

As we begin this new calendar year, we tend to forget the church year began in December with Advent and the hope for God's appearance of the Messiah. But, The Messiah did not appear as many expected. He came as a little Baby, helpless and vulnerable and dependent. That is hardly what most people expected of God. What do we expect of God? Is God a Santa Claus who fulfills all our wishes? Is God a puppet master who pulls strings to make us do what God wants? Or, is God a mighty power who exists somewhere out in the

cosmos uninterested in all our little problems and concerns? Of course, God is none of the above. God won't fulfill all our wishes nor will God pull our strings to make us dance and sing whenever God wants. And, God isn't somewhere out there in space oblivious to our problems. The Christian witness is very clear: GOD IS WITH US! But, why did God come into this world as a little baby? As Martin Luther observed in one of his Christmas sermons, we'll never understand God's good news to us unless we can answer the question, "What Child is this?" The Christmas carol asks that question, "What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?" But, the answer is veiled and obscure in the hymn, "... Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading." Maybe that's why God came into the world as a helpless and vulnerable baby. God is pleading to us to pick him up and hold him and love him. God won't force us. We have to come to the manger and kneel and embrace God as a parent would bend down and pick up their child. As the picture in this meditation shows, the Christ Child is reaching out to the Magi and inviting them to embrace him. And, the carol invites all of us, "Come, peasant, king to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him." Martin Luther was convinced that we would never understand the meaning of Christmas unless we knew how much God loves us or, as the hymn declares, that we "own" - completely accept - God's love and love God back. When we completely surrender all our self-centered thoughts and ways and love God without reservation, we will know who this child is. Matthew's gospel tells us that these three kings, wisemen, gave up their livelihoods to find this king that their holy books promised. He may not have been what they were expecting but, immediately, they knew who this Baby was. As the carol proclaims, "This, this is Christ, the King... Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!" They knew.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

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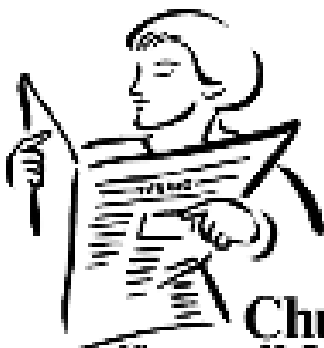
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St. Timothy Web Site
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They “owned” what they were experiencing. As we join the Magi in this Epiphany Season, will we “own” this Child or will we wander away seeking another “messiah” who proclaims empty promises by telling us what we want to hear? While we Americans celebrated Christmas with joyous carols and stirring Christmas messages, maybe it would be good to reflect what Christmas was like in Bethlehem at the Lutheran Evangelical Church where, instead of a cot in a hay-filled manger, the Baby Jesus was wrapped in a black and white Palestinian keffiyeh lying among broken breeze blocks and paving slabs reminding us, as the Lutheran pastor said in his Christmas sermon, “If Jesus was born today, he’d be born under the rubble of Gaza.” This is a grim reminder that God is with us even in the devastation and disaster of war or any problems we face... GOD IS WITH US!!!



Church Council News

Notes from your council:

Some of us will be continuing to serve in 2024 and others will be reflecting on next steps for them but continuing in special projects.

I want to thank all our leadership in 2023 and ask for the support for those who will be elected to serve in 2024.

The 2024 budget is prepared for the congregational meeting on January 14th and should be available for your review along with the annual report. Our choice for benevolence continues to be Cultivate Initiatives. If you would like to thank anyone on council, office workers and Pastor for their work in 2023 feel free to bring those notes of thanks and

they will be shared at the annual meeting.
Sherry Willmschen

Social Concerns

Food Pantry:

We were once again blessed with 1000 plus pounds from the Portland Food Project. The Willmschen family assisted at the drop off/pick up site. We have overflow for the moment. People in need used the food pantry in December. We will be shopping again in January and could use any members help.

Snow-Cap:

Delivery will be made of clothes and egg carton on the 28th. Continue to feel free to bring both. On Martin Luther King day January 15th everyone who can is invited to come to SnowCap at 10 am to 12 for a day of service. Older children are welcome, too.

Cultivate Initiatives:

We had a delightful time making sandwiches for their “clients” at our Advent worship and devotions. I know that they used the first ones immediately for outreach to “1000 trails” in Troutdale. This is an outreach effort to help campers there to possibly move towards permanent housing, treatment, and work.

Coats, coats and more coats to Centennial School District:

We received a delightful thank you from the social workers for the 150 coats we contributed to students. We also were recognized for our donations by the School Board. Thanks for all our shoppers and donors.
Sherry Willmschen

**Annual
 Congregational Meeting**
January 8, 2023
About 11 am
**After the worship
 service**
**Potluck meal after the
 meeting**
Rain date is January 15
**if the meeting must be
 postponed.**

January Worship Services

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

	January 7	January 14 Annual Meeting	January 21	January 28	
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	
Assistant	Sherry W.	Ray W.	Tim H.	Sherry Wi.	
Lector	Lisa S.	Mary F.	Cathy H.	Karen R.	
Usher	Gladys K.	Greta C	Steve & LeAnn T.	Ernie R.	
Communion	Candace O.	Elaine S.	Cathy H.	Candace O.	
Video & Sound	Ray	Ray	Ray	Ray	
Counters	Mary & Elaine	Mary & Elaine	Candace & Jean	Ray & Leslie	
Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	
Care Coordinator	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.	

Annual Congregational Meeting Notice

The meeting will be
January 14, 2024

at St. Timothy Lutheran
Church.

It will be held after the church
service
and will start at about 11:15
am.

If the meeting must be postponed
(for instance, due to bad weather), it will be held on
January 21, 2024.

A potluck meal will be shared
after the meeting




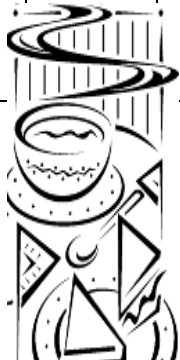
Birthdays

Spencer Reilly
Don Severson
Gene Knudson
Nathan Strojan
Alexis Carpenter
Lora Reilly

Gary Shannon
Karen Olomua
Brayson Pardue

January 2024

St. Timothy News January 2024

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><i>1</i> New Year's Day</p>	<p><i>2</i> 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry hours</p>	<p><i>3</i> 10 am—1 Office & Food Pantry 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs  10 am to 12 Craft Gathering</p>	<p><i>4</i> 10am-1 pm Food Pantry hrs 7 pm—8:30 Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>5</i> 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p><i>6 Epiphany</i> 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits</p>
<p><i>7</i> <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:20 am Choir practice 10 am Worship Zoom available <i>Coffee Time After church</i> Bible Study Time</p>	<p><i>8</i> 10 am—1 pm Office & Food Pantry</p>	<p><i>9</i> 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry hours</p>	<p><i>10</i> 10 am—1 Office & Food Pantry 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p><i>11</i> 10am-1 pm Food Pantry hrs 7 pm—8:30 Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>12</i> 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p><i>13</i> 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits</p>
<p><i>14</i> 9:20am Choir practice 10 am Worship Zoom available 11 am Annual Congregational Meeting <i>Potluck Meal afterwards</i></p>	<p><i>15</i> 10 am—1 pm Office & Food Pantry <u>10 to 12 at Snow-Cap: MLK service projects</u></p>	<p><i>16</i> 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry hours</p>	<p><i>17</i> 10 am—1 Office & Food Pantry 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p><i>18</i> 10am-1 pm Food Pantry hrs 7 pm—8:30 Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>19</i> 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p><i>20</i> 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits</p>
<p><i>21</i> <i>Installation of Officers</i> 9:20am Choir practice 10 am Worship Zoom available <u>Rain date if meeting was postponed</u> <i>Coffee Time After church</i> Bible Study Time</p>	<p><i>22</i> 10 am—1 pm Office & Food Pantry</p>	<p><i>23</i> 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry hours 6:30 pm Council meets</p>	<p><i>24</i> 10 am—1 Office & Food Pantry 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p><i>25</i> 10am-1 pm Food Pantry hrs 7 pm—8:30 Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>26</i> 11 am Fourth Friday Potluck Luncheon, Bingo, conversation</p>	<p><i>27</i> 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits</p>
<p><i>28</i> 9:20 am Choir practice 10 am Worship Zoom available <i>Coffee Time After church</i> Bible Study Time</p>	<p><i>29</i> 10 am—1 pm Office & Food Pantry</p>	<p><i>30</i> 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry hours</p>	<p><i>31</i> 10 am—1 Office & Food Pantry 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>			

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St. Timothy Lutheran Church
14500 SE Powell Blvd
Portland OR 97236

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Address Correction Requested

January
2024

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