



Tidings

October 2019

from St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A note from your Pastor!

Life is messy, thank goodness for good friends!

As many of you know in late September I traveled to Seattle for a wedding. But, this wasn't just any wedding, this was the wedding of a long time friend. Willie and I have been friends since our middle school/junior high days (I did the math and its been 21 years). Willie was the friend that invited me to Youth Group at his Lutheran Church not realizing that one day that simple invitation would lead to my ordination. Willie is one of those friends that is always in the back of my mind. So, it was a great honor when Willie and his husband Jude asked if I would preside over their wedding.

However, one of the things that I love about Willie is his tendency to be a spur of the moment, fly by the seat of your pants kind of person. So this meant that this wedding was probably going to be a bit different than your average wedding, and that always makes the Presiding Minister a little nervous. I must admit that I found myself getting caught up in the details leading to and from, time to time getting a little frustrated with what I perceived as a lack of planning/effort. It was "messy" and as the minister I didn't like "messy". But of course there was a lesson to be learned in all of this.

When it came down to it, at 6pm on Sept. 20th everything and everyone came together and the wedding happened. Was it your "typical" wedding? No. It was a wedding that was truly unique to Willie and Jude. Most importantly it was a celebration of their Love for each other and a time to give thanks to God for the gift of love. I realized that while to me it was "messy" it was exactly perfect for the two people that we were gathered to celebrate. It was also an important reminder that even amidst the messiness of life God is present with us. In that moment I witnessed God's presence through the family and friends gathered. This October let us give thanks for the friends and family that help us through the messy bits of life.

Blessings,

Pastor Tony

Save The Date



Sunday
October 27th
Oktoberfest

**Potluck & New
Member Sunday**

We provide the
bratwursts, bev-
erages, and cake,
you bring a side
dish to share.

October Birthdays



3rd Kelly Anderson

4th Jeff Battcher

12th Mike Mahoney,
Deb Mahoney, Ruth
Trotter

13th Anton Prange

19th Keith Johnson

25th Renessa Zieg-
enhaen

29th JoNett Dahlen

Shout Out of Thanks !

Thank you to Pastor
Anton for filling in
for Pastor Tony on
Sunday October 13th
which is also his
birthday. Happy
Birthday Pastor An-
ton

Tidings

October

2

Coach's Corner

Game Face

Teammates,

The regular season had ended and we're left cheering for a handful of ball clubs to win the Series. The usual suspects (Dodgers, Yankees, Braves, Cardinals, Nationals, etc.) and a handful of others will be playing Fall Ball. As Lutherans we can always root for the Minnesota Twins and for proximity sake, the Oakland A's. Seems dismal doesn't it? Maybe not. We can hope and we can think positively and we can get our game face on for next year. Our very own San Francisco Giants finished the season just under .500, losing just a couple games less than they won in 2019.....better than the 2018 season. Not that bad. Of course next season is just about 5 months away and I can already sense the pessimism of the fans. Bruce Bochy, 13-year coach of the Giants is retiring with a stellar record. He's the 11th all-time MLB Manager with more than 2000 wins and has led the Giants to 3 World Series victories in 13 seasons with the club. We worry about his replacement. We worry too, that Madison Bumgarner, our ace pitcher will be traded as he enters free agency.

Here, within our church and amongst the members of our congregation I also hear rumors of concern regarding our financial stability, number of members and changes in leadership. As your Coach I know that negativity never wins the game. We have much to look forward to. Sure, affording a full-time Pastor is challenging for a small group. Sure, we're ending the church year and looking for new Church Council members. Sure, we hope to grow. Sure, we want so much. It'll all happen eventually with a little faith and the right kind of game face.

OK. I'll ask for a show of hands. How many of you know who Russell Wilson is? I suspect less than half the congregation recognize him as the highest paid NFL Quarterback; a genuine Superbowl MVP that plays for the Seattle Seahawks. "Yuck, Yuck," if you're a Niner's fan, I know. But here's the deal. There's more depth to this guy than anyone can even imagine. For example, he also has a Major League Baseball contract (hence, my interest as your Coach). The New York Yankees hold the rights to his professional baseball career should he ever make the transition and he participates in spring training with the Yanks every year. Russell is also a Man of God and recognizes his gifts, offering thanks to the Almighty at every opportunity, much to the dismay of some of his teammates. He's given much of his \$140 million contract away to a multitude of his charity organizations. And with a salary like that he can afford a personal mental health coach. In a recent Men's Journal article authored by Tricia Romano, Wilson reflects upon the devastating interception that cost the Seahawks the 2015 Superbowl victory to the New England Patriots. Attempting to get past the game, he says life is about adjusting to adversity. He says he's a neutral thinker. Positivity is great but sometimes it just doesn't work. However, the thing about negativity, he explains, is that it never works. We should carry this thought forward as we roll into the new church year and renewed hope for the Giants.

News from the Dugout: The Hiring Committee that has been formulated to find a suitable Administrative Assistant to the Pastor is hard at work and will soon be sorting through resumes. Carolyn, hang in there – your contract extension is on the way. Keep your game face on and I'll try and do the same. We're having some building security issues at the church. Council is examining causal factors and potential solutions. We've also taken the initial steps to finding a worthy sound system for the sanctuary.

Special thanks to Lowell and Sharon for filling in for Pr Tony. Both efforts were exceptional and we find ourselves as a congregation, enriched because of it.

Heads-up, we have a couple key games coming up on the schedule and team participation is key:

October 27th: We'll celebrate our New Member's Sunday with an Oktoberfest following worship. Brats and drinks will be provided. We ask the rest of the team to bring a side dish to share.

November 2nd: Again, team participation I requested for our Church Work Day. Regardless of skill levels, I request your assistance with prepping our stadium for the winter season.

For Laughs:

Q: Which baseball player holds water?

A: The pitcher.

Q: Which baseball player loved fireplaces?

A: Mickey Mantle.

Let's play ball!!

Coach Mike

I-Help Update

I-Help continues to be vital part of the community for 27 years and St. Philip's has been involved with in housing and serving meals since its inception. The program is currently seeing 20-24 men a night in the men's program and 9-12 women in the women's program. The programs are currently looking for a bus driver and will be looking for a social worker for the women's program. I-Help's recent Pasta with the Pastors on August 27 was a success and had an income \$18,500 for the evening. Thanks to those of you who supported the dinner with tickets.

St. Philip's serves dinner for the men's program on the second Tuesday of each month. If you would like to help, please contact Carolyn Berry or Mary Kramer.

Submitted by Mary Kramer

IOC - International Olympic Committee or Interfaith Outreach of Carmel?

For purposes of this article - the Interfaith Outreach of Carmel. Formed in 2007, the IOC began as an organization of Carmel area churches joining together to share outreach activities. St. Philip's has participated in the organization since its beginning.

In 2010, a benefit shop, Joining Hands, was started and the next year the nonprofit 501C status was attained. The mission of IOC is to bring together its member churches and to raise money to assist with homeless issues throughout the Monterey area. Beginning in 2010, IOC has been able to make grants to a variety of organizations each year. Grants ranged from \$1000 to \$52,000 a year, totaling \$352,000 in the 8 years. Grants for 2019 have yet to be made. Organizations receiving the grants include: Shelter Outreach Plus, Franciscan Workers of Junipero Serra, Interim, Inc., Housing Resource Center of Monterey, Salvation Army, Sun Street Centers, Rancho Cielo, YWCA, Gathering for Women, I-Help, and others. In addition to the grants, items that cannot be sold at shop are donated to other organizations throughout the community that assist homeless or migrant workers.

Over the years, St. Philip's association with IOC has been providing volunteers at the Joining Hands benefit shop, donating items to the shop, board membership, and participation in the annual Thanksgiving Service including hosting the service in 2012.

IOC continues to need our help. Volunteering at the shop, bringing donations, and shopping are good ways to help. The board is looking for new members as well. There is a need for someone with marketing and promotion experience or board development.

Joining Hands is located at 26358 Carmel Rancho Lane in Carmel. Phone is 831-292-8140.

The 2019 Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at Carmel Mission Basilica on Tuesday November 26 at 7pm. Refreshments follow the service. Donations of food for the Food Bank for Monterey County will be collected.

Submitted by Mary Kramer

Worship News & upcoming events:

We are continuing to use the Haugen liturgy for Sunday Worship services, as well as the Chicago Folk Service the third Sunday of each month. On October 20th, we will be celebrating Bread for the World Sunday, emphasizing ways to help the hungry in our nation and world. In preparation for Reformation Sunday, October 27th, all interested singers are encouraged to come practice after worship services in October, to present a choir anthem on the 27th. Justice Post will direct us. Reformation is a time to celebrate being Lutheran – a time to wear red, too! We will also welcome new members into our congregation during the worship service – another reason to celebrate! The following Sunday, Nov. 3rd, is All Saints' Sunday, a time to remember those who have gone before us, who have influenced us in some way, saints in our lives. At St. Philip's, we have a tradition of lighting candles in remembrance, during the worship service. It has been a meaningful time for all who have participated in the past – we encourage all to come, because worship in community is meaningful and encouraging to everyone. Next Worship Committee meeting is Oct. 21st at 12:30 – suggestions are appreciated, anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Submitted by Barbara Battcher

**VOLUNTEERS!
NEEDED!**

WANTED – assistants to help in the worship services... greeters, cantors, readers, acolytes, assistant ministers, ushers, altar guild (prepare communion), counters (record offerings & deposit), refreshment servers, Sunday School teachers, etc. Involvement in the worship service always helps everyone gain more in the community worship experience. Talk to Pastor Tony or anyone already serving to see ways you'd like to help.

Meet Mary Murray:



Mary joined St. Philip's by way of transfer from an ELCA Lutheran church in Modesto, California. She moved to Hacienda Carmel in early 2018, to join her brother to help in his antiques store in downtown Carmel 3 days a week. In Modesto, Mary taught elementary school for 34 years, then continued substitute teaching for another 6 years. When asked why she came to St. Philip's, Mary said simply, "I was looking for an ELCA Lutheran church that was as supportive as the one I left and St. Philip's was close to where I moved. Listening to the music, hearing the Psalm 150 band, sealed the deal." Mary loves music, is learning to play the guitar, and has been welcomed into the Psalm 150 band, coming to practice & fellowship every Tuesday. Mary has also joined the Worship Committee, helped assist in worship and volunteered to serve refreshments. Welcome to St. Philip's, Mary – we're so glad to have you here!

Submitted by Barbara Battcher

Some fun images from our past!



Getting to know our St. Philip's family – Mike Alaga

For many of us, the first smiling face we see on Sundays is Mike Alaga, greeting everyone as we enter St. Philip's. We also have Mike to thank for our sound engineering, making sure we can hear all the readers, assistants and Pastor Tony during worship.

While Mike Alaga has been around and involved at St. Philip's for many years, he just joined as an "official" member last year – just in time to vote for Pastor Tony!! Over the years Mike has been very active, helping in many ways, along with his Sunday service as greeter and sound tech.

For a little of Mike's story, we start with vegetables and fruit. Mike's father was in the lettuce business, and following the business meant that Mike grew up all over the West and especially in California, often attending two different schools during the school year. His family ended up in Watsonville, where Mike graduated from high school. He went on to Fresno State for a degree in business, but along the way he kept working with vegetables and fruit – picking strawberries and harvesting apples, with a tale to tell about an overturned truck in Watsonville and apples all over the road and roadside! Mike decided to keep building his skills in business, so he attended Santa Clara University for an MBA and then went to work for Stokely-Van Camp.

That job sent him to Indiana – where he met Mary Beth Frearson in the HR department, and soon they were together, back in California (Mike says he's a "weatherwuss" and wanted to get back to the California climate). They spent a few years in Bakersfield before moving up to the San Jose area, where Mike put his business skills and knowledge about fruits and vegetables to work in his own Wolf Canyon company. Mary Beth worked alongside Mike, and thanks to the wonders of technology, they realized the work could happen anywhere – and they chose Carmel Valley for their next home. After moving here, they looked around for a church home, and Mike and Mary Beth felt welcomed into the St. Philip's family and became active with us. Mike's three children were all busy with St. Philip's activities throughout their growing up years, and while Mike says he didn't come every Sunday, he and Mary Beth really connected with the people of St. Philip's. Mike appreciated Pastor Blumhorst and his sermons, and he always felt like Pastor Blumhorst sent him home with a message to reflect on.

St. Philip's was always very important to Mary Beth, and the congregation is important to Mike too – he says he comes for the people, really cares about the people and being part of the life at St. Philip's. Mike is always ready to help out – whether it is greeting people before worship, helping out at a Fall Clean-up Day or working with a committee. A few of Mike's favorite songs are "Lord of the Dance" and "Amazing Grace," and Mike's involvement and care for all of us here at St. Philip's is a gift of grace to us and the church.

Submitted by Anita Johnson

St. Philip's Staff & Council

Pastor Tony Rhodes

Justice Post

Pianist & Organist

Jose & Luz Perez

Janitorial Staff

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Berry - President

*Sharon Anderson -
Treasurer*

*Susan Alexander -
Secretary*

Alan Pedersen -At Large

*Keith Johnson -
Property Chair*

*Anke Richter
Financial Secretary*

MT CROSS RETREAT OPPORTUNITY

UFO (UNFINISHED PROJECTS) WEEKEND RETREAT
Who wouldn't want a weekend away just to work on your unfinished projects?!

You bring the materials, we'll bring the space and the food.
Who: Anyone 18+

When: We'll have space for you from 3PM on Friday, November 15 until 3PM on Sunday, November 17. You choose within that what times you would like to be here. On your day of arrival, we ask that you arrive between 8AM-8PM (after 3PM on Friday) and that you let us know when you plan to arrive so that we can greet you and show you your space.

How this Works:

You decide what unfinished object(s) you have that you'd like a weekend to work on; pack up your materials for that project, and come! Each participant will receive their own table and chair, plus access to an electrical outlet. That space is yours for the weekend; you may leave your materials there and work as early or late as you'd like on any given day. There's no (required) programming, so the time is completely yours to work, hike, go offsite, etc. However, we'll have a campfire one night, and our Director of Food Services is a Master Knitter, so she'll lead seminars on beginner's knitting, master knitting, and yarn dying if you're interested. Each seminar costs an additional \$5 and you bring your own materials (we'll give you a list of needed items).

Cost:

Friday - Sunday: \$80
Saturday - Sunday: \$65
Saturday Only: \$50

Registration requires a \$40 non-refundable deposit, regardless of which of the above options you choose. Any remaining balance will be due November 5.

Meals: We'll have brunch at 10:30AM and dinner at 5PM each day. Snacks and coffee/tea will be available throughout the day. However, we encourage you to bring some to share!

Housing is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. All housing will be in our lodge rooms; private rooms are extremely limited. Shared rooms are double-occupancy. Please let us know at time of registration if you have any mobility requirements.

Registration is limited! We can only accept 17 participants for this retreat, so register early! Registration is open July 20 - November 7, or until full. Prices increase \$15 on November 1.

Submitted by Anita Johnson