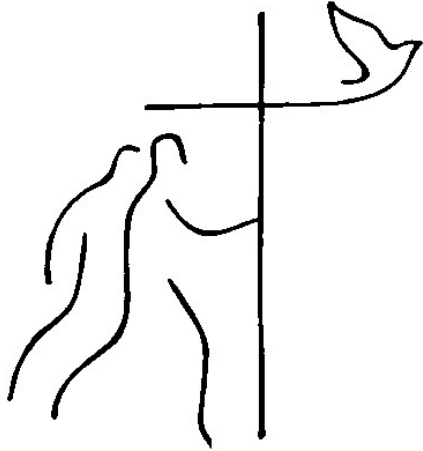


St. Timothy News September 2023



One of the goals set in the Congregational Retreat in July was forming small group Bible studies. To help implement that objective I am hoping that a few members who are interested will join a small group during the coffee time to share our faith, raise questions, and pray for each other. I can promise that, because the people of St. Timothy are caring and compassionate, this can become a time of honest and open exploration of one's faith.

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Newsletter Deadline is the Wednesday before the last Sunday of the month.

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Because you know I am not the sharpest tack in the barrel, this will not be an academic nor intellectual forum nor a "blind leading the blind" exercise. I am trusting that the Holy Spirit will enlighten and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and each other. **I believe in the Holy Spirit and the holy catholic church and the communion of saints and I think small group studies can be a manifestation of our confession.**

Since many young people will be starting school in the next few days, **I think this is an opportune time for the saints at St. Tim's to "go back to school" themselves.** Also, since there are a couple of people are interested in joining or rejoining St. Timothy, this would be like a "beefed up" new members class to explore the basics of our Christian faith.

I think many Lutherans are stumped how to answer when our "evangelical" siblings ask us "Are you saved?". We'll explore that question, plus the question "What are you being saved from?" to know how to respond when we're asked that question. I know a lot of mainline Christians resist attending Bible studies because we are intimidated or don't think we're knowledgeable enough. Because of that, most Christians don't realize the wealth and depth of everyday wisdom that scripture offers. **And, because most Christians don't share their faith verbally to others, their faith is stunted and atrophied from "lack of exercise."** This small group will allow us to "stretch our biblical muscles."

Most college philosophy courses tell us that **the basic purpose of religion is for humans to answer the question, "How can I find happiness?"** Some religions have suggested

that one can find happiness through self-realization and meditation; some say happiness is found through obedience to ancient wisdom and scripture; but, **as Jesus taught us, the Judeo-Christian tradition believes that happiness is found when we seek God's kingdom and God's righteousness then all things will be given.** So, in our group study, we will more fully explore what that might mean.

Since this will not merely be an open discussion but will also be a Bible study, you will be encouraged to **dust off the cobwebs on your Bible on the shelf and bring it with you for this small group venture.** You might also bring along a notebook to journal any thoughts and ideas which are surfaced. Remember as Proverbs 19:8 tells us, **"To acquire wisdom is to love yourself; people who cherish understanding will prosper."** Join us; I promise you'll have fun!
Pastor Yukio Hamada

Information from your leadership:

We continue to move forward in so many directions and value the support provided by our members and community.



Our Summer Celebration/Night Out went very well. Music was enjoyed

and visits from the fire department and police were appreciated. Information tables were available in-

cluding Health Ministry (blood pressure), and Centennial Community Association. Thanks to all who volunteered and participated.

During Council we received reports from our goals set by our congregational retreat. Plans are being formulated for Bible study (including new members), Outreach goal has been completed, Food Pantry training of volunteers is being addressed, and outreach for possible property use contacts will be made.

Property reports that drywell has been installed, flooring installed in office area, and electrical issues in Hospitality House are being researched. Property work is continuing on Saturdays.

Outreach is moving on to planning for Trunk or Treat.

We raised \$691 for Lutheran Community Services and plan to focus on coats for Centennial school children for October.

Senior Lunch/Living and Aging Well in Our Neighborhoods was held on August 25th. Thank you for all who participated.

Sherry Willmschen, President

Social Concerns:

Food Pantry: We have been able to help the community with our pantry staffed 4 days a week with the occasional weekend recipient. Thanks to Tim and Derek for working at the drop off site for Portland Food Project on August 12th. We received 1000 pounds in food. We are purchasing bread and personal care items to supplement and will fill shelves as needed. We served 63 people in July. We have served 61 people through August 23rd. Training for volunteers and policy for distributing food is being finalized. Bless all who contribute time and items for this community outreach.



Our Just Future: The shelters that they serve have opened up opportunities to provide food to shelters. There is an opportunity for September 4th to provide food for the family shelter on Powell. If you wish to donate please contact me.

Gods Work Our Hands September 9th: We will meet at Cultivate Initiatives at 9 am with Commissioning by Pastor Hamada. Work then will proceed to clean-up in the community at site they have selected, put hygiene kits together, or write advocacy letters. Please plan to be part of this united effort. Volunteers will return to Cultivate for a shared sack lunch. We also can assist in an ongoing basis by contributing the following items for hygiene:

bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, Q-tips, 1st aid ointment, bandages, nail file, nail clippers, comb/brush, deodorant, chapstick, gloves, alcohol wipes, tampons, pads. If you wish to donate any of these items a box will be available in the office.

Fifth Sunday for October: The Council has designated our donations for coats for kids (all ages through high school). Gethsemane has been doing this for years working with David Douglas school district. We will be contacting Centennial Schools and other sites in need and hope that we can designate a timeframe for pick up. Gethsemane counsels that on-line purchases at Costco, Macy's etc. can mean discounts. Please considering donating to keep our children in this community warm.
by Sherry Willmschen

September Worship Services

If you are unable to make your scheduled Sunday, please contact another person to take your place.

	September 3	September 10 God's Work Our Hands	September 17	September 24 Harvest Potluck
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada
Assistant	Sherry W.	Ray W.	Tim H.	Sherry W.
Lector	Lisa S.	Mary F.	Karen R.	Tim H.
Usher	Steve & LeAnn	Allen P. & Mary F.	Gladys K.& Greta C.	Ernie R. & Allen P.
Communion	Candace & Karen O	Elaine & Gladys K.	Cathy H.	Candace & Karen O
Video & Sound	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.
Counters	Elaine & Mary	Ernie & Jean	Ray & Candace	Elaine & Mary
Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.
Care Coordinator	Karen O	Karen O	Karen O	Karen O