



St. Timothy Lutheran Church
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Newsletter Deadline is the Wednesday before the last Sunday of the month.

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For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” These words from Isaiah’s prophecy and popularized in George Frideric Handel’s “Messiah” will again be heard this Christmas season. So, as Jesus often said, “For those who have ears hear, let them hear...”

Like so many other times in history, we Christians today live in a world engulfed in darkness. As I observed in my Advent 1 sermon by quoting the first lines in Charles Dickens’ “Tale of Two Cities,” for many of us, this is the “best of times” as well as the “worst of times.” For many of us life is a “roller coaster” experience - highs, lows, fast turns, and head-jerking changes in direction. And, **despite religious leaders and preachers saying “peace, peace” in their sermons, we have no real peace.** It seems as though the prophet Jeremiah’s words are true for us today.

But, maybe if we have no peace, the season of Advent - this time of preparing for Jesus to return - is a time for us to reflect on the wisdom of Mother Theresa, **“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”** After surviving one of the most contentious and schismatic presidential elections and the seemingly overwhelming problems suffocating us - houselessness, isolation, fear, anger, violence... the list is endless, **some of us think that there are no answers; there is no peace. But, as Mother Theresa observed, maybe we have forgotten that we belong to each other.**

I’ve had so many non-believing friends ask me, “If Jesus is the Prince of Peace and he came into this world, why don’t we have peace?” It’s a fair question. But there’s no easy answer, because, even though people know **God’s Great Commandment, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart... and love your neighbor as yourself,”** we haven’t lived out Jesus’ words. As Mother Theresa observed we don’t have peace because we don’t live like we belong to each other.

Marilyn and I thank God for being at St. Timothy because most members visibly act like we belong to each other; we are family! In the third verse of her 1995 song, Sister Sledge sang, “We are family... Living life is fun and we’ve just begun To get our share of this world’s delights. High

hopes we have for the future And our goal's in sight. No, we don't get depressed. Here's what we call our golden rule Have faith in you and the things you do..." Although she was talking about having faith in her sisters, **the people of St. Timothy have our faith in an even higher power and are inspired to love each other because we know God loved us first...sometimes, even when we don't feel lovable...**

So, when **many of us see Advent as the time for Jesus to come into this world as the Child who was born in a manger in Bethlehem**, some of us are looking for the return of God's Prince of Peace. And, until then, **may all of us embody Mother Theresa's words and belong to others** - to the hungry with our gifts to the food pantry, to those needing warm clothes with our gift of time at the Snowcap Clothes Closet, and to those who are lonely with the gift of our time and our attention and our love. **Christmas is not about us!** Christmas is a reminder that God has come into this world so we wouldn't be separated from God's self. **God is not mad at us! God loves us!** And, when we know that, **when Christ is really in our Christmases, then we will have God's peace that passes all human understanding...**

Social Concerns

Our Food Pantry: The need in our community continues!! Most weeks we serve at least 20 people and the week prior to Thanksgiving we served 36 people. On Thursday, the 21st the shelves were as close to empty as possible. Thank you to all of you who shop and replenish the shelves and the volunteers working the pantry. The new sign is attracting people driving by. December 14th will be the next pickup from the Portland Food Project. Volunteers welcome on site at Open Door and also at St Timothy to unload.

SnowCap: We have many egg cartons to be delivered and some clothes. An update on the clothes closet. They have purchased a former Carpet store. While getting this ready the store is still in Gresham Station. Drop clothes off at the main drop-off on SE Pine and about 180th or bring clothing to the church.

Fifth Sunday:



Coats for Kids was an amazing success supplying about 85 coats to grade school and 85 to middle/high school. We have spent the entire amount of donations and had members shop and give coats without reimbursement. I plan to try to go to the school(s) with the rest of coats after Thanksgiving and get a tour if possible.



Cultivate Initiatives: We have supported this great organization for two years with benevolences monthly. The council is considering supporting them again or another organization in 2025. We would love to hear your thoughts. We will be meeting 10th to finalize the budget for 2025 to bring to our January annual meeting.

Sherry Willmschen



Prayers for Palestine

I shared with council and some of congregation the major impact that the presentation/zoom at Trinity had on me. Pastor Curtis especially clarified the situation. When I was just a baby and the United Nations agreement set up the state of Israel Americans did not fully understand the impact this decision would have on the current residents of the land (Palestinian). Israel soldiers would come to plunder villages, churches, and chase residents away to the hills. There was no compensation or respect for the ownership of the

land. I just finished reading Blood Brothers by Elias Chacour (available in the library). Elias was a boy when this happened. His family owned an orchard which they were forced to leave. His father finds a way to get him an education and he becomes a Christian priest. The insights he provides are overwhelming including the part the church played in these egregious actions. To me this means that we must continue to educate ourselves daily and listen to people's stories.

Sherry Willmschen

December Worship Services

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

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada
Assistant	Ray W.	Shannon H.	Sherry W.	Ray W.	Shannon H.
Lector	Lisa S.	Karen O.	Shannon H.	Cathy H.	Twila R.
Usher	Steve & LeAnn	Gladys & Greta	Allen & Ernie	Steve & LeAnn	Allen & Ernie
Communion	Candace & Gladys K.	Cathy H.	Elaine & Karen O.	Cathy H.	Candace & Gladys K.
Tiny Tims Aide	Cathy H.	Cathy H.	Greta C.	Karen O.	Karen O.
Video & Sound	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.
Counters	Elaine & Ernie	Tim H. & Candace	Ray & Cathy H.	Elaine & Candace	Elaine & Ernie
Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.
Care Coordinator	Sherry W.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.

Portland Singing Christmas Tree once again brings the true message of Christmas. The youth choir particularly makes me tear up. The name of the song is “**Start a Wave.**” Here are some of the lyrics.

Maybe it's a smile on the subway
Maybe it's a whisper in the dark
Or maybe it's a hug amidst the heartache
There's a million different ways that it can start
But someone has to start it
Start the motion, throw the stone
Stir the ocean, be the hand that reaches out for the unknown
Sometimes just one drop is all it takes
See the ripples, watch them turn to waves
Right before your eyes
You never know who it might touch
And soon it might be all of us
Maybe there's a world that you can change
So start a wave, oh
It doesn't have to be some epic gesture
Oh, simple acts of kindness never are
But soon you might be on a grand adventure
Tracing out a path among the stars
Will you be the one to start it?
Start the motion, stand alone
Stir the ocean, be the hand that reaches out for the unknown
Sometimes just one drop is all it takes
One drop is all that it takes
See the ripples, watch them turn to waves
Right before your eyes
You never know who it might touch
And soon it might be all of us
Maybe there's a world that you can change
So start a wave
But someone has to start it
Yeah, someone has to start it
Will you be the one to start it?
Oh, will you be the one to start it
The one to start it all?
Sometimes just one drop is all it takes (One drop is all it takes)
See the ripples, watch them turn to waves
Right before your eyes
One becomes one hundred, then
A hundred-thousand joining in
An ocean's just a drop when it begins
But someone has to start it, woah
Maybe there's a world that you can change
So start a wave, oh
Start a wave
I think St. Timothy is the wave!!!!
Sherry

Office Support

Thank you to those who are stepping up to help in Jean Whitford's absence. We are discovering how indispensable she is. We also are writing procedures to make covering easier. Bulletins have been made, edited, and printed. The November newsletter was completed and emailed or picked up. Volunteers that are helping out are Elaine, Shannon, Karen O, and myself.
Sherry



LeMau Ta'ale	Christine Lutz
Joel Tobias	Barbara Swayze
Amanda Kimber	Kate Henderson
Julia Standley	Betty Canham
Dave Vecsi	Bill Haase
Tim Jupp	Jan Ruppert
Tim Henderson	
Alex Verdier	
Karen Burger	
Joshua Tobias	
Cathy Henderson	

December 2024

St. Timothy News December 2024

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:20am Choir practice <u>10 am Worship</u> <i>Zoom available</i> <i>Coffee Time After church</i> Meet and Greet- Membership Class 1</p>	<p>2 10 am to 1 pm Office & Food Pantry</p>	<p>3 11am 1pm Food Pantry hours</p>	<p>4 10 am to 1 pm Office & Food Pantry 10 am-1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hours</p>	<p>5 10am-1pm Food Pantry 11-1:30 potluck lunch & study & work at Snocap clothes <i>7 pm—8:30</i> <i>Choir Practice</i></p>	<p>6 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p>7 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits</p>
<p>8 9:20am Choir practice <u>10 am Worship</u> <i>Zoom available</i> <i>Advent Brunch After worship</i> Membership Class 2</p>	<p>9 10 am to 1 pm Office & Food Pantry</p>	<p>10 11am 1pm Food Pantry hours 6:30 pm Council</p>	<p>11 10 am to 1 pm Office & Food Pantry 10 am-1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hours 11-1 pm Advent service & potluck</p>	<p>12 10am-1 pm Food Pantry 11-1:30 potluck lunch & study & work at Snocap clothes <i>7 pm—8:30</i> <i>Choir Practice</i></p>	<p>13 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p>14 9—noon Property Work Party 9 am: Food Pantry pick up 12:30 pm: Food to pantry shelves</p>
<p>15 9:20 am Choir practice <u>10 am Worship</u> <i>Zoom available</i> <i>Coffee Time After church</i> Meet and Greet- Membership Class 3</p>	<p>16 10 am to 1 pm Unpack food at 10 am</p>	<p>17 11am 1pm Food Pantry hours</p>	<p>18 10 am to 1 pm Office & Food Pantry 11-1 pm Advent service & potluck 10 am-11 am Pr. Hamada's</p>	<p>19 10am-1 pm Food Pantry 11-1:30 potluck lunch & study & work at Snocap clothes <i>7 pm—8:30</i> <i>Choir Practice</i></p>	<p>20 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p>21 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits</p>
<p>22 9:20 am Choir practice <u>10 am Worship</u> <i>Zoom available</i> <i>Coffee Time After church</i> Reception of New Members</p>	<p>23 10 am to 1 pm Office & Food Pantry</p>	<p>24 <u>6:45pm-8:15pm</u> <u>Candle Light Service</u></p>	<p>25 <u>Christmas Day</u></p>	<p>26 10am-1 pm Food Pantry <i>No Choir Practice</i></p>	<p>27 10 am—1:30 pm Pr. Hamada's office hrs</p>	<p>28 9—noon Property Work Party if weather permits</p>
<p>29 9:20 am Choir practice <u>10 am Worship</u> <i>Zoom available</i> <i>Coffee Time After church</i></p>	<p>30 10 am to 1 pm Office & Food Pantry</p>	<p>31 11am 1pm Food Pantry hours</p>	<p><i>January 2025 The tentative date for the Annual Congregational meeting date will be held On January 19th. This will be finalized at the Council meeting on December 10.</i></p>			

Sock it to me!!!!

In December we are adding warm socks for men and women to our pantry List.

Socks will be added to the personal care kits we hand out through the food pantry. THANK YOU FOR BLESSING OUR PANTRY AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS.

Advent midweek services

will be at St Timothy Lutheran Church, 14500 SE Powell Blvd

When: Wednesdays before Christmas—Dec. 11 and 18

What: 11 am-1:00 pm—Potluck lunch & Study

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

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Address Correction Requested

**December
2024**

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