

Sharing God's Love  
Together



God's work.  
Our hands.

**Inside this issue:**

Dorothy Takes the Cake	2
ELCA Sanctuary Churches	3
Updates & Reminders	3
Prayer Ventures	4-5
Calendar	6

# The Epistle

September 2019

## Envisioning 2030: What's next?

Items from last visioning meeting:  
Music program, connected with community outreach  
+ Build on strong sense of connection with one another, relationships, (catechumenate-style groups, begin with new member (Walk with Christ?) group.  
Continue existing emphases: meal, book club, walking, community garden  
Increase office staff hours for managing finance and other administrative work now done by pastor  
+ Use web and other means to increase awareness in community.

Last month the congregation gathered in the social hall and tried to imagine together where God was leading us now, next year, and beyond. We pondered together several questions:

- What are you most grateful for in this community of faith?
- What do we imagine for St. Timothy ten years from now?
- What is God doing among us?
- What is God doing in our wider community?
- What is God calling us to do this next year and beyond?

At our August meeting, the church council briefly discussed the responses that arose and there were certain ideas that seemed prominent to us and to me. The main theme that came out of the forum was a desire to build on what we are already doing. We would do this by pursuing a number of avenues.

First, we want to build on some of the new initiatives that we began last year. Specifically, we want to continue the walking group and the book club and see if there are ways that we can draw

even more people to join them. We also want to see if there is a way to restart the community meal and make it driven more by people in the neighborhood than primarily people in the congregation.

Second, we also have some longer established activities that use to expand our reach. We want to continue to promote the community garden to increase our contact with people in our neighborhood. The same is true for our music program. We want to find ways that we can host concerts and offer our worship space for local performers. Again, the goal is to build on the music that is so important to our worship life to help us expand our connections with the community.

The third thing expressed at our gathering is one that truly supports everything that we do as a congregation: increase our office staff. We are grateful for all the work that the office staff do, but as we have had to reduce the work hours for our office manager there are some things that are not getting done. We especially want to increase our presence on the web, using our website, social media, and video tools. This will require a financial commitment from us and so we will need to discuss this as a congregation this Fall as we shape next year's budget.

Finally, the strongest thing expressed at our meeting was thankfulness for the friendships and the feeling of harmony in the congregation. This is a strength that we can also build on and thereby deepen our relationships with each

(cont. page 2)

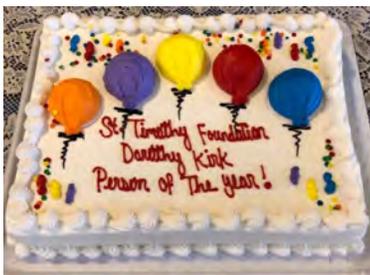
## ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCES

St. Timothy Lutheran Church					
As of: July 31, 2019					
Summary Profit and Loss					
Income	July Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	
Congregational Giving	\$8,898.00	\$11,466.67	\$73,582.00	\$80,267	
Outside Groups	\$3,372.00	\$3,616.67	\$25,337.00	\$25,317	
Misc	0	\$750.00	\$3,172.00	\$5,250.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,270.03</b>	<b>\$15,833.32</b>	<b>\$102,091.00</b>	<b>\$110,834.00</b>	
Expenses					
Administration	\$538.52	\$735.43	\$7,071.15	\$6,992.91	
Church Staff	3711.42	\$3,651.24	\$23,302.16	\$25,558.74	
Committees					
Education	0	\$58.34	\$336.60	\$408.33	
Finance	\$168.34	\$12.50	\$168.34	\$87.50	
Hospitality & Welcome	\$53.90	\$66.66	\$296.16	\$466.67	
Property	\$139.85	\$620.84	\$5,414.60	\$4,345.83	
Service	\$890.23	\$898.51	\$6,233.38	\$6,289.51	
Worship and Music	\$350.00	\$304.16	\$1,268.09	\$2,129.17	
Total Committees	1602.32	1961.01	\$13,917.17	\$13,727.01	
Loan Expenses	\$610.78	662.67	\$4,507.49	\$4,638.67	
Office	\$216.87	\$350.01	\$2,259.59	\$2,450.01	
Pastor	\$7,959.34	\$8,284.34	\$57,311.55	\$57,990.33	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,639.25</b>	<b>\$15,644.67</b>	<b>\$108,339.11</b>	<b>\$111,357.67</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$2,369.22)</b>	<b>\$188.67</b>	<b>(\$6,247.90)</b>	<b>(\$524.33)</b>	

other, with God, and, again, with the broader community. I think we can do this by strengthening existing groups and by beginning some new ones. I would like to begin with a group for new members that would allow them and us to grow in our relationships with each other and with God. I see this sort of effort to be an essential part of evangelism: how we share God's love with each other and the world.

I want to thank all of you again who attended our gathering. I hope I have captured the essentials of what we discussed but please share with me your thoughts about these things. I think we are indeed on a good path, walking with Christ into our community.

In the grace and peace of Christ,  
Pastor Clark



### Dorothy Takes the Cake!

My family joins me in thanking you for giving me the honor of the 2019 "Person of the Year." Last Sunday, August 25th, was lovely with many people congratulating me, beautiful flowers to take home, and a delicious decorated cake paired with coffee after the service.

The men and women of St. Timothy are very supportive and helpful. I cannot take all the credit. I count my blessings. Thanks so much for the stain glass sun catcher cross. It is so beautiful. I love it! It is hanging in my kitchen window.

Hugs and love to you all,  
Dorothy Kirk



## ELCA as a sanctuary church: What does this mean?

In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. Being a sanctuary denomination does not call for any person, congregation or synod to engage in any illegal actions. We have a broken system regarding immigration, refugees and asylum seekers. Being a sanctuary denomination is about loving our neighbors. While we don't yet know the full scope of the work that this declaration will open for the church, we do know that our faith communities are already doing sanctuary work. Except for our members whose ancestors were here before European settlement or others who were forced to come to the U.S. against their will, the ELCA is an immigrant church. Our decades long work with immigrants and refugees is how we practice our faith in the world. Lutherans started Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of the nine refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S. At our last churchwide assembly we passed the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) strategy. Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work.. Welcoming people is not a political issue for us, it is a matter of faith.

---

### UPDATES AND REMINDERS

**Service Commission**—We will meet again on September 10 @ 3:45. The next I-Help is Sept. 3rd and next Food Pantry is Sept. 17th. Thanks for donations to the food basket. Your Service Commission

**Sierra Pacific Synod Survey**—The deadline for completing the Synod Survey is September 5th. Please make time to do this survey. [CLICK Here to Complete the Synod Survey](#). Note: Our Synodical Conference is El Camino Real.

**Games for Your Brain**—Come join us to build mental muscle. We will be meeting September 13 at 1:00pm. For directions call Cheryl at 383-9052.

**Timothy Book club**—The St. Tim book club will be meeting on **September 21 at noon** at the Crazy Horse Restaurant. The book selected is *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins. Copies are available in the office.

**WELCA School Kits**— We will be stuffing the school kits on September 25 starting at 10:00am. We will break for lunch. Please don't forget that the Cantrell sisters have offered to do the shopping for those who are wishing to donate, but do not have the time to go out and shop. Please put any amount you wish into an envelope marked "**WELCA Kits**" and drop it off in the church office or place it in the offering plate on any Sunday. We are grateful for your kind donation to this worthy cause and know you are making a difference and providing children with an opportunity to get an education.

### Men's Breakfast

This monthly event is held at the Crazy House Restaurant the date this month is **September 28 at 8:30am**.

**A heartfelt thank you**—Marjorie Knight wants to thank everyone for their prayers for her granddaughter, Isabella, she is really doing well.





## PRAYER VENTURES September 2019

1 Pray that we learn humility, respect and hospitality from the example and teachings of Jesus and the Spirit at work in the lives of people around us, and that we exercise in daily life this regard for others without bias, reluctance or feeling that we deserve something in return.

2 *Labor Day* On this day we recognize and pray for the work and service people do to sustain their families and benefit their communities and society. Pray that all receive fair wages, work in safe environments, are renewed through times of sabbath, and experience joy and fulfillment in their labor; pray that all those who seek employment will find work and for the well-being, care and support of people unable to work.

3 Give thanks to God for our early-learning centers, K-12 schools, lay schools for ministry, colleges and universities, and seminaries, and for the significant role they serve in faith formation, education and equipping leaders throughout life.

4 Praise God for filling us with mercy, compassion, joy, a sense of justice, and a bold, confident faith that spills over into the world.

5 Give thanks and praise to God as we celebrate with the 2019 graduates of the ELCA International Women Leaders initiative: Sthela Gun Holly Hanitrinirina (Malagasy Lutheran Church); Yuen Ching Lee, Abby Lai and Melissa Neo (Lutheran Church in Malaysia); and Elisa Pérez-Trejo (Mexican Lutheran Church). Give thanks for all who have supported them throughout the program, and ask God to bless their service and ministry as they move forward.

6 Pray that our actions, words, work, service and concern for our neighbors in need — be they strangers, friends or forgotten — bear witness to the word and ways of God made known to us through Jesus Christ and instilled in us by the Holy Spirit.

7 Give thanks for the ministry and witness of ELCA missionaries serving alongside our global companions in Senegal, South Africa and Eswatini, as well as the six young people serving in Senegal and the four serving in Southern Africa as part of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program.

8 *"God's work. Our hands."* Sunday Pray for children, youth and adults involved in volunteer community service across the country in partnership with neighboring congregations, Lutheran agencies and community organizations. Give thanks for the living, daring confidence in God's grace from which our every act of service throughout life flows!

9 Continue to pray for peace, justice, reconciliation and economic opportunity for the people and countries of Central America, and pray that the United States and other nations will respond to their needs with humanitarian and economic assistance, collaborative efforts to find effective, lasting solutions to the crises they are experiencing, and prayerful, enduring support.

10 Praise God for knowing us better than we know ourselves and assuring us that we are loved and are never forgotten or alone in the world.

11 Pray that the peace, confidence and grace of God given to us in Jesus Christ will prevail and calm our every fear and anxiety in these turbulent and uncertain times.

12 As members of the body of Christ we are like "trees planted by streams of water," sustained in all that we do, nurtured to bear fruits of the Spirit and strengthened to follow the word and ways of God. Pray that we are not shy about inviting others to have faith in God's redeeming love through Christ and enjoying the life-enriching blessings of being in a community of faith.

13 Approximately 1 in 10 people around the world can't access the food he or she needs to live an active, healthy life; more than 40 million people in the United States are unsure where their next meal will come from; and 10% of the world's population lives in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. Remember in prayer those who suffer with poverty and hunger, and give thanks for the work of ELCA World Hunger, our congregations and other partners as they respond to communities in need, striving for sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

14 *Holy Cross Day* Today, give thanks and lift up words of celebration for Jesus' self-sacrificing, redemptive, life-giving offering on the cross for the sake of all humanity.

15 *National Hispanic Heritage Month* Give thanks for the gifts, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latino brothers and sisters and pray for the work and growth of the 147 ELCA Latino ministries in the United States as they share the gospel,

encourage our unity in Christ, support pastors and lay leaders, and serve their neighbors in many community contexts.

16 Pray for God's mercy, forgiveness and guidance when we stray from God's ways or find ourselves worshipping wealth, earthly possessions, power or status more than we worship God.

17 Pray that our church in all its expressions — congregations, synods and the churchwide organization — are guided by the wisdom and enthusiasm stirred by the Holy Spirit to implement and live into decisions made during synod assemblies and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly for the sake of doing God's work in the world, sharing the gospel, growing the church and serving our neighbor.

18 Pray that we might be persistent and caring in seeking, inviting and welcoming people who have left our congregations, feel unwelcome because of who they are or what they've done, have been hurt by conflict or feel they have no place in the church, the body of Christ.

19 Pray for relief and access to clean water where people are suffering from extreme heat and drought in the world; ask God to help us work with one another to care for our environment and precious water resources, find ways to ease and prevent the impact of climate change, and share generously our resources to provide for the essential needs of people everywhere.

20 With grateful hearts, thank God for the mercy and grace we receive through Jesus Christ, who embraces who we are in all our humanness and shortcomings and transforms us for service and faithful leadership in the world.

21 *Matthew, apostle and evangelist* Pray that we will serve as willing, faithful and bold followers of Christ even though our backgrounds, life experiences, professions and gifts are diverse and may seem incongruent with what we imagine God desires in a disciple or evangelist.

22 Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in us and guide us to be faithful, trustworthy and responsible with all God has entrusted to us in this life, that we may serve our neighbors in need, care for creation and honor God.

23 Remember in prayer ministry candidates who have responded to God's call to ministry and leadership through the church and are involved in the process of preparation, discernment and waiting for assignment. Pray for candidates and their families during this time that can be both joyful and anxious; and pray that leaders and ELCA staff involved in the assignment process will be guided by the Holy Spirit in their discernment and decision-making.

24 Pray for the 15 ELCA missionaries serving in parish ministry and education as they work alongside our companions in Slovakia and Russia.

25 Praise God who exists throughout the universe and all time yet has compassion and concern for people who are poor and in great need; pray that we will be moved by God's ways, examples and commands to show attentiveness, mercy, compassion and love for our neighbors in need.

26 Pray for the ministry of ELCA Advocacy, its Washington office and its state public policy offices as they work with ELCA members to develop and advance legislation that will overcome poverty, defend God's creation and promote peace, dignity and justice.

27 Give thanks that God is slow to anger and inclined to forgive our sins, shortcomings, mistreatment of our neighbors and deliberate wrongdoings, and to treat us with mercy and compassion for the sake of restoring our relationship with God and setting us back on track in our daily lives.

28 Pray for Bible study leaders, teachers and volunteers serving in our congregations who share their faith, help us study and explore Scripture, join us in prayerfully and thoughtfully wrestling with spiritual questions, and help us connect the word of God with everyday life.

29 Reflect on the gifts, abilities and courage of faith we have received from the Holy Spirit, and on the joy and confidence we have in the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ; give thanks for who we have become in Christ for the sake of mission and service in the world.

30 Give praise and glory to God that through our worship and liturgy we will be reminded of the promises spoken at our baptisms, the forgiveness and new life we receive through the washing with water and the word of God, and the call we receive to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness — as individuals and communities of faith.

# September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SEPTEMBER IS FAITH GIVING MONTH						
1 Worship Service 10:00am	2	3	4 I-Help 5:30pm  Confirmation Class 5:15-6:30pm	5 Christ in Our Home Noon	6 Church Women United 9:30am	7
8 Worship Service 10:00am God's Work Our Hands After Service	9	10 Altar Guild 1:00pm  Service Commission 3:45pm	11  Confirmation Class 5:15-6:30pm	12 Property 9:30am  Christ in Our Home Noon	13  Games 1:00pm	14
15 Worship Service 10:00am	16	17 Council Meeting 2:00pm  Food Pantry 4-7:00pm	18  Confirmation Class 5:15-6:30pm	19 Christ in Our Home Noon	20	21 St Tim Book club Noon Crazy Horse
22 Worship Service 10:00am Pastor Rick Alpers	23	24 Dagny Circle 1:00pm  Epistle Articles Due	25 Stuff WELCA Kits 10:00am  Confirmation Class 5:15-6:30pm	26 Christ in Our Home Noon	27	28 Men's Breakfast 8:30am Work Day
29 Worship Service 10:00am Jazz Sunday	30					



Mary Lee Slater      9/22  
Dolores Stallings      9/24