



Good News

ST. TIMOTHY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2020

Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends at St. Timothy's,

Happy Advent! And welcome to my favorite time of the year! Perhaps like me, you are breathing a sigh of relief that we are actually and *finally* here! At times, this year has seemed so dark, that we have questioned whether or not we might *ever* get to Advent and Christmas! I can't *tell* you when I have been happier to usher in this season, this season of hopeful anticipation, breaking the icy gloom which threatens to swallow us whole.

We are in a new season, and that *doesn't* mean that we need to be happy all of the time like Elf (although that wouldn't be too shabby), but it *does* mean that our *focus* needs to shift. In Advent, you and I are called away *from* our preoccupations *to* the hope of Jesus.

We anticipate afresh the coming of Jesus in human flesh. We imagine what it must have been like to wait for the One who was prophesied, the One who would come in humility, the One who would be the shepherd to God's sheep, the One who would break the bonds of injustice and save the people from their sins. We anticipate Jesus' first advent.

We anticipate the coming of Jesus at a future and unknown time. We trust his promise to come back to restore and establish his kingdom over all creation. We hear Jesus' encouragement to his disciples to stand ready and to remain faithful. We anticipate Jesus' second advent.


In Advent, we are reminded that we are a *people of hope*. We have a sure and certain hope, an anchor for the soul, that Jesus *will not* abandon us and that he *will* return, just as he has promised. Our hope is built on nothing less...and nothing more.

This Advent season, we encourage you to invite your neighbors and join us in preparing your hearts with hope. Join us for Sunday morning worship, our Online Family Advent Series, and daily devotions.

And come back to celebrate Christmas! Our children and family event this year is Dough Holy Night: A Sweet Celebration of our Dear Savior's Birth (see the Children's Page for more details). Our Christmas Eve services are in the works! They will look different this year, but they will be no less special. Stay tuned for more details.

May the hope of Advent bring you to the joy of Christmas!

Pastor Jonna



SUNDAY WORSHIP

NEW TIME! Starting Sunday, December 13, in-person, outdoor worship will be moving to 10:30 am.

The **Genesis Online Zoom Class** will also likely switch times that day to 9 am. Watch your email for confirmation of the new time.

South Valley FISH Food Pantry Update

What a challenging, strange and emotional year this has been for everyone and we have seen this evidence in a significant increase in the number of FISH clients served during the pandemic. We couldn't have done this without the support, prayers and encouragement of so many people. We served 152 families at our Thanksgiving distributions and will be holding two Christmas distributions on December 10th and December 17th.

This past year we are so very thankful for...

- ♦ all of our volunteers who have kept the FISH Food Pantry operating during this pandemic
- ♦ the support of the St. Timothy's congregation
- ♦ our surrounding community - the wonderful volunteers from btc-Almaden and Dartmouth Middle School's many generous donations of gift cards
- ♦ Boy Scouts Eagle Projects - Zack Westhauser, who built a very functional bagging table and Justin Etter, who built beautiful new benches for the Camden patio area
- ♦ all of those talented sewers who made sure we had enough masks for our volunteers and our clients
- ♦ generous monetary donations which helped to keep our shelves stocked with plenty of food for our clients AND enabled FISH to purchase a new commercial freezer
- ♦ food donations from our Grocery Rescue programs at Trader Joe's and Smart and Final
- ♦ our partnership with Second Harvest, and all the food they provide to FISH each week, which we distribute to those in need in our community

If you are interested in supporting FISH or would like more information, please visit our website at www.svfish.org



May you experience God's love and presence in a comforting and encouraging way as we journey together through these last days of 2020. We have been struggling to determine the best way to celebrate Christmas together as a church this year. Below is our plan.

Please keep in mind COVID-19 regulations could change our outdoor worship plan. We will give as much notice as possible if we have to change.

ONLINE WORSHIP

We will offer a wonderfully uplifting and Christ filled online, recorded worship experience for all who are most comfortable staying at home. There will be candle lighting during Silent Night. You can use candles from your home or pick-up a candle taper and cup outside the church office from December 11-23.

IN-PERSON, OUTDOOR WORSHIP

1, 3, 5, 7, 9 PM

We will be transforming our parking lot into a beautifully lit event space with a rented tent to make this a truly memorable Christmas Worship Celebration. Reservations will be required and will start December 10. Reservations will close December 22 or when we are at capacity.

VOLUNTEERS

We will be looking for many volunteers to help us make this transformation happen. To volunteer contact at jim.cords@stlcsj.org

Adopt a Family

2020 Style!

We are doing an online sign-up this year. <https://www.stlcsj.org/adopt-a-family/> You will see there are lists for each family and another list for gift cards (to be shared equally among the families).

DIRECTIONS:

1. You can view each family's gift requests by clicking the orange "view" button.
2. Click the green "sign-up" button to select a gift and fill in your contact information. Please note under the description who the gift is for, and write that on the gift tag.
3. Purchase and wrap the gift. Don't forget to include a gift tag so we know who the gift is for.
4. **Return to the church on the following days (please do not drop off gifts outside of these times):**

Sunday, December 6 from 10-11 am

Thursday, December 10 & 17 from 1 to 2 pm

Saturday, December 19 from 10-11 am

If you cannot make these times, email beth.tkacheff@stlcsj.org to arrange another time.

Delivery will be Sunday, December 20. If you would like to be a driver to deliver the gifts, contact Diana O'Halloran at diana.ohalloran@gmail.com.

Meet the families:

Each of these three families are regular clients of South Valley FISH Food Pantry who are struggling, in their own way, to make ends meet in this valley. All of them expressed deep gratitude and relief when they were offered the opportunity to participate in this ministry. Thank you for making this ministry happen each year!

Family 1: This family is comprised of two parents, three sons and one grandma. The family has had a rough go since 2018 when the mom lost her job and insurance. However, even when they are down, they know God is good and feel blessed to have been chosen.

Family 2: This family of six moved into this area in March so their son could go to Oster Deaf School. Then the pandemic hit, which hit them hard as both parents work in the restaurant industry. The mom had to stop working and her husband's hours have been reduced. They are so thankful to God for giving them the opportunity to be adopted for Christmas.

Family 3: Like a lot of families, COVID has also hit this family of five hard. They are two parents, one grandma and two children that live together. The dad's work has been inconsistent this year due to COVID. Being chosen as an adopt-a-family has been such a blessing for them.



Welcome Mohab!



My name is Mohab Benjamin, and I'm blessed and honored to accept the Director of Music Ministry position at St. Timothy's. I was born and raised in Alexandria, Egypt, and have been so privileged to have been raised in a Christian family that cherishes music and is involved in that specific ministry in more ways than one.

My classical piano studies started even before I could remember, and music, in general, has been, and remains, the very first passion that I fell in love with at the age of 3. After that, I never stopped, and I don't think I ever will. There isn't any equivalent joy and contentment compared to what I get from singing, playing, writing, directing, and producing music. And given my upbringing and background, I don't ever see myself doing that away from God, even if I eventually find myself in a professional or secular atmosphere.

I wholeheartedly look forward to getting to know every member of this lovely congregation, be it involved in music ministry or not, but more importantly, I'm genuinely looking forward to making St. Timothy's my home.

LCMC Partnership Opportunity

During the Call Process, it was brought to the Call Team's attention that there is a great opportunity for ministry and connection with other Lutheran churches through **LCMC**, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. In fact, it was through LCMC that we discovered Pastor Jim Cords and were able to extend a call to him. On behalf of the Leadership Team, we are excited to bring to the congregation an opportunity to establish a partnership with LCMC.

What does this mean?

Partnering with LCMC will provide opportunities to expand our ministries and relationships within the broader Lutheran community. This will change nothing about our existing affiliation with, nor allegiance to, the NALC. Since LCMC is an association (not structured as a denomination), joining involves a vote by means deemed appropriate by each congregation and there is no required commitment regarding time, energy, or finances.

Why establish this partnership?

Many NALC and LCMC congregations are dual affiliated for the practical purpose of working together, sharing resources, and also clergy. We share the same theology (a common confession), and believe we will only benefit from more relationships with other Lutheran churches, especially those in our geographic region.

Although the Call Team was able to extend a call to Pastor Jim, partnering with the LCMC would make the pathway easier and more accessible to reach LCMC pastors if needed in the future.

Pastor Jim is currently the Chair of the Ministry Board for LCMC and by dual-affiliating with LCMC, this would allow him to continue with his remaining two-year term in this position. Pastor Jim will be able to continue these important relationships, expanding ministry opportunities, resources, and influences for the work we are doing within the NALC and beyond.

What are the next steps?

We want to make sure you, the congregation, are aware of and supportive of this partnership as we move forward. We will invite the congregation into the conversation by offering an informational meeting with a Q&A to respond to any questions or concerns. We plan to bring this to a congregational vote at our annual meeting in January. Look for more details to come.

Wishing you a blessed Advent as we look to the birth of our Savior, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Your Leadership Council,

Ken Duvall, Susan Lovelady, Mark Smith, Michael Briner, John Castro, Warren Finch, Mark Hartnett, Stephanie Reitz, Rebecca Selbo, and Sam Valles

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Dianne McCathy
Bette Syth
Harvey and Elaine, friends of Carol Couper
Jeremiah, newborn grandson of Evonn Hughes
Seth, cousin of Cathy Wolfe
Scott, relative of Betsy Grandey
Vilma Freeburg, mother of Carolyn Amey
Michelle, Mike, and Adam Goldberg,
sister and family of Brian Hall
Lynne & Bob Hall, parents of Brian Hall
Sharron Magaruh, mother of Katie Swenson
Evelyn McArdle, friend of Rebecca Weissbahn

BUDGET REPORT

| | General | Building |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| OFFERINGS to date | \$878,771 | \$123,307 |
| SPENDING to date | \$866,504 | \$81,566 |
| Excess/(Shortfall) | \$12,267 | \$41,741 |

| | Capital Campaign |
|-------------------|------------------|
| OFFERINGS to date | \$180,100 |

Offering Envelopes for 2021

are available for pick-up outside the office through December 9th. Stop by anytime and grab yours to help save on postage for the church.

Contact Beth if you need envelopes issued to you, can't find yours, or you no longer need envelopes.

Email: info@stlcsj.org

Phone: 408-264-3858

Improve your Sundays --and your Christmas!

If you are attending online worship on Sundays using your computer, and are just using its screen and sound, here is an idea that will greatly improve your worship experience. And, with Christmas coming, it will make that celebration all that more festive.

All you need to do is connect your computer to your television using an HDMI cable (easily purchased on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)). All recent (the past 10 years or so) flat screen TVs and computers should come with HDMI ports (plugs in the side, front or back).

You are probably familiar with USB ports; HDMI ports look similar except they are not a perfect rectangle but have their corners clipped a bit.



USB



HDMI

(These images are enlarged, of course.)

Here are the **four short steps** to getting connected:

1. Be sure your computer (laptops probably work the easiest) and TV have HDMI ports and then **buy the cable** (see [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) link above). A 10 ft cable makes it easier to place a laptop near where you sit, but any length will do.
2. **Connect the cable** to the HDMI ports in the computer and the TV. TVs usually have several HDMI ports, so note whether it is HDMI1, HDMI2, HDMI3, etc.
3. Look for "Source" on your TV remote and **switch the TV to the proper HDMI source** (HDMI1, HDMI2, HDMI3, etc.).
4. **Turn on the computer** and go to worship! The image on the computer screen should immediately also appear on your TV and you should also hear the sound now coming from your TV sound system.

That's all there is to it.



St. Timothy's Christian Preschool

Hello St. Timothy's!

Greetings from all of us at the Preschool! It's so exciting, albeit hard to believe that we are in the season of Advent! We know many are tired of hearing how this year has been "unique", "unprecedented", or "challenging". But in reality, what year isn't? For the Preschool, 2020 has been all of these. But, in many ways it has been uniquely joyful, unprecedented in flexibility and challenging us to grow in NEW ways!!

As I write this, our students are enjoying their Thanksgiving feasts! Instead of our usual full family event, each class is throwing a more intimate, student-only meal allowing the children to give thanks together as a class. The past couple of weeks, our families have been donating food items to our FISH Food Pantry to help our neighbors in need! Our donations totaled over 45 lbs.!!



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

The students are looking forward to our '5 day Countdown to Christmas Break' where each day they get to wear items like their favorite Christmas sweater or crazy Christmas socks! This month, the activity we have sent home for Family Fun Night is an Advent Calendar that students can create with their parents and siblings to help them count down the days to our Savior's birth! Thank you for your continued prayers. We wish you ALL a safe and joyful Christmas Season!

In Christ,

Jeanette Adams - Preschool Director

Katy Stamos - Preschool Admin.



NOW ENROLLING

Preschool 2s to JK

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

ST. TIM'S KIDS MONTHLY SCOOP

DECEMBER 2020

Hello St. Timothy's Families,

Can you believe we have made it to the month of **December**? December is one of my favorite months, the month of **Christmas**! This year may be different and our holiday traditions will probably look **different** this year. It might make you feel down, maybe you're even saying, "What's the point?" Well, there is a very big point!

This year we can still have **joy** and **celebrate** what God did for us. We can celebrate the birth of a **Savior**, a Savior our world so desperately needs! Even though we may not have a Christmas party, be able to visit Santa, or travel to visit family, we can celebrate the one thing that has never changed, **God's love for us**.

DECEMBER

FOCUS

Prepare Room for Him!

During December, we will be celebrating the coming of Jesus' birth through Advent. Each Sunday of Advent we will learn about the hope, love, joy and peace that Jesus brought to the world!

Starting Nov. 29th

Stay Connected
with Facebook



facebook.com/StTimsKids

Advent Bags

for Families

Grab a bag for your family!

Bags available outside of the front office. Pick up anytime starting Nov. 23rd! This bag has everything you need to follow along with our 4-week online family advent videos, premiering Nov. 29th on St. Tim's Kids Youtube.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dough Holy Night

A sweet celebration of our Savior's birth!

Airing Dec. 11th at 6 pm.

Get cozy and tune into our cookie decorating Christmas Special! Register to pick up a cookie decorating kit for you and your family today.

[Cookie Kit Registration](#)



emily.hindenes@stlcsj.org

ST. TIM'S YOUTH

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL
MINISTRY



[@sttims_youth](https://www.instagram.com/sttims_youth)

Just because we can't meet in person, doesn't mean you can't connect with the leaders and your peers. If you haven't had a chance to Zoom with us, contact Joe or Anna-Marie to get the Zoom information.

High School: Joe Hill

joe.hill@stlcsj.org



Jr. High: Anna-Marie Valles

annamarie.valles@stlcsj.org

CORNER STONE

HIGH SCHOOL

TUESDAYS

7:30-8:30

**ON
ZOOM**

CORNER STONE

JUNIOR HIGH

WEDNESDAYS

6-7

**ON
ZOOM**