

Good News

ST. TIMOTHY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2020

PASTOR'S PEN

*O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.
You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.*

That's the beginning of Psalm 139. As we head into the heart of summer and the Fourth of July, what would normally be a period of family vacations and national celebration has been replaced by a great number of unknowns. The uncertainty that dominates our psyches these days drives me back to this, my favorite psalm. When faced with things unfamiliar and even threatening, these words remind and assure me that I, and all the uncontrollable events which surround me, are well known to God and fully within his grasp.

*Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O LORD, you know it all.
You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is too high, I cannot attain to it.*

So much in the way of knowledge is beyond us today, a fact brought home to us every week as we on the Reopening Team meet to plan our future in worship. We have twice set dates for returning to the campus – dates which turn out to

be moving targets. As I write, we read of the possible appearance of a second wave of COVID-19 and of states returning to shutdowns.

However, though I can't give a definite date for us to begin gathering, I can tell you that specific plans are coming into place. When the time is right, we will begin by at first meeting on the field in small groups with others parked in cars and listening on a local FM broadcast. Protocols are being designed such that you will be able to join these gatherings with confidence – or remain at home and join our "watch" and "live" services which will continue to be provided online.

*Where can I go from your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, you are there.
If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me,
And your right hand will lay hold of me.*

But there is more than worship itself. God's hand leads us several ways including through sermons and opportunities to gather for study. We are now in a sermon series on the book of Acts in which we hear how the Holy Spirit used the methods available in the first century – beginning with a

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festival gathering in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost – to launch God's "Gospel IPO" into the world. And we hear how, from the beginning, the church was challenged by God's concern for those "outside the tribe" to recognize that "Gentile Lives Matter" – a challenge that continues to resonate to this day in terms of our own response to racism.

Today, we also have tools the first century never envisioned and are considering several online class opportunities similar to the excellent C. S. Lewis class offered earlier by Michael Stamos.

*If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to you,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to you.*

So, although it may at times seem that the "darkness will overwhelm" us, ultimately we know that this can never happen. Even the "darkness" is "as bright as the day" from God's perspective. As Paul later writes, in Romans 8, "He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him over for us all, how will he not also with him freely give us all things?" So, with much of the future still opaque to us with our earthbound limitations, we yet plan for the future as we are able. We realize that those plans must always remain tentative, but that, at the same time, that which is dark and opaque to us is most certainly not so to God.

And we long for that day when we can gather together again, face to face.

In Christ,
Pastor Jim

View from the Pew

Making Christ More Central in our Lives

By Terry Abel

Although I grew up in the church, it wasn't really until I was twenty-five that my faith became strong. Until then, God seemed distant. However, being a teacher at a Christian junior high and high school in Arroyo Grande for three years really deepened my relationship with the Lord. With the help of the fellow staff members' strong faith, and a booklet by Robert Boyd Munger called *My Heart Christ's Home*, I made sure Jesus came into my heart for real and penetrated the selfish darkness that was still there, with light. With Shelter in Place I have had time to reread this little booklet about Jesus entering the door of our hearts and making himself at home there, based on Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." I for one, like the author of the booklet, have never regretted opening that door, and I don't think that will change.

The booklet describes places of the heart as rooms. One of the first rooms described is the study. Munger describes Jesus looking at the author's study, which he calls the "study of the mind," saying he should have a picture of Christ hanging up in there, so he can focus on it and redirect any negative thoughts.

I have a "picture" of Christ in my mind and heart, and in my study, and sometimes, when any wrong, anxious or other thoughts comes my way, I'll look at it and immediately feel better, reminded that my life is not out of control at all because it's completely centered on Jesus. As Bishop, (then Pastor), Dan once said, "Make Christ more central in your life, so your life will be more centered on Him."



For up-to-date prayer requests,
join the Prayer Group on St. Tim's
Connect. To add or renew a prayer
request, call 408-264-3858 or
email info@stlcsj.org.

Pat Bushur, mom of Chris Bushur
Olivia Davoli, friend of BJ Bushur
Charlotte Shaffer, college friend of Jan Newcomb
Joey Sorrenti, nephew of Karla Peterson
Nita Willis, friend of BJ Bushur
The family of Peter Smith, uncle of Bill Mowson
The family of Debbie Anderson, former member

BUDGET REPORT

| | General | Building |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| OFFERINGS to date | \$482,580 | \$69,098 |
| SPENDING to date | \$527,403 | \$43,493 |
| Excess/(Shortfall) | \$(44,823) | \$25,605 |

| | Capital Campaign |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| OFFERINGS to date | \$96,452 |

2 WAYS TO CONTINUE TO GIVE

1. Mail your offering to church. If no offering envelope, be sure to indicate in the memo line which fund(s).
2. Give online on our safe and secure website
<https://www.stlcsj.org/giving/>

New To Our Staff

Director of Discipleship and Connections

Our Discipleship and Connections Hiring Team continues to search for someone to fill our long-term Discipleship/Connections position. But in the short-term, we need to give our discipleship work a boost. To that end, BJ Bushur has agreed to contract with us for the next couple of months to do three things:

- Recruit and Train new Grow Group Leaders
- Work on a Proposal for Grow Group Content for the Fall
- Host a Coaching Session for Current Grow Group Leaders

Welcome, BJ! We are so glad you are helping us in this way.

Be watching for more news and efforts to expand our Grow Groups in the immediate future. And please keep BJ and all our Grow Group leaders – and the Hiring Team -- in your prayers.

Children's Ministry: Passing the Baton

Starting July 1, Emily Hindenes will take over as our full-time Director of Children and Family Ministry. Welcome, Emily!

We introduced Emily a couple months ago. Click [here](#) to see her introductory video. Emily is a daughter of the congregation and knows St. Timothy's well. She is also an alumnus of our school. Emily is an experienced elementary school teacher and has a heart for following Jesus. We are pleased to have her as an official part of our staff.

At the same time, we want to thank Melanie Adkins, who has been shouldering Children's Ministry responsibilities since Elizabeth Hill stepped away. Melanie has been a very competent and willing director. Never once has she complained about the difficulties that SIP ushered in; she has just gone with the flow. We are very grateful that she has been there when we needed her.

Melanie isn't leaving us completely (thankfully). She continues as part of the Steering Team for FISH. Thank you, Melanie – for all you do!

CALL TEAM UPDATE

God is moving us forward! We have now completed our new candidate intake process, and are confident that we have screened those who would be a good fit for St Timothy's. Two candidates have risen to the top, and those candidates are now being interviewed on site, in person. We are glad to have this opportunity for face-to-face interviews.

Please continue to keep the Call Team and those candidates in your prayers. We are seeking God's will in all of this, and praying that the Holy Spirit will lead us forward in the discernment process.

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2

Tony Mazzucco, Chair

Tammie Mark

Aaron Gable

Wayne Peterson

Michelle Donaldson

Larry Austin

Judy Bangsund

A Thank You Note from our Elders

As we make phone calls through our congregational directory, we are hearing these words from our elders:

"Thank you so much for keeping us in contact with the church through calls, cards, devotions and worship services. It makes all the difference."

And so we encourage *all* of you to continue to make the effort to call and reach out to one another – not just our elders, but others as well. Is there someone in the congregation that you haven't seen in a long time, and want to be in touch with? Let the Holy Spirit direct you – and make that contact! You will be so glad you did.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Ephesians 6:2

SCHOLARSHIP

The St. Timothy's Legacy Fund is offering up to 10 scholarships to high school graduates who will be attending an accredited post-secondary school in the United States after graduation. This school must be a nationally accredited 4-year college or university, community college, vocational school or trade school. Scholarship recipients will receive \$1000 towards college tuition and fees. Payment will be made directly to the student.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The following criterion must be met to qualify for scholarship award under the program:

1. The applicant must be affiliated with an NALC congregation within the Central Pacific Mission District.
2. The applicant must have graduated from high school within the past five years or be graduating in the spring of the current year, and starting their first year of post-secondary school in the summer or fall of the current year.
3. The applicant may not have previously received a scholarship under the program.
4. The applicant must return an application package (more details in application link).

APPLICATION

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS AUGUST 14, 2020.

Silicon Valley Discipleship Walk for Water

Save The Date! Virtual Walk For Water 2020 Saturday, September 19

Our annual Walk For Water will look and feel a little different this year. We'll begin the morning together online, walk separately, and then come together again for a brief online closing celebration. While our Walk For Water will look and feel a little different this year, the reason we're walking remains unchanged: To share the love of Jesus with our global family through the gift of safe water. To God be the glory!

We're excited to share with you that the funds we raise through this year's walk will help bring safe water and real hope to God's children in the community of **San Roque, Peru**. JD Meeker, Partnership Director at Water Mission writes:

"San Roque is an incredibly isolated community, deep in the Amazon Forest along the Ucayali River. Depending on the time of year and speed of the river, it takes 10-12 hours by boat to get from our office in Iquitos, to San Roque. The need for safe water is great in this community. It is the largest city in the area, and so serves as a central hub supporting many much smaller river communities made up of primarily indigenous communities. The community gets water directly from the river. Throughout the year this water is brown with mud/silt and highly contaminated. This is a very large project that would be a source of hope in this isolated and often neglected area. Our Peru Country Director, Juan Simon said, 'Nobody comes out to support these people; the government spends money elsewhere. If we don't do it, nobody else will.' "



The folks of San Roque may be largely forgotten by the world, but God sees them. We're blessed to play a part in making His love known to them in such a tangible way!

Please save the date. Please pray for the community of San Roque, Peru. Stay tuned. You'll be hearing much more in the coming weeks about how we can all Walk For Water in 2020!

Walk ON!





St. Timothy's Christian Preschool

Summer Camp

Hello St. Tim's!

We want to update you with the most recent goings-on here at the Preschool! During this time we are so excited to have been able to offer a modified version of our Summer Camps to our preschool families and local community! With limits on the number of campers we could enroll, we are currently FULL and have a waiting list for ALL weeks of camp!



This past week we held a Mini- Chef camp! The children had fun learning how to set a table, chop vegetables, create their own aprons and even make spaghetti and eclairs!!

This week is all about Outdoor Science! Lessons this week include the phases of the moon, nature art, observing animals outside, and more!

We thank you for your continued support and prayers! We look forward to the time when all our friends can be back in class together. We pray you are all well and healthy!

In Christ,

Jeanette Adams - Director, St. Timothy's Christian Preschool

Katy Stamos - Admin, St. Timothy's Christian Preschool

NOW ENROLLING FOR 2020-2021

Preschool 2s to Pre-K

sttimothyschristianpreschool.org

At St. Timothy's Christian Preschool, we believe that children grow and learn best in a developmental, hands-on environment. We are committed to providing a balance between academics, social and play activities to ensure a love of learning and a well-rounded young child. It is our hope that all children will learn to love God, to treat others with kindness, to live their faith, and to celebrate and embrace what they have learned. We have flexible program options 1/2 or full day with 2,3, or 5 days a week)

If you have questions or to set-up a tour: Call 408-265-0244 or email school@stlcsj.org



CORNER STONE

HIGH SCHOOL

TUESDAYS

7:30-8:30

**ON
ZOOM**

CORNER STONE

JUNIOR HIGH

WEDNESDAYS

**6-7
ON
ZOOM**

Growing Faith during Shelter in Place: Quotes from Our Youth:

"I have been meeting with another high school student and Anna-Marie weekly for Bible study since this past fall. We have been going through the Old Testament, there are a lot of stories I didn't know. I am glad that even though we are in SIP I have continued to learn new things from the Bible during our weekly Zoom meeting." – Belle C.

"I have been serving in the FISH Food Pantry since December. It's been fun interacting with those we serve and I have been happy to help meet their needs for groceries. I am glad that I have been able to continue to help out in this ministry while taking necessary precautions to keep everyone safe." – Marley M

"I am glad we have been able to continue Cornerstone on Zoom each week. Being on Zoom allows me to see my friends, have fun playing games and still learn something about God." – Emily B

"I had been SIP for a few weeks and had not had any contact with anyone besides my family and people on Zoom when Tim (my youth leader) dropped by with "Ding Dong Ditch" and we were able to have a social distancing porch visit, it was super refreshing." –Joseph M

"I had struggled with reading my Bible and spending time with God each day. I would often forget. Since I have been receiving daily texts from Anna-Marie with "5 minutes a day devotion" I have been reading my Bible every day. The texts are a great reminder". –Rebecca G

CHURCH STAFF CONTACT INFO

Our staff continues to work mostly from home. The best way to reach a staff member is by email or a cell/home phone.

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Pastor Jonna | jonna.bohigian@stlcsj.org | cell 559-696-7888 |
| Pastor Judy | judy.bangsund@stlcsj.org | home 408-723-2433 or cell 408-207-7952 |
| Pastor Jim | jim.bangsund@stlcsj.org | home 408-723-2433 |
| Joe Hill | joe.hill@stlcsj.org | cell 408-531-5021 |
| Anna-Marie Valles | annamarie.valles@stlcsj.org | cell 408-640-1605 |
| Emily Hindenes | emily.hindenes@stlcsj.org | cell 408-613-8025 |
| Beth Tkacheff | beth.tkacheff@stlcsj.org | cell 408-644-0538 |
| Jeanette Stahlke | jeanette.stahlke@stlcsj.org | cell 408-234-6941 |

StTim'sConnect

sttims.ccbchurch.com

Help us keep our records updated!

Moved? No longer have a home phone?

Need to add your cell phone?

Update your email address?

Login to St. Tim's Connect and update your information. Need a login? Email

beth.tkacheff@stlcsj.org

You can also email any changes to Beth and she can update your information for you.

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