

The Epistle

January 2018

Sharing God's Love
Together



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Begin 2018 with Gratitude!

Happy New Year! I hope that your celebration of Our Lord's Birth has been joyful and restful, as it was for me. I hope also you had an opportunity to reflect with gratitude on the gift of the incarnation itself: God has come to us in the weakest and most vulnerable so that we may always know God, and experience God's love. God would have us know peace. It's not too late! We still have a few days left of the Christmas season and we continue to reflect on God's coming to us in the season after Epiphany.

I would like to take a moment here to express my gratitude to all of you. First, let me thank you for your gifts to me and my family that you presented to me on Christmas Eve. We deeply appreciate your generosity. Second, let me thank all who put in extra effort to make our celebration of Christmas beautiful and meaningful to so many. We host many visitors at our Christmas Eve worship and they are so appreciative for the music, the beautifully decorated church, and all of the planning that goes into this celebration. Finally, let me thank you for your continued commitment to being the church. We express the presence of God and the love of God first and foremost by being in relationship with each other. It is easy to overlook the importance of just being a community and I want to express gratitude to all of you for this. It takes all of us. Thanks!

As we begin 2018, I want to make sure you are aware of some faith enrichment opportunities that will be coming soon. First, on January 14 and 21, we will have the opportunity to study and dis-

cuss "Sexuality and Marriage in Scripture." I will have some printed resources available on Sunday, January 7, for anyone who is interested. (On January 7, we will also view a video on Islam and have a discussion.) These discussions are designed to help us further discern whether we would like to take on the designation of being a "Reconciled in Christ" congregation.

We have our annual meeting on January 28 and then on February 4 we will continue our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a series focusing on the small catechism, "By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism." There are seven installments in this series, so this class will carry us through the end of March. I hope you will consider joining the adult class for part or all of this series. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lounge so that we will have class materials for everyone.

One last thing to consider even now: Ash Wednesday is on February 14. Lent will be upon us before we realize! Easter lands on April 1! Yes, that is quite early. It won't be long before we gather on Wednesday evenings for soup and evening prayer. I hope this early reminder helps us from getting surprised.

In the grace and peace of Christ,

Pastor Clark

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCES

Church Council News

Income			
Offerings	\$8,694	\$9,681	(\$987)
Building Use	\$3,270	\$3,542	(\$272)
Faith Giving	\$150	\$667	(\$517)
Misc Income	\$0	\$750	(\$750)
Special Donation	\$2,083	\$2,083	\$0
Total Income	\$14,197	\$16,723	(\$2,526)
Expenses	\$15,438	\$19,710	(\$4,272)
Loan Principal	\$594	\$594	\$0
November Net	(\$5,090)	\$762	(\$4,328)

YTD 2017	Actual	Budgeted	Diff
Income			
Offerings	\$107,963	\$106,524	\$1,439
Building Use	\$39,798	\$38,958	\$840
Faith Giving	\$7,070	\$7,333	(\$263)
Special Donation	\$22,917	\$22,917	\$0
Misc Income	\$8,410	\$8,250	\$160
Total Income	\$186,158	\$183,982	\$2,176
Expenses	\$172,542	\$169,377	\$3,165
Loan Principal	\$6,296	\$6,296	\$0
YTD Net	\$7,320	\$8,309	(\$989)

January 17—10:00am Council Meeting

January 21—Proposed 2018 Budget available for review.

January 28—Annual Congregation Meeting After church.

- Food and Business.
 - 2018 Budget approval
 - Election of Council Members
- We need a President, Secretary, Treasurer and members at large.

If interested and/or you have any Questions speak to the current Council members:

Cheryl Plasket
Jackie Shanteau
Barbara Grace
Ida Barber

We thank you for your support this past year,

Ida Barber, Council President

Adult Education Opportunities

(Meets after coffee/refreshments in the Music Room 11:30-12:30pm)

January 7th—View a video on Islam and have a discussion.

January 14 & 21st—Study and discuss “Sexuality and Marriage in Scripture.” Printed resources will be available on Sunday, January 7th for anyone who is interested. These discussions are designed to help us further discern whether we would like to take on the designation of being a “Reconciled in Christ” congregation.

February 4th-March 18—”By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism.”

This seven session course will be offering in-depth exploration and group discussions about the biblical and historical context of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, its link to the church’s faith, and its connection to Luther’s life and your life today.

Please let us know if you are interested in attending this adult study class.

Sign up in the Lounge, email: office@stim.org, or phone: 372-2042

Property Update

What is with all the orange mesh at the front of the church entrance? What is the progress of our large-scale church projects? What are the plans for our property for 2018? Among other things, the onset of the New Year gives us time to reflect on these questions as well as reviewing our accomplishments from 2017 with respect to St. Timothy's property.

This time last year, a new roof on the Sanctuary had been installed by Premo Roofing of Salinas and PG & E had completed its final inspection of our Bright Future solar system. This system has since essentially offset our total monthly electrical usage. Initial plans/drawings for five (5) additional large-scale projects were also submitted in December 2016.

What a difference a year makes. Following approval of plans by the city of Monterey and the efforts of many people, we now have a new furnace and zoned heating system throughout the rooms in the Education Building as well as two (2) refurbished, ADA accessible bathrooms. Additionally, the entrance to the Sanctuary Building has been completely re-done, including the installation of steps and two (2) ramps to allow safe, ADA accessibility. Yet to be completed are wooden planter boxes which will be positioned in the areas that are now bordered by that bright orange mesh. It was installed not only as a location marker for the planters, but also to serve as a safety guideline for those using the walkway. The upper and lower parking lots (4th large-scale project) have now been resurfaced, lined and are both fully usable.

During this past year, there were also numerous additions/improvements to St. Timothy's Community Garden. In addition to new plantings, space has also been allotted for fruit trees. Landscaping and retention wall improvements have controlled water erosion. Brush, branches, and ivy have been removed from the area just behind the Garden and there is a continuing effort underway to extend this removal to the creek area on the perimeter of the property. Thanks to Matt Schulz for coordinating these and other improvements in the Community Garden.

2018 will see the completion of planter boxes for the entryway as well as fencing along the walkway and stairs surrounding the Education Building. Additionally, the Property Committee is working to formulate and implement an overall landscaping/development plan to include, among other areas, the hillside and signage along the upper parking lot. Monthly Work Days will also continue in 2018 and a projects list for these days will be posted quarterly in the Office. Volunteers are always welcome. Just ask a Property Committee member for details.

Many thanks to all who have given their time, talents, and/or money toward improving our grounds and buildings and most especially, to Pastor Clark and his father, Michael Brown who have tirelessly provided their time, guidance, expertise, and resources for our benefit.

Service Commission

We will be sponsoring a Pasta Dinner to raise money for Dorothy's place on Saturday, February 10. We hope you all will plan to attend and that some of you will be able to help us.

Our next I-Help dinners are on Jan 3 and Feb 7. Sign-ups in the narthex.

Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 4, and we will have our soup pot out to collect your donations for Thomas Carman Food Pantry.

Thank you.
Your Service Commission



1 *Name of Jesus* Baptized into Christ, we bear the name of Jesus and are prepared for serving our neighbor and spreading the good news of what God has done. Give thanks for the gift of new life we have in Jesus Christ, and pray that we are bold, eager witnesses in the world – never shrinking from the work to which God calls us.

2 A new year often brings new hopes, resolutions, goals and beginnings. Ask God for strength and perseverance to meet the challenges of new and unfamiliar endeavors, and shout praise for God’s forgiveness and love that renews us and frees us to get up, learn and begin again when we stumble or fail.

3 Give thanks for the bishops of the ELCA, and pray they find mutual support, grow in wisdom and skill for their ministry, and that their faith is strengthened through time together at the Bishops’ Academy.

4 Seasonal workers in our communities often go unnoticed during the busyness of the holidays. Pray that workers now searching for new jobs find steady, fair employment to sustain their families and that our faith communities embrace them with support, concern and welcome.

5 During Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we lift up prayers for victims and survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation around the world and ask God to stir our resolve and actions to care for survivors, end these crimes and address the causes of trafficking, such as poverty, hunger and sexism.

6 *Epiphany of Our Lord* God’s purpose and redemptive work are revealed in the light of Jesus Christ to all humankind. Pray our hearts and minds are receptive to better understanding – through faith in Christ – the mystery of God’s boundless grace, wisdom and power.

7 *Baptism of our Lord* We remember our baptism and pray for the Spirit to remind us daily that we are children of God, forgiven and called to lives of service and witness in the world.

8 Ask God to help us recognize, confess, confront and correct sexist attitudes, behaviors and systems in ourselves, our workplaces, the church and society, knowing that the injustice and pain inflicted on women and girls hurts everyone. Pray that our Christian witness in the world is marked by respect for all people and the courage to learn and change as the spirit of God works in us.

9 We remember in our prayers those who continue to recover and rebuild after the devastation left in the wake of storms and fires, that individuals, families and communities will find new ways forward with the support and encouragement of the church, relief agencies and one another.

10 Sometimes God’s word and voice can be loud and majestic and shake all of creation. Pray we recognize God’s voice in daily life and give thanks for how it strengthens us and gives us peace.

11 We remember in our prayers companion-synod relationships with global-church partners, and ask God to bless and nourish these partnerships for mutual learning and encouragement, sharing our gifts and resources, building up the church and serving our neighbor.

12 Give thanks and praise to God for the comfort, order and hope God brings to our lives, especially in times of uncertainty, conflict, discouragement and what may seem like chaos.

13 Pray for those who have responded to God’s call to serve as ELCA Missionaries and in the Young Adults in Global Mission program that their faith and service are a bright and lively witness to the good news of Jesus Christ and to God’s presence and work in the world.

14 We pray that when Jesus invites us to “Come and see,” we are moved by faith to follow and invite our neighbors – friends and strangers alike – to hear the good news of Jesus Christ, believe and also follow.

15 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day* We remember in our prayers saints who have gone before us, like Martin Luther King Jr., and courageous people in our midst today who endure criticism and suffering for the sake of standing with, advocating for and serving God's children who suffer injustice, neglect or oppression.

16 Recalling how God spoke through the boy Samuel, we pray we are attentive to the presence of God's spirit and word in children and youth and that we help young people grow as faithful followers, leaders and servants in the body of Christ.

17 Give thanks to God for people who mentor us in our faith, daily life and work and have helped us grow and mature through the sharing of their gifts, wisdom, life experiences and faith.

18 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* We are one in the body of Christ. Pray for our ecumenical partners, global church partners and our brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere, that God will bless and further our work together for the purpose of building up Christ's church in the world.

19 The spirit of God is always at work in the church. We pray God will renew the church and our faith communities, especially when we grow weary, have questions about serving in changing communities, find ourselves in conflict or need to refresh our sense of mission.

20 We remember in prayer people of all ages and stages of life who are discovering and preparing for new vocations or studying for new professions and pray they and their families find the faith, strength and encouragement needed to move through times of anticipation, uncertainty and personal change.

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 living in poverty. Pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

22 We ask God to bless the ongoing work of reconciliation and healing among Christians and other faiths and to stay focused in our striving for unity for the sake of the world.

23 With humility and awe, we praise God for knowing our innermost thoughts and ways and for always seeking us out and embracing us like a loving parent.

24 We pray that everyone in need of warmth and shelter through the winter months has safe, dependable housing, especially elders and those who are homeless, and that we are unceasing in our work to care for and respect the dignity of people in need.

25 *Conversion of Paul* Praise God for the miraculous ways our faith and lives are changed as the Spirit works in us and among us.

26 Just as the disciples put down their fishing nets in response to Jesus' invitation to follow, we pray we are alert and receptive to God's calling us to service and witness in the world and that we are willing to reorder our priorities, tasks and lives to follow Jesus.

27 We remember in our prayers pastors and seminary students serving in Federal Chaplaincy Ministries in unique settings of the U.S. military, Veterans Affairs hospitals and federal correctional institutions.

28 Ask God to open our eyes to the ways – intentional and unintentional – in which we isolate our neighbor, cause others to stumble in their faith or stir division and conflict; ask for forgiveness and for the Spirit to redirect and inform our thoughts, words and actions for the well-being of our neighbor and the church.

29 Give thanks for the impact of the International Women Leaders initiative in partnership between ELCA Global Mission, global companion churches and the colleges and universities of the ELCA, launched as part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*.

30 Pray God continues to influence our lives and guide us through the teaching and example of prophets, teachers, leaders and Scripture and that we have the wisdom to discern what is true and flows from the word of God.

31 Give thanks for leaders who help us understand stewardship and how to use what God has entrusted to each of us and our communities – gifts from God to be used with generosity, compassion and responsibility in service to our neighbor and for the growth of the church.

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Christ in Our Home	5	6
7 Worship Service 10:00am Film on Islam 11:30am	8	9 Altar Guild 1:00pm Service 3:45pm	10	11 Christ in Our Home noon	12	13
14 Worship Service 10:00am Sexuality and Marriage in Scripture 11:30am	15	16 Food Bank 4:00-7:00pm	17 Council 10:00am	18 Christ in Our Home noon	19	20 Men's Breakfast 8:30am
21 Worship Service 10:00am Sexuality and Marriage in Scripture 11:30am	22	23 Dagny Circle 1:00pm Service 3:45pm	24	25 Christ in Our Home noon	26	27 Workday 8:30am
28 Worship Service 10:00am Congregational Meeting After service	29	30	31			

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ron Gaasch 1/24
 Marjorie Knight 1/25
 Lucille Snyder-Pires 1/26

Thank you one and all for
 the surprise inside my
 Christmas Card.
 Hugs and love,
 Carolyn