

St. Philip's Lutheran Church Tidings

St. Philip's Lutheran Church
Carmel California

June—July 2022

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Welcome to ordinary time! Does it feel ordinary out there? I'm not so certain it does, but according to the liturgical calendar that Lutherans and many other Christian Churches follow, we are now in the season of Ordinary Time. You may also hear it called the Season after Pentecost, or more casually the "Green Season" as we will be looking at the green paraments for many many many weeks now.

I have traditionally gone with the phrasing of 3rd Sunday after Pentecost or 4th Sunday, etc. However, this year I was struck by the word Ordinary as I began to study my commentaries in preparation for preaching this summer. As I thought about this during my drive back from Reno on the first Sunday of June, I came to realize I think this probably has something to do with the fact that we seem to be living in extraordinary times.

We seem to be in a limbo stage where at times it feels like the pandemic might be entering an endemic stage while at other times, we are receiving news that cases are back on the rise. It's hard to know where to go, and it's definitely not ordinary. Then at the synod assembly this year we spent a majority of our time debating whether or not the bishop should be removed from office over their handling of the removal of a pastor serving a Spanish Language Ministry, definitely not an ordinary topic of discussion at synod assembly (keep your eye out for a summary of the assembly via email soon).

So, what is meant by "ordinary time" in the liturgical calendar? Well... simply put it is the time of the church year where we cover a variety of sections in the biblical texts and eventually lead up to Christmas and Easter. So, in essence, it is ordinary because we cover the ordinary stories of the bible if of course there is such a thing as an ordinary story in the bible. However, this year I think it invites us into something special. I think ordinary time is inviting us into a space where we can slow down and spend some time thinking about God's promise of love, grace, and eternal presence.



PASTOR'S NOTE CONTINUED

Let us spend this “ordinary” season remembering God’s promise that all those things that make us stressed, grieve, and cause us pain and displeasure, do not have the final say. Those things are but temporary and what is permanent is God’s love, compassion, and grace for each and every one of God’s beloved children, which yes, includes you and me.

Blessings,
Pastor Tony Rhodes

OFFICE HOURS

Melody Burgess, Administrative Assistant

Monday: 10:00 – 12:00, 12:30 – 2:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 12:00, 12:30 – 2:00

Pastor Tony:

Monday: 10:00 – 3:30

Tuesday: Pastor’s Text Study 10:30 – 1:00, Coffee Shop Office Hours 1:30 – 3:30

Wednesday: 10:00 – 1:30, *Wednesday Bible Study* 2:00-3:30,

Thursday: Off Site Pastoral Visits, Sermon Preparation, Volunteer Chaplain Rounds at CHOMP 2:00 – 4:00

Friday: Day Off

Saturday: Day Off unless scheduled in advance

(In an effort to practice good boundaries and to practice a spiritual sabbath I do not attend to email and non-emergency texts and phone calls on Friday and Saturday, you are free to leave non-emergent voice mails or texts on these two days but please know a response will not come until Sunday. I am however available 24 hours a day 7 days a week for any pastoral emergencies that arise.)

FINANCIAL AND ATTENDANCE UPDATE

APRIL AND MAY

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| April Income | 20,710.50 | May Income | 10,757.50 |
| April Expenses | 13,575.79 | May Expenses | 18,103.80 |
| April Net | 7,135.31 | May Net | -7,346.30 |
| Year to Date Income | 75,418.69 | | |
| Year to Date Expen. | 75,415.05 | Average In person Attendance | 26 |
| Year to Date Net | 3.64 | Average Live Stream Attendance | 24 |

JULY BIRTHDAYS!

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 st | Brian Steckler | 22 nd | Jim Conrad |
| 3 rd | Mel Kelly | 23 rd | Anita Johnson |
| 9 th | Erin Trotter | 26 th | Amie Aamodt |
| 17 th | Ashley Patania | 27 th | Mike Alaga |
| 18 th | Pr. Laurel Alexander | 30 th | Alan Pedersen |
| 19 th | John Goral | | |

GOLF AND GASTRONOMIC DELICACIES

The SPGA (St. Philip's Golf Association) hosted the 12th annual St. Philip's Invitational Golf Tournament, May 21st at the prestigious Monterey Pines golf links, our home course. Set amongst the backdrop of the Monterey Bay and nestled next to the Monterey Peninsula Airport, our field of competitors enjoyed a gorgeous afternoon of brilliant sunshine and gentle off-shore breezes.

I'm pleased to report that the fabulous foursome of Katie Anderson, Anke Richter, Mel Kelly and Mike Berry were crowned tournament champions this year. Their names will be proudly placed on the tournament plaque that hangs in the Hall of Champions (St. Philips Fellowship Hall) to be toasted for generations to come. Usually, the competition of our tournament is extremely challenging. However, Katie, Anke, Mel and Mike managed to bring their "A Game" to the tournament this year resulting in an undisputed victory.

Perhaps I should mention that they were the only foursome the SPGA could sponsor this year. Regardless, they are all champions and more importantly had an absolutely wonderful time together on the links. Indeed, it was a round of golf that the four of us will not soon forget.

Following the round of golf, the team transitioned to the Anderson Villa located up in the forest off of Aguajito Road for their victory celebration where they were met by several other members of our church community. The congregational dinner provided an ideal setting to cap off the perfect day. The libations and sustenance were truly delightful. Chef Jim has a way with barbecuing chicken that is nothing less than gourmet. It's no wonder he's been awarded his 2nd Michelin Star. Jim and Katie, thank you for your generous hospitality.

Mike Berry
SPGA Golf Chair



NEW TO THE ST. PHILIP'S LIBRARY

Thanks to Ann Watkins for some new additions to the library. If you have had that earworm of a hymn you used to sing running around in your head, there are a couple of hymnals that you could check out. One is the Common Service Book with Hymnal from the United Lutheran Church, published in 1918. A real treasure. There also is the Christian Youth Hymnal from 1948. Also added to the library is The Works of Josephus. Who is Josephus? He was the author of extra-biblical writings of the first century. His works are the principal source of Jewish history from B.C. E. 175 to C. E. 73. That would be the time of the New Testament.

Come down the hall and check these and so many other books in the library. *(Submitted by Mary Kramer)*

UPDATE ON THE FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTIONS AT ST. PHILIP'S

Since January, the distributions have been taking place on the first and third Fridays of each month. The number of families who come to get food varies each time. The smallest number in one week was 19. The largest number was 33.

Each time, we see familiar faces and new ones. All are appreciative. Currently, in addition to the USDA bags of staples, we are distributing mostly fresh produce which needs to be bagged for the recipients. That requires some busy hands at the beginning of our hour set aside for the distribution. Some of our regular recipients have pitched in to help package the produce for distribution.

Beginning in June, we will also be distributing free activity bags from the Carmel Valley Branch Library. These STEM-focused bags will be given to kids and teens. We expect to distribute them on three occasions throughout the summer. Like most volunteer efforts, volunteers are the greatest asset.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Mary Kramer – m_kramer@att.net.

Thanks. *(Submitted by Mary Kramer)*

LOBBY DAY

What is that? What do I have to do? Me, talk to a legislator? Participating in Lobby Day can seem a bit intimidating, but it turns out, that it is fairly easy to be a part of the process. Many of you have written letters to legislators or gone to visit one of them at their offices. Lobby Day gives an opportunity to do that with a group of fellow Lutherans to promote legislation before the Assembly and Senate.

This year's Lobby Day was sponsored by the California Lutheran Office of Public Policy. Conducted via Zoom, the day started with a talk by Anna Hasselblad. She is an advocate working through United Way of California and has been working on issues regarding education, health policy, decreasing poverty, and supporting children and families. Ms. Hasselblad shared a perspective that she heard on the story of the Good Samaritan. Instead of concentrating on the love that was shown by the Samaritan, to look beyond to the road. The road was narrow, steep, and dangerous. Why not make the road better. Both the Samaritan and improving the road are signs of loving your neighbor.

Following the key-note address, the participants were walked through the legislative process and wherein the process, and the bills we were considering were. This discussion was led by the director of LOPP, Regina Banks. After the group session, we broke into smaller groups to plan the discussions we would have with legislators or their staff members. The afternoon was filled with Zoom meetings with these staff members and LOPP participants advocating for the bills that were being promoted.

There were six bills that were being supported. SB 853, The HOPE for Children Act (establish a bond program for children who lost a parent to COVID-19); AB2180 The Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers Taskforce (identify children impacted by their parent's incarceration); AB2589 CalEITC Expansion (on-time payment per child dependent of resident making less than \$30,000); AB1615 Foster Youth Housing (expand eligibility and programs for housing for former foster youth); SB464 Food for All (include undocumented Californians in California Food Assistance Program); and SB222 Water Rate Assistance (provide water affordability assistance for drinking and wastewater services).

Lobby Day for 2022 may be over, but there is always more to do and to learn about.

The website for the Lutheran Office of Public Policy is <https://lutheranpublicpolicyca.org>.

They hold a weekly “Advocacy in Quarantine” each Wednesday at noon on Zoom. Check it out!

(Submitted by Mary Kramer)

