our prayers leaders gathered for the ELCA Church Council, that they are inspired and led by the Spirit in all they do and in helping our church pursue and keep before us God's work in the world.

10 Though our celebration of the Reformation may seem marked in time and history, we ask God to help our church to be always open to change, growth and reform centered in Scripture and the gospel for the sake of doing God's work in the world.

11 *Veterans Day* While war and conflict between nations and people are unfortunate aspects of our human nature and weakness, we pray God will continue to reveal and shine a light on God's paths and ways of peace, justice, reconciliation and mutual concern. Give thanks and recognition for the sacrifice of men, women and young adults who choose to serve – and have served in the past – our country in pursuit of global peace, justice and the well-being of all God's people.

12 Pray that every aspect of our life in the present is influenced and guided by our faith and God's word, making us determined and equipped to serve our neighbor and share the gospel now.

13 Pray for the people and communities recovering from the strong earthquakes in Mexico, and ask God to guide the work and partnerships of Lutheran Disaster Response and our ecumenical partners accompanying people during this time of loss and rebuilding.

14 Remember and give thanks for the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997, and ask God to deepen our partnership and bless our work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

15 In our striving for wisdom, we ask God to instill in us a lifelong desire and openness to studying God's word and learning and to help us become wise yet humble teachers, leaders and examples in our congregation and community.

16 Pray for the members, congregations and leaders of the Caribbean and Florida-Bahamas synods facing the long-term process of rebuilding and caring for storm-ravaged communities and people who have experienced great loss and ongoing challenges. Ask God to strengthen and sustain them for supporting one another, reaching out to and caring for neighbors, sharing hope and witnessing to God's enduring love and presence.

17 Pray the Spirit will stir in us a love of telling our children, grandchildren, family, friends, coworkers, strangers and the world stories of the wondrous things God has done.

18 We remember in our prayers people who are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless, praying they find safe shelter and that our congregations are caring communities assisting people with housing, food, employment and services necessary for daily life while respecting their dignity and desire to be self-sufficient.

19 Pray we are not consumed with maintaining the status quo, defending institutions to preserve comfort or familiarity, or hiding the resources God has entrusted to us but that we freely use our blessings and assets and take risks for the sake of mission, service, witness and purposeful change.

20 Give thanks for the faithful work and witness of ELCA missionaries Lucas Peters (Thailand), the Rev. Eric and the Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo (Malaysia), the Rev. Jeffrey Truscott (Singapore) and the Rev. Suk Yeon Lee (South Korea).

21 The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

22 Ask God to deepen our understandings of abundance, generosity, stewardship, compassion and neighbor.

23 *Thanksgiving Day* God is good, loving and generous, providing abundantly for humankind and all living things. Give thanks for the blessings that sustain us, and pray we are generous in sharing our resources, shelter, food, care and hospitality with our neighbor.

24 Lift up in prayer people who serve a role in planting, tending, growing, harvesting, transporting and preparing the food that sustains us and gives us joy, and pray for renewed commitment to doing everything possible to eliminate hunger in the world.

25 Our lives are fleeting and fragile. Give thanks to God for the life we have and the days we are blessed with, and pray we live each day mindful of and driven by our baptismal journey of faith, service, witness and compassion for our neighbor.

26 We pray we treat one another, especially people living in the margins of society or in contexts removed from our daily experience of life, with the same love, concern and mercy God has shown us.

27 Give thanks and praise to God for always being our strength and refuge, our hope and joy.

28 Pray for God to deepen our faith and reveal to us daily the power, glory and love we have come to know in the risen Christ, Lord of the church, creation and universe.

29 We remember in our prayers the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities, a collaboration of the ELCA churchwide organization and our 26 colleges and universities dedicated to the freedom of inquiry and the development of the whole person in body, mind and spirit.

30 *Andrew, Apostle* Andrew dropped his fishing net and familiar livelihood to follow Jesus. Ask God to help us discern what we can drop or reprioritize for the sake of following Jesus as a disciple, servant and witness to the gospel that others may believe and follow too.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

October 27, 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

"You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:32)

On Reformation Day, we gather as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – in our congregations, across this church, and with our Lutheran family around the globe – to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This centennial has provided a welcome occasion to learn more about Martin Luther and the Reformation, while strengthening our understanding and commitment to our ministries. It has given us an opportunity to look back on the history of our tradition and to discern how we are being called forward together in Christ.

As the first centennial of the Reformation to take place in the context of our church's deep ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships, this anniversary is unfolding in a spirit of reconciliation. Together with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers, and other ecumenical companions, we have taken significant steps on the way to unity, justice and peace. With our inter-religious neighbors, we also have deepened mutual understanding across religious lines and collaborated for the common good.

Over the course of this year, in initiatives and events across this church and The Lutheran World Federation, we have been inspired by the ways in which Lutherans continue to share boldly the gifts of our tradition. One of these is Martin Luther's insistence that the unconditional promise of God's love in Jesus Christ frees us to love and serve our neighbors. This counter-cultural message is as fit for us today as it was for Christians 500 years ago.

On this day, and into God's future, we are called to be a public witness to how God is continually at work, in and through us, re-forming the body of Christ in a world broken by sin. Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 I-Help 5:30pm	2 Christ in Our Home-noon	3
5 All Saints Sunday Worship Service 10:00am	6	7	8 Council 10:00am	9 Property Meeting 9:30am Christ in Our	10	11
12 Worship Service 10:00am	13	14 Service 3:45pm	15 Altar Guild-1:00pm	16 Christ in Our Home-noon Foundation	17	18 Men's Breakfast 8:30am
19 Worship Service 10:00am Thanksgiving Feast	20	21 Food Bank 4:00-7:00pm	22	23 Christ in Our Home-noon	24	25 Work Day 8:30am
26 Worship Service 10:00am	27	28 Dagny Circle 1:00pm	29	30 Christ in Our Home-noon		

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Shanteau	11/3
Deb Schulte-Gaasch	11/15
Jim Helgason	11/15
Bill Dallmann	11/16
Karen Meheen	11/18
LaRene Kauffman	11/21

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

TJ & Charles Racoosin	11/13
Jesse Sharps	11/24
Diolinda Johnston	11/29
Jerry Lentz	11/30