

Pastor's Pen

#### The Season of Easter Looking at the Kingdom of God

Throughout the weeks of Easter we will look at the following themes:

Kingdom First

Kingdom Sacrifice

**Kingdom Community** 

Kingdom Power

Kingdom Problem and

Kingdom Deliverance

The Kingdom of God is the realm where God reigns supreme, and Jesus Christ is King. Ron Rhodes, Theology Professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, offers this definition: "...God's present spiritual reign over His people (Colossians 1:13) and Jesus' future reign in the millennial kingdom (Revelation 20)."

Jesus teachings centered on the Kingdom of God. This phrase or its equivalent appears more than 80 times in the New Testament. Many of the parables of Jesus are teachings about what the Kingdom of God is like.

The Bible refers to the Kingdom in language that suggests both a present reality and a coming fulfillment. Where Christ reigns in our hearts, the Kingdom is a current reality. Yet we acknowledge that we have not fully submitted to God's will and reign in our lives.

Sometimes I think we get caught up in the imperfections. "If something is not perfectly true then it is not true at all." This however is a distortion. We live in a country with laws, yet those laws are not perfectly followed nor enforced. Yet they are still the laws of this country.

I believe there is great hope, comfort and power in recognizing the reign of God in our lives. I think we can see and experience God's power at work in our midst. I also believe that God's reign has a transforming impact our faith community. The more we seek God's will and reign (seek ye first the kingdom of God) and the more we seek God's "will be done on earth as it is in heaven." The greater opportunity we have to experience the wonder and purpose of God at work in our lives and the closer we are drawn to one another as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

As we walk this Easter Season journey together, I ask you to pray with me: "Lord help me to know and follow your will for my life and in my relationships. And please use me to bring honor to your name and to your church. Amen"

Serving with you in Christ, Pastor Jim Cords

Several thoughts in this article were inspired by: Fairchild, Mary. "What Is the Kingdom of God?" Learn Religions, Mar. 4, 2022, learnreligions.com/what-is-the-kingdom-of-god-701988.



To add or renew a prayer request call 408-264-3858 or email info@stlcsj.org.

Jason Reitz
the family of Shirley Baring
Max Couper, grandson of Bob & Carol Couper
Arnold, Valeria, Inja and Igor, friends of Barbara
Julie & Corky Clements, sister of Phil Sampson
Connie Cords, stepmom of Jim Cords
Rhonda McCarthy
Erin Parker
Shirley Shaw, friend of the Stamos Family
Jeff and Sandra Snell, friends of the Sampsons
Lisa Sobke and Family, niece of Phil Sampson



	General	Building
OFFERINGS to date	\$305,614	\$45,886
SPENDING to date	\$389,855	\$29,240
Excess/(Shortfall)	(\$84,241)	\$16,646

	Capital Campaign	
OFFERINGS to date	\$87,288	

#### **WAYS TO GIVE**

- 1. Mail your offering to church or drop it off in the locked offering box in the sanctuary. If you don't have offering envelopes, be sure to indicate in the memo line which fund(s).
- 2. Give online on our safe and secure website <a href="https://www.stlcsj.org/giving/">https://www.stlcsj.org/giving/</a>

# St. Timothy's Lunch Bunch

# Thursday, May 26, 2022 12:00 noon Fellowship Hall

Potluck for Lunch Bunch season finale. Everyone please bring a salad of your choice to share. Lunch Bunch Board will supply rolls, desserts and drinks. Good news is that there is no charge.

Program for this month is provided by Pastors Judy and Jim Bangsund. They will share of their missionary work and life in Africa before transferring to St. Tim's.

Lunch Bunch does need to know how many are coming, so please call Betsy Grande at (408) 629-6093 or Betty Rhodes at (408) 628-4799.

Monthly Lunch Bunch is a fellowship group open to ALL. Always a social time, nice lunch and then an interesting program. This May gathering is our Grand Finale before Summer vacation. We welcome new attendees.

# SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9 AM Traditional 11 AM Contemporary

Current COVID guidelines:

Face masks are no longer required but the County strongly recommends face masks indoors.

### **ONLINE WORSHIP**

Videos are live recorded at both morning worship services. Recordings will be available in the afternoon on our website: <a href="mailto:stlcsj.org/watch">stlcsj.org/watch</a>

# Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

Not all staff have regular hours, so it's best to schedule an appointment with them. You can find the updated list of staff emails on the staff website page: <a href="mailto:staff">stlcsj.org/staff</a>



### Daily Bible Reading with S.O.A.P.

S.O.A.P. is an acronym for Scripture-Observation-Application-Prayer. All that is needed is a Bible, writing instrument, and paper.

## **May Readings**

Su 1- 1 Chronicles 14,15; Psalm 132; Matthew 18

M 2-1 Chronicles 16; Psalm 106; Matthew 19

Tu 3-2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17; Psalm 2; Matthew 20

W 4- 2 Samuel 8,9; 1 Chronicles 18,19; Matthew 21

Th 5-2 Samuel 10; 1 Chronicles 20; Ps. 20; Matthew 22

F 6- 2 Samuel 11,12; Psalm 51; Matthew 23

Sa 7-2 Samuel 13,14; Matthew 24

Su 8-2 Samuel 15,16; Psalm 32; Matthew 25

M 9- 2 Samuel 17; Psalm 71; Matthew 26

Tu 10- 2 Samuel 18; Psalm 56; Matthew 27

W 11- 2 Samuel 19,20; Psalm 55; Matthew 28

Th 12- 2 Samuel 21-23; 1 Thessalonians 1

F 13- 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21; Ps. 30; 1 Thess. 2

Sa 14-1 Chronicles 22-24; 1 Thessalonians 3

Su 15-1 Chronicles 25-27; 1 Thessalonians 4

M 16-1 Kings 1; 1 Chronicles 28; Psalm 91; 1 Thess. 5

Tu 17- 1 Kings 2; 1 Chronicles 29; Psalm 95; 2 Thess. 1

W 18- 1 Kings 3; 2 Chronicles 1; Psalm 78; 2 Thess. 2

Th 19-1 Kings 4,5; 2 Chronicles 2; Psalm 101; 2 Thess. 3

F 20- 1 Kings 6; 2 Chronicles 3; Psalm 97; Romans 1

Sa 21-1 Kings 7; 2 Chronicles 4; Psalm 98; Romans 2

Su 22-1 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 5; Psalm 99; Romans 3

M 23- 2 Chronicles 6,7; Psalm 135; Romans 4

Tu 24-1 Kings 9; 2 Chronicles 8; Psalm 136; Romans 5

W 25- 1 Kings 10,11; 2 Chronicles 9; Romans 6

Th 26- Proverbs 1-3; Romans 7

F 27- Proverbs 4-6; Romans 8

Sa 28- Proverbs 7-9; Romans 9

Su 29- Proverbs 10-12; Romans 10

M 30- Proverbs 13-15; Romans 11

Tu 31- Proverbs 16-18; Romans 12



Dear St. Timothy's,

Words often fail me to communicate the depth of my feelings, but I would like to make an attempt. I want to thank you for the beautiful send-off on my last Sunday, February 27th. It was amazing to see some come out of the woodwork, to be a part of the worship and celebration. Some of you I hadn't seen since prior to COVID, so the honor I felt in your presence for this special occasion felt immense. I hope that it was a comfortable and encouraging experience for you as well, and that it was a first step back into the St. Tim's community.

I couldn't think of a better way to conclude my ministry at St. Tim's. The services were so special - between Jack canting, the worship team allowing me to join them in a blessing, having the opportunity to preach and to be prayed for as a family, to have my brother-in-law join us and my parents surprise me by driving up, and then to have such a thoughtful party after the worship. There were so many who participated, and some who would prefer to remain anonymous, so I will offer a blanket "thank-you". You know who you are!

Thank you for the gift that you have been in my life these (nearly) 5 years. You will be in my prayers as you seek the Lord's will in this upcoming season, and I know that I will be in many of your prayers. Thank you! I will be sure to update you once this next step has become clear to me.

The Lord bless you and keep you in His grace, Pastor Jonna

# Ministry Partner Update

Each month, we will highlight updates from our domestic or global ministry partners. Many of these partnerships have been formed through congregational involvement and relationships, and are financially supported through the annual benevolences of St. Timothy's. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry in and through St. Timothy's!

St. Timothy's has been involved in Operation Christmas Child for many years. For those that aren't familiar with what Operation Christmas Child is, some people call it the Shoebox Ministry. But it is much more than just giving a shoebox to a child. Operation Christmas Child is part of Samaritan's Purse. Their mission is to "demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world". It is a ministry that started 1993 and has continued to grow each year, sending shoeboxes full of toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to over 188 million children around the world in more than 170 different countries and territories. With each shoebox, the child hears the Gospel message and is invited to attend a 12 lesson program called The Greatest Journey on learning more about Christ and how to follow him. For every 100 shoebox gifts received, roughly 21 children make the decision to follow Christ!

St. Timothy's has been packing and sending shoeboxes for over 15 years. Over the past 7 years, St. Timothy's has packed approximately 3800 shoeboxes for children around the globe. Last year, shoeboxes from St. Timothy's were sent to Thailand and Madagascar. 8 years ago, St Timothy's became a drop off location for Operation Christmas Child. Churches, families, and organizations throughout the area come to St. Timothy's during National Collection week in November and drop off their shoeboxes.

Over the years, I have been blessed to hear stories of people that received shoeboxes as a child and how it completely changed their life. One of my favorite testimonies comes from a man, whose father was a minister, who received a shoebox in his small village in Togo. At the age of 11, Operation Christmas came to his village and brought shoeboxes. At the time and in the location in Togo, witch doctors controlled the villagers and most were afraid to step foot in a church for fear of repercussions. However, even those families came to receive a shoebox. Before the shoeboxes were handed out, this pastor told everyone the Gospel message so all heard it before receiving the shoebox. After receiving the shoebox, many of the children attended the 12 week Greatest Journey class and accepted Christ as their savior including one of the witch doctor's child. One night the witch doctor appeared on their doorstep and instead punishing the pastor's family, he asked to be baptized and accepted Christ. From that, 3 new churches were planted in the area because of the one shoebox.

I could tell a million more stories of how shoeboxes have changed the lives and salvation of not just a child, but their family, and their community. It is truly a worthy ministry to support.

Here is a video of our church packing shoeboxes last year as well as collecting shoeboxes from other churches and organizations to pack in cartons to head out to be processed. <a href="https://youtu.be/dD6x2Koorj8">https://youtu.be/dD6x2Koorj8</a>

If you would like to know more about Operation Christmas Child or how you can be involved, please contact me at 408-930-2287 or debbie@bspan.com.









# **May 2022 Sunday School FOCUS**

# THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RESILIENCE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

God is strong and faithful, always working in our lives. We might get knocked down from time to time, but when we put our trust in God, we find the strength we need to get back up again. Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience. No matter what happened, Jesus relied on God to help Him accomplish the mission set before Him. Because of Jesus, we can trust God no matter what. We can bounce back from whatever knocks us down and complete the mission God has for us.

# **VBS**

The best week of the summer! JUNE 20 - 24, 2022 (9AM-12PM)



Ages: 3 yrs (potty trained) - entering 5th (entering 6th can choose to be an assistant crew leader or a participant)

Deadline to register is May 31



\$75 Per child

sign up online at www.stlcsj.org/vbs/ Any questions or Scholarship request, contact Shelley Ahn-Wong at shelley.ahnwong@stlcsj.org

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will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."



BIBLE LESSONS, MUSIC, GAMES, CRAFTS, CHECK IN. BOUNCER & MORE

Let's do it

Yes, I'm in

CM<sub>@</sub>STLCSJ.ORG



5100 Camden Ave San Jose, CA 95124 TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH



# St. Timothy's Christian Preschool

# May Newsletter

Hello Church!

We can hardly believe how fast the school year is coming to a close!

Our Kindergarten Readiness students recently enjoyed a super fun outdoor adventure at The Youth Science Institute (YSI) at Vasona Park! There was lots of creek exploration and investigating all kinds of local, aquatic creatures!

We also had a wonderful week learning about the

meaning of EASTER and celebrating



As always, we appreciate your ongoing prayers that we continue to be the light of Christ to the children in our care!

PLEASE REMEMBER to spread the word about us to your family & friends!

# NOW ENROLLING FOR 2022-2023

Preschool 2's to Kindergarten Readiness

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 wellrounded 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 and 2, 3, or 5 days a week.

If you have questions or to set-up a tour: Call 408-265-0244 or email <a href="mailto:school@stlcsj.org">school@stlcsj.org</a>

# YOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Anna-Marie Valles
annamarie.valles@stlcsj.org
or 408-264-3858, ext. 122
Scott Campbell
scott.campbell@stlcsj.org
or 408-264-3858, ext. 120

Check us out on Instagram



@sttims youth

# CORNER STONE

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

# WEDNESDAYS 6-8 PM YOUTH HOUSE

We start together with dinner and worship then break off into our respective small groups. We end the night with a game. The Youth House will be open every week after Cornerstone until 8:30 pm.



# SERVICE PROJECT AT CITYTEAM SATURDAY, MAY 21

1:30-3:30 PM

We will be packing food donations for residents of Santa Clara County at CityTeam Family Services at 1297 N 13th St, San Jose, CA 95112.

To sign-up, contact

scott.campbell@stlcsj.org



# Mission Trip July 17-23

Open to those graduating 8th grade and up.
Cost \$250. Contact Scott for application (due June 1).
This summer we will be partnering with our denomination
NALC and assisting in disaster relief. We will be going to Lake

Oroville to assist in cleaning up debris left by the fires.