

NEWSLETTER

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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February 2010



“Forgive Us, Lord.”

(Read Matthew 6:12)

The older that I get, the more I desire to change one certain petition of the Lord's Prayer. That petition is, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” The longer that I live, the more I disappoint myself with my sinful lack of readiness to forgive others. I think to myself, “If the Lord forgives me like I forgive others, then I'm up a creek without a paddle.” Rather, Lord teach me to forgive others like You forgive me!

Easily, I can find myself thinking very unkind thoughts toward the person in the car ahead of me, or the person who jumped in line in front of me at the store, or the person who, seemingly, ignored me when they were suppose to pay attention to me, etc., etc. The amount of ill feelings toward others that I, potentially, can pile up in a day's time is enormous.

Stories are told in many families of relatives that had a dispute many years ago and still are unable to forgive one another. When there are no humbling of oneself, no apologies, no repentance expressed, the wall of unforgiveness remains. The wall seems to grow higher with the passage of time.

Truly, all people need the forgiveness of sins as a primary need every day. Before a holy God, we need forgiveness for our countless and even unknown-to-us sins. Before our loved ones and neighbors, we need the forgiveness of sins in order to continue to function in relationship with them.

Unforgiveness clogs up the ‘human mechanism.’ Grudges bog our spirits down. Instead of light-hearted anticipation of seeing someone, the lack of forgiveness brings with it the desire to avoid another person.

Truly, forgiveness is needed by all human beings.

The Bible tells us that “God is love (agape).” In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he writes that ‘love (agape) does not keep a record of wrongs.’ (I Cor. 13:5).

The Bible explains that all human beings were created to love God and to love others as themselves. To forgive another's “trespasses against us” is part and parcel to loving that person. Love and forgiveness go together. Indeed to love even ourselves, we need to forgive ourselves just as God forgives us because of Christ's sacrifice for us.

The Apostle Paul who reminds us that it is God, the Holy Spirit, who equips us with His mercy-filled kind of love with which we can forgive like He forgives (Romans 5:5). Thanks be to God!

In February we will have the opportunity to ponder God's Word as it teaches us regarding ‘forgiving our neighbors as we are forgiven by God.’

The three-week sermon series will contain:

Sunday, February 14th – “What Are We Unaware Of?” based upon Psalm 19:12 and Proverbs 28:13.

Sunday, February 21st – “Who Is Worthy To Be Forgiven?” based upon Genesis 32:10, 50:15-21 and Romans 3:24.

Sunday, February 28th – “Can We Do Otherwise?” based upon Ephesians 4:32.

Come join us this February as we learn more about love and forgiveness.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Craig Patterson, Interim Pastor

Preschool Happenings

In February we will start teaching the children about love. Love that God has for us, love Jesus has for us, and love we have for each other. Most people think of Valentines is a "couples" holiday. In the classroom we see it as a holiday for everyone. We will be showing the children what love is. On February 11th and 12th, each class will have a Valentines Party, and share simple, sensitive valentine cards with classmates (and teachers.)

On Wednesday, February 10th the preschool and pre-K children are invited to go on a field trip to Buca di Beppo. The children will get to see the kitchen area and be able to make their own personal pizza. We are thankful that Buca di Beppo is providing us with this great opportunity.

We would like to be able start holding monthly family activity nights for the preschool families, church families and the community. We would have some sort of snack, dinner or dessert and an activity, board games, Wii fun, movie, or maybe Bingo at a fundraising cost of \$5 per person. We would like to know who would be able to join us and what date and time would be best. You can call 425-741-8723 or e-mail stlc_preschool@verizon.net. Watch future mailings for more information.

Our teachers are invited to do on-site tours at Beverly Elementary kindergarten classes. The arrangement was made possible through Preschool Connections with the Edmonds School District and a Gates Grant. It is an honor to be welcomed into the classrooms to see what the kindergarteners are doing, so we can prepare the students with the knowledge and skills they are going to need. The teachers will also be attending an Early Learning Conference Saturday February 20th that is put on by the Edmonds School District and Gates Grant for both the kindergarten teachers and selected preschools in the area. Key speaker will be Nellie Edge.

In January welcomed 2 new students to our program, one in our Pre-K class and one in our Preschool class. We are looking forward to another great year here at St. Timothy. We are still able to accept students in all of our classes. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool, please let them know we would love to be their school.

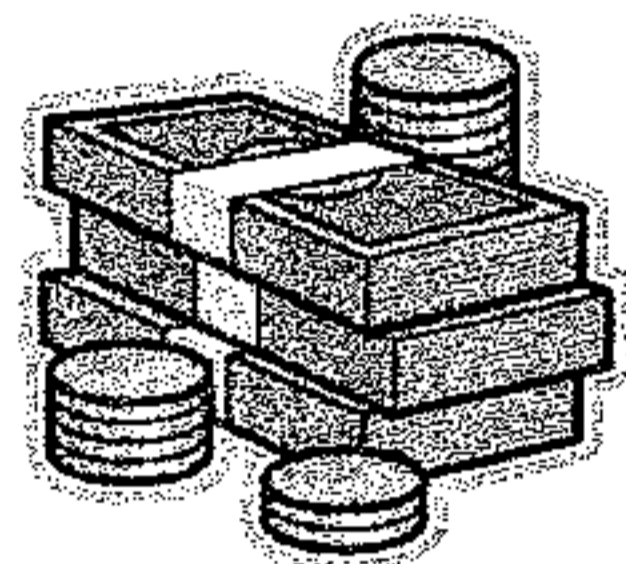
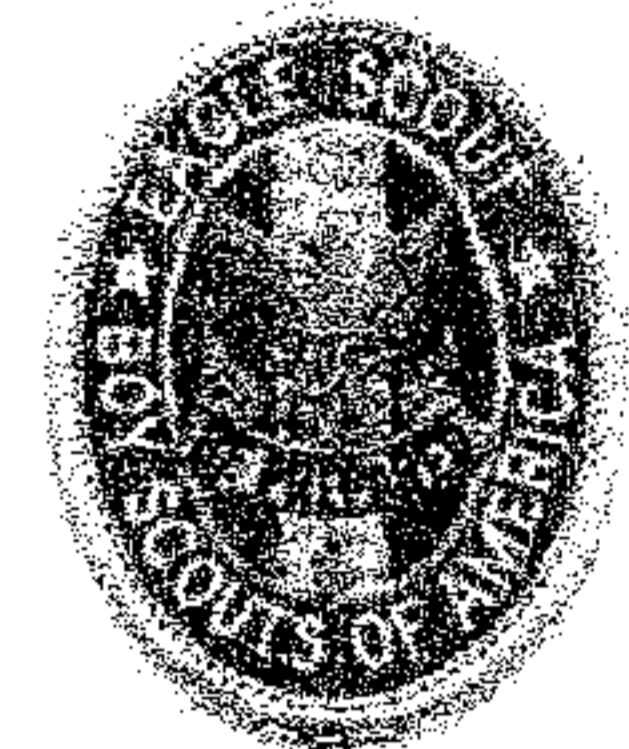
Jean Volkmann
Preschool Administrator

Messages from Your Council — Mel Suetzle



Our first meeting of the new year was a very interesting one. Our meeting on January 12th was well attended and we had a good agenda that kept everyone's attention. Some of the key agenda items are summarized below:

TJ Mack's Eagle Scout Project - TJ Mack presented his request for final approval to build and install five benches in the Narthex entrance area. Everyone was enthusiastic about his project and the final approval was given and his project paperwork signed. Several Council members congratulated TJ on his accomplishments and promised a celebration when he achieves the rank of Eagle Scout. The highest level in the Boy Scouts of America.



Treasurer Report. - Tom Smithson distributed our December financial reports which marks our mid-year point for our current fiscal year. Tom reported that our fiscal performance for the month was very close to budgeted levels. Our spending/income for the month was \$1304 below our budget plan. Our spending/income was better and only \$427 worse than budgeted levels for the first half of our fiscal year. Contributions are good at over 99% of budget. Building fund contributions lag our budget by \$2540 for the year so far. The largest financial issue is the shortfall in preschool income which was \$3103 below plan due to temporary withdrawals. The preschool staff continues to offset half of this shortfall by aggressive cost cutting measures. All other groups also continue to monitor and manage discretionary expenses very well. Especially notable is the 22% reduction in our electric bill largely due to the low energy lighting installed by Art Mack. **GOOD JOB MACK!** More finance information is available elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our member reports and Council discussions resulted in the following actions/decisions

- Dona Hoffman will be our organist on the 5th Sundays during this year. First opportunity will be on January 31st. We will collect all the of the Other Song Books and purchase additional copies to provide a wider variety of music to select from for our services.
- We are testing a new online calendar for the church. This will be on our website and reflect real time updates made by the office staff. If all goes well, we will unveil this new program February 1st.
- In response to complaints regarding mice in the kitchen area, we will be contacting our pest control service and shift our focus to address this problem ASAP It is important that all groups serving food, take measures to insure that ALL food is stored in a well sealed plastic container. Janet Anderberg will lend her expertise in make sure we taken the appropriate measure in the kitchen and food storage areas.
- A draft letter was reviewed that will be distributed to all groups who use our facilities. The letter will express both our support for their continued use of our facilities and encourage increased donations and attention to ways they can help control our heating/lighting costs as well as some building security issues.
- Pastor Craig reported that in his absence on February 7th, Pastor Flath with fill in for him.

The final agenda item was a discussion on the status of the transition program and the projected schedule for the completion of Phases 2 and 3. Everyone agreed that we should keep the momentum of this project by keeping things moving at a brisk pace in order to conclude Phase 3 before the summer vacation period. Pastor Craig affirmed his belief that the last two phases could be concluded by the end of June. This would coincide with the end of our fiscal year.

Special Opportunities at Saint Timothy

Our Council at Saint Timothy is made up a dedicated volunteers willing to give of their time and expertise to provide the leadership and work necessary to keep our Church growing and going. Several of our members are serving multiple positions for multiple terms and are doing so out of love and concern for our church. We have several opportunities for others to contribute and share in the workload. Below is a list of duties that are now being performed by someone multitasking or in some cases not being done at all. Please give some thought as to how you can step up your commitment to the Lord and your fellow congregational members by serve in a greater capacity on our council or other groups important to our Saint Timothy mission.

Fellowship Committee - This function is being performed by Patsy Simon who is also Chairs the Evangelism committee. This is an important role for someone that can help Patsy or take on the leadership role.

Education Committee - Help is needed with the Sunday School and preschool areas. Without a vibrant educational program, how do we ever expect to serve the needs of our children and younger families? Contact Janet Anderberg or Patsy Simon for more information.

Financial Secretary - The Council position has been open for two years with only critical functions being covered. This important task requires only a hour or so each week and participation in the Council and Financial committee meetings. Contact Mel Suelzle for more information.

Trustee Committee members - Our facility requires maintenance and other attention that we can not afford to hire out. Many members have specialties of expertise, amateur and professional, that could be very helpful on a occasional basis. Contact Art Mack if you can lend a hand.

Thrivent Representative - The position requires Thrivent membership and allows Saint Timothy to benefit from the many programs offered by Thrivent. Each congregation should have 3 members with one designated as the lead coordinator. We have 2 members designated and one is multitasking including 2 other Council positions. Contact Mel Suelzle for more information.

Ladies Guild - The Ladies Guild offers great fellowship and activities for the women of our congregation. Their events include significant fund raisers that benefit St Timothy and important missions. Contact Shirley Bodenstab for more information.

Webmaster - If you have a creative flair and some computer experience, you can help maintain our website. Our presence on the web and the communication it enables is important and will become even more important in the future. Contact Mel Suelzle for more information

Altar Guild - We all expect our certain traditions be maintained and well presented each Sunday Meeting this expectation does not happen without the effort of the Altar Guild. Help is needed to perform the many small but important tasks of this group. Contact Bea Zaske for more information on how you can help out.

Elders - Our Elder group is in need of additional members. Some members have been serving for long periods and would like a break. If you are interested in serving, contact Gary Eneberg.

WEBSITE

sainttimothylutheran.net

This is a "work in progress", and we invite your comments and suggestions as to how we can make the website more useful to the congregation and the community.

Mel Suelzle [-mel@suelzle.com](mailto:mel@suelzle.com)

For February 2010 Newsletter:

Saint Timothy's Transition Process Continues

The conclusion of Phase I ("Telling The Stories of Saint Timothy Lutheran Church) will draw to a close in February and Phase II (A Study Of Our Community) Begins.

A. Sunday, February 21st will mark Saint Timothy Lutheran's "Heritage Celebration."

*An abbreviated worship service with a power point presentation given by the Transition Team will occur at 10 a.m.

*A time of fellowship and food will follow.

B. The Transition Team begins its pursuit of building a profile of our community.

- Task groups (consisting of Transition Team members and volunteers from within the parish) will visit area administrators of our schools, social agencies, and hospitals.
- Interviews will be a tool that the Transition Team (and their enlisted helpers) will use to gain knowledge from other churches in our community.
- Shoppers at area market places will be asked if they know where Saint Timothy Lutheran Church is located and if they know anyone who goes there.
- Local business people will be asked about their business "forcasts" and their prognostications for the future.
- Demographic materials will be studied.

As we gather information on our community in order to make plans for the future ministry, we remember our Lord's promise to us given through the prophet Jeremiah: "For I know the plan that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. And I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations...' " (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

Submitted by Pastor Craig A. Patterson, Interim Pastor

