

Tidings

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Season's Greetings!

I wait all year just for the opportunity to use that greeting "Season's Greetings". I am not exactly sure when I picked it up for why I like it so much, but I do and I delight in every opportunity to get to use it. I think it might have something to do with the nature of the season. I am especially thinking of the welcoming nature of the season.

While I realize I am a bit of an optimist I do truly believe that this time of year brings with it a change in mood and spirit among most folks. The season gives us an opportunity to change the way we greet people and switch a simple hello or thank you for a Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas. Changing to a new greeting during this season causes us a slow down for a minute and think about what we are going to say, it takes a tiny bit more effort to say Happy Holidays instead of hi or good bye etc.

In Romans 15:7 Paul instructs the early church and us to "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." I like to think that sharing these holiday greetings with those around us we are stepping up to this challenge to welcome one another for the Glory of God. So, Merry Christmas and welcome!

Blessings,

Pastor Tony



**CHRISTMAS
EVE**

WORSHIP!

**December 24th
5:30pm**

Join us for a service
of Lessons & Carols!



COACH'S CORNER

Seasons

Teammates,

December has just begun and the baseball season is probably not really on our radar just yet. I mean we still need to enjoy the seasons of Advent, Christmas and the time after Epiphany and what-not, but, Baseball Spring Training will be starting in February. The San Francisco Giants have signed a new Coach, Gabe Kapler. Recognizing that Gabe joins the Giants with some controversy, not the least of which he used to be part of the Dodgers organization, I will give him the benefit of the doubt. We'll see where he leads the team in the coming seasons.

But hey, as we look forward to Spring Training let's not forget to enjoy our liturgical seasons starting with Advent. I may be wrong but I have to believe that most of us enjoy anticipation. Sometimes I think anticipating a vacation or meaningful travel has just as much value as the trips themselves. The Season of Advent has apparently been around since the Middle Ages and the origins of the word, Advent stems from the Latin word of *adventus* which translates into "arrival." And as you know, this season is all about the anticipation of Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the subsequent joyous anticipation of his return to make things right in the world. I've also always enjoyed the lighting of the advent candles as a reminder of Christ's virtues, Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

As your out-going Congregational President during this Advent Season I offer the following: I have hope for the growth of our congregation in terms of population, programs and spirituality. I love the anticipation of such growth. Our church community brings me joy. And worshiping together is a peaceful experience.

Heads Up:

Please mark your calendars now. Our mandatory annual team meeting is set for February 2nd following Worship Service.

Help Wanted:

We'll be electing a handful of new council members at our next annual team meeting in February. I request that you prayerfully consider volunteering to serve. Our team record can only improve through the willing and enthusiastic participation of all teammates. Serving on council is not a burden to be endured but a joy to be shared. Please engage. I suspect that as a congregation under Pastor Tony's leadership and with the support of a new council we will boldly be going to places next year we've not yet travelled.

For Laughs:

Did you know that baseball is the first sport mentioned in the Bible? It is. In Genesis it says, "In the big inning..."

Q: What's a baseball player's least favorite Star Wars movie?

A: The Umpire Strikes Back.

Merry Christmas!

Coach Mike



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4th Jaimie Eisinger

9th Ashlee Eisinger

21st Fred Watson



Baptism of Margaux Burgess, Granddaughter of John Eisinger

MEET NEW MEMBER, EMILY RUSTAD

Hello, my name is Emily Rustad. I grew up in Michigan and moved to California in 2011 to do my Ph.D in Plant Pathology at UC Davis. I graduated and moved to Monterey in 2018 and currently work as a faculty member at Hartnell College in Salinas. I teach in the Agriculture department. In my free time I enjoy running and read lots of books. Mostly, I enjoy spending time with my wiener dog Bernie Flanders. I had come to St. Philip's many times over the years when visiting my family and decided to make it my full time church home after I moved here. Being a part of a church has always been important to me and I have always found it to be a wonderful way to connect with God and connect with other people of faith. I am excited to serve in the church and become more a part of the community here! *Submitted by Mary Kramer*

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our new Pastor's Discretionary Fund! We have raised \$570+ so far. These funds will be used to respond quickly to requests for help. These requests often range from help with gas, to food, to a place to stay for the night. Thank you!

Thank you Keith Johnson for getting our tree for the Narthex and Sanctuary set up and ready for our decorating on December 8th!

**ST. PHILIP'S
STAFF & COUNCIL**

Pastor

Rev. Tony Rhodes

Pianist & Organist

Justice Post

Janitorial Staff

Luz & Jose Perez

President:

Mike Berry

Treasurer:

Sharon Anderson

Secretary

Susan Alexander

At Large

Alan Pedersen

Property Chair

Keith Johnson

Financial Secretary

Anke Rickter

MT. CROSS – OUR CAMPING MINISTRY



In early October Keith and I attended the Fall Homecoming Festival at our Lutheran camp and retreat center, Mt. Cross, in Ben Lomond, CA. The day was a celebration of the camp and the rich history of Mt. Cross and its role in the Lutheran faith communities of northern California. There were activities for all, hot cider and coffee, tours of the camp facilities and opportunities to talk with the Mt. Cross directors and members of the Mt. Cross Board.

I know many of you have been to Mt. Cross in years past, and so you have seen its beautiful setting in the redwoods – a variety of lodging facilities, swimming pool, climbing wall, outdoor chapel and bright airy dining hall. The camp serves hundreds of summer campers in a wide variety of programs, and the camp is used year-round by weekend retreat groups and school groups. Last year the camp had 3000 participants in the wide array of programs offered onsite.

At a delicious lunch we were able to hear more about the hopes and plans for Mt. Cross, and I was most impressed by the Director's message about Mt. Cross and camping minis-

try working as a partner with families, congregations and the ELCA Synod in "faith formation" for all. In my own life, Lutheran camping has always been significant in my understanding and celebration of my faith – and I spent many years as a camper, as a counselor, and Keith and I worked in camping as program directors and Keith as a Camp Director for even more years. It is exciting to think about the possibilities for expanded outreach by Mt. Cross and the opportunities for congregations and individuals to connect in ministry through Mt. Cross and its programs.

The new leadership at Mt. Cross is looking forward to more partnerships with congregations, and in the near future they hope to begin projects to upgrade the current facility and expand on ways to meet the needs of area churches and families. The capital campaign for improvements is called ROOTED IN REBIRTH and reflects the hope for dynamic new engagement and plans for the future. For more information about Mt. Cross, visit the website at www.mtcross.org.

Submitted by Anita Johnson

INVITATION TO SERVE AT NEW SOUP KITCHEN



A new non-profit organization, Jews, Christians, Muslims United, is announcing the initiation of their weekly Abraham's Tent Soup Kitchen. JCM United was formed in 2017 by a group of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim leaders and parishioners. The mission statement of the JCM United is "To build and strengthen the understanding and ties between these regions communities throughout social justice programs, including feeding the homeless, as well as social and educational activities". Abraham's Tent Soup Kitchen will provide a meal to homeless people each Thursday evening. This began November 21. Dinners will be held at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church at 390 Elm Street in Seaside. Volunteers are welcome to join any Thursday from 3-6pm. If you are interested in signing up contact JCM United at JCMUMonterey@gmail.com. Submitted by Mary Kramer

Christmas Decorating from the Past!



