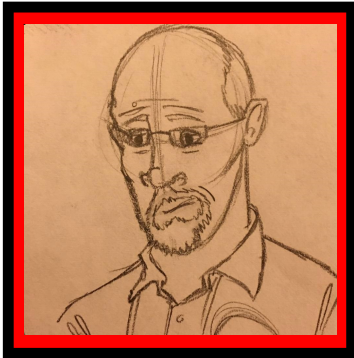


St. Luke Lutheran Church

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Issue 12/25

December 2025



Dan Tisdell

Pastor

Pastor's Musings

The word "Advent" never appears in scripture. The word Parousia (Greek for "coming" or "arrival") is not translated as "Advent", but it is the word that is most connected with the word Advent. We could think of this arriving or coming in a few different ways. We could think of it as the coming of the new church year and the soon to be celebrated coming of the birth of Jesus. We could also think of it in another way. In the early church, this word Parousia was also used when talking about the second coming of Christ. In our denomination and in many other mainline denominations, we can sometimes be a little too shy about talking about the second coming, leaving that to the more conservative churches. Instead, we mumble about it and say we don't know, which is true and can be a relief. But not addressing it at all sometimes feels like something is missing from our learning and our worshipping of God.

After all, we are sometimes called a creedal church too, and that means that we follow the creeds of the church

and even proclaim them in worship. Both the Apostles creed and the Nicene creed say essentially the same thing: That Jesus will come back "to judge the living and the dead" and the Nicene creed adds "and his kingdom will have no end". So, we say we believe that, but do we literally? And if we do, what do we think that would look like?

Part of my answer is going to be the cop out I already said...we don't know how or when or even if, but we have faith. I like to think of it using Star Trek, the famous set of series and movies. Not that Earth in that universe is perfect, far from it, but it does give us a glimpse, a tiny slice of what the kingdom of God might look like.

See, in the Star Trek universe, there is no hunger anymore because food and drink is free for all, there is no disease anymore, there is no poverty because all have what they need. Most importantly, there is no war, because they finally understood that there are no winners in war and war really doesn't solve anything. There is no war, on Earth, at least, other alien races engaged in war but on Earth that didn't happen. Part of the explanation in the Star Trek lore is that, when alien races first contacted humans, we finally had confirmation that we weren't alone in the universe and humanity put aside their differences and realized the fighting over resources, over borders, was silly and just hurt others unnecessarily. We united and took pride in being human and learned to take care of each other.

The thing is, there is enough housing and food and water and other resources in the world today that no one must be homeless or hungry or thirsty or have any need. We humans just aren't very good at sharing. Now if you think this message, this idea is a political one, a socialist one, you should realize that this is firmly the message of Jesus Christ. Jesus was intensely and totally political, which means of and for the people. But Jesus was not partisan. He wanted **ALL** people to be part of the kingdom of God. All people. He wanted all people to have their needs met and to be the happy and healthy in the kingdom, here on Earth.

So, one way of thinking about Advent, about the second coming of God, is imagine what the world would look like if all people had housing and food and water, if all wars would end, if disease and illness could be eradicated. And Jesus would be there, in some way that we don't understand today. That is the message of Advent, of the promised coming of Christ. It's not the coming of Christmas that is ultimately important. Instead, Advent is the annual reminder that the Kingdom of heaven on earth is a real thing that can, and probably should happen, and we should not only be ready for it, but work to hasten its arrival. If there's one thing I know, it's that if Christ will return in some recognizable, bodily form or in some way we don't understand yet, it won't

Continued on Page 2

**Grant
Hannon**
Youth Director
**Youth
News**



**Juliana
"Juli"
Buccellato**
ACP Director



Hi Everyone,

It's wonderful to be back with you all after my sabbatical. Being gone this past month has been really wonderful for my mental and physical health, while continuing my education to be a better youth director for everyone here has been truly a wonderful experience.

Over the course of my sabbatical last month I was able to spend time with ELCA staff in both Washington, DC at the national advocacy office and in Albuquerque New Mexico shadowing state level advocacy. Both trips were so insightful and I was able to learn so much about how the church advocates for change and how the youth and communities can be more involved in making change happen.

State level advocacy and national level advocacy have real challenges right now and being involved with those groups is important right now. Even small actions can cause huge chain reactions.

I can't wait to share more with you all over the coming weeks and months, I am so happy to be back at my St. Luke home with you all.

- Grant

—
Grant Hannon
Youth Director
719-761-1799

St. Luke Lutheran Church
1025 The Dalles Ave. Sunnyvale, CA
(408) 736-9216



Merry Christmas from ACP!

ACP had an Open House on Nov. 15th that was well attended. Our enrollment is now at 21! We had a work day combined with the church workday in November and had 3 families show up to help. We were able to get the trampoline put together for the toddlers, that was purchased with picture fundraiser money. We also were able to get the 2 cars put together that were donated by one of our families for our Toddlers. The Preschoolers were not left out. A big Thank you to Walt for getting the plywood needed for our climbing wall and to Pastor for getting it installed. We hope to have the climbing wall finished in the next couple of weeks. Funds for this were also raised by our picture fundraiser.

December will be a busy month for us. We will be hosting a Community Christmas Art Day with Grant playing Santa for photos and our ACP Christmas show and potluck. The children will be making Christmas trees for the Fire station, Police station and the Idylwood Care Facilities at the corner of Wright and Fremont. If you have any connections with other care facilities that would like a Christmas Tree from the children, please let me know. We are happy to make more!

Thank you for your donating recycled materials. At this time we have enough, but we will let you know when we need more!

Merry Christmas,
Juli

Page 2

Pastor's Musings

Continued from Page 1

happen until we figure out how to love and care for each other better. The second coming is going to happen, where ALL are loved. Christ will be here among us. Are we ready? Can we prepare the way as John the Baptist did, by working on justice towards an end to hunger, homelessness and war, as well as other societal ills? Don't we want the kingdom of heaven here on earth now? Don't we, deep down, want all humanity to "Live long, and prosper?" PD



Nancy Watz
*Council
President*

Council President's Corner

Dear St. Luke family,

The Advent season is upon us once again. What a special time of year, preparing for the coming of Jesus! May we stay focused on Him during this busy time.

Speaking of busy time. I would like to update you on some significant developments. Last June when you elected your current council there was one spot that was vacant, the President-Elect position. I am pleased to let you know that the Council recently ratified Emily Bradshaw to this position. Also, Roy Tuason, who has served as Chair of Elders, is stepping down. Anna Buskirk has graciously agreed to step in as the Elder Chair. Please welcome,

Continued on Page 5

The Church Calendar - December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM 2nd Harvest Food Bank Distribution (Kurtz Hall) 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM ACP Chapel (Preschool) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	3 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Pastor's Text Study (Kurtz Hall) 6:00 PM Advent Soup Supper 6:45 PM Advent Service 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	4 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	5	6
7 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz Hall) 11:30 AM Children's Sunday School (M.E.B.) 11:30 AM Confirmation Class (Y.O) 2:00 PM Round Dancing (Kurtz Hall) 6:00 PM Youth Group (Youth Outpost)	8 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	9 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM 2nd Harvest Food Bank Distribution (Kurtz Hall) 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM ACP Chapel (Preschool) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office) 11:30 AM Witness Meeting (Kurtz Hall)	10 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Pastor's Text Study (Kurtz Hall) 6:00 PM Advent Soup Supper 6:45 PM Advent Service 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	11 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	12	13
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz Hall) 11:30 AM Children's Sunday School (M.E.B.) 11:30 AM Confirmation Class (Y.O) 2:00 PM Round Dancing (Kurtz Hall) 6:00 PM Youth Group (Youth Outpost)	15 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	16 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM 2nd Harvest Food Bank Distribution (Kurtz Hall) 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM ACP Chapel (Preschool) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office) 7:00 PM Council Meeting (Kurtz Hall)	17 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Pastor's Text Study (Kurtz Hall) 6:00 PM Advent Soup Supper 6:45 PM Advent Service 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	18 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	19 4:00 PM ACP Christmas Event (Kurtz Hall)	20 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM St. Luke Work Day
21 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz Hall) 11:30 AM Children's Sunday School (M.E.B.) 11:30 AM Confirmation (Youth Outpost) 2:00 PM Round Dancing (Kurtz Hall) 6:00 PM Youth Group (Youth Outpost)	22 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	23 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM ACP Chapel (Preschool) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	24 Christmas Eve 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Pastor's Text Study (Kurtz Hall) 7:00 PM Christmas Eve (Sanctuary)	25 Christmas Day Holiday Office Closed!	26	27
28 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz Hall) 2:00 PM Round Dancing (Kurtz Hall)	29 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	30 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM ACP Chapel (Preschool) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	31 New Years Eve 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Pastor's Text Study (Kurtz Hall) 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)			

December 2025 Calendar of Worship Volunteers

If you are unable to serve any of the positions below, please get a substitute and notify Letty by 12 PM on the Wednesday prior to your date of service at (408) 736-9216 of the change. Thank you!

<u>Readings</u>	<u>Acolytes & Crucifier</u>	<u>Assisting Min/Cantor</u>	<u>Eucharist</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>
<u>December 7, 2025 - 2nd Sunday of Advent</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Pastor Dan Tisdell</u>					
Isa. 11:1-10	TBD	Wil Mandac	Denise Tsang	Grant Hannon	Altar Guild Team
Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	TBD	Setting IV	Tim Tsang		
Rom. 15:4-13					
Matt. 3:1-12					
<u>December 14, 2025 - 3rd Sunday of Advent</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Pastor Dan Tisdell</u>					
Isa. 35:1-10	TBD	Sue Hutchins	Kirk Autsen	Oliver Smith	Altar Guild Team
Psalms 146:5-10	TBD	Setting III	Denise Tsang		
James 5:7-10					
Matt 1:18-25					
<u>December 21, 2025 - 4th Sunday of Advent</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Pastor Dan Tisdell</u>					
Isa. 7:10-16	TBD	Tim Tsang	Sue Hutchins	Sally Hedman	Altar Guild Team
Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	TBD	Setting III	Danae Moreno		
Rom. 1:1-7					
Matt. 1:18-25					
<u>December 24, 2025 - Christmas Eve Service</u>					
<u>Children's Message: ??????????????????</u>					
Isa. 9:2-7	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Altar Guild Team
Psalms 96	TBD	TBD	TBD		
Titus 2:11-14					
Luke 2:1-20					
<u>December 28, 2025 - 1st Sunday after Christmas</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Beth Stauter</u>					
Isa. 63:7-9	TBD	Linda Baginski	Sue Hutchins	Danae Moreno	Altar Guild Team
Psalms 148	TBD	Setting III	Kirk Autsen		
Heb. 2:10-18					
Matt. 2:13-23					
<u>January 4, 2026 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Pastor Dan Tisdell</u>					
Jer. 31:7-14	TBD	Walt Wilser	Denise Tsang	Adeline Skov	Altar Guild Team
Psalms 147:12-20	TBD	Setting IV	Tim Tsang		
Eph. 1:13-14					
John 1:1-18					

DECEMBER GREETERS - FRONT DOOR

Dec. 07 - Sandi Wilkening
 Dec. 14 - Doug & Doriann Shreve
 Dec. 21 - Sandi Wilkening
 Dec. 28 - Doug & Doriann Shreve

DECEMBER GREETERS - SIDE DOOR

Dec. 07 - Don & Loretta Merry
 Dec. 14 - TBD
 Dec. 21 - Don & Loretta Merry
 Dec. 28 - TBD

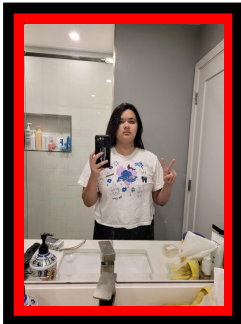
Council President's Corner

Continued from Page 2

encourage, and pray for them in their new roles. Thank you to Roy for his many years of service and welcome to Emily and Anna as new members of the Council and Executive Committee!

As mentioned in last month's Epistle, another opportunity that the Council is exploring is campus sharing with the Chinese Church in Christ – Sunnyvale. A non-binding letter of intent has been signed by both parties. We are currently in negotiations. While not a "done deal", God willing, this can/will come to fruition. Prayers welcome! May God grant us love, wisdom, and courage as we move forward in faith.

Nancy



**Emily
Bradshaw**

*Council Vice-
President*

Hello, I joined St. Luke in 2021. I currently co-lead Sunday School with Danae and am an adult leader in Youth Group. About a month ago I led the adult learning class with a three week presentation on AI (which you can view by scanning the QR code).

I currently go to De Anza Community College where I study screenwriting and I'm hoping to transfer by next year. Some things I enjoy are animation, comics, and crafts. Things I do not enjoy are generative AI and cybertrucks. I would describe myself as type B when it comes to personality, much to the dismay of my friends (we have fun, don't worry about it).



Dec. 03 - Fred Greguras
Dec. 04 - Mike Colligan
Dec. 04 - Debbie Ryan
Dec. 07 - Mary Hendrickson
Dec. 07 - Lourdes Johnson
Dec. 08 - Shirley Loo
Dec. 11 - Julie Schmidt
Dec. 15 - Don Merry
Dec. 19 - Isaac Manullang
Dec. 19 - Ellie Luna
Dec. 22 - Tude Della Maggiore
Dec. 23 - Lois Bertelson
Dec. 23 - Karen Farrens
Dec. 26 - Penny Bauerly
Dec. 29 - Justine Skov
Dec. 31 - Tim Ambrose



Dave & Kathy Moore: 43 yrs. -
December 11, 1982

Dave Webster & Margaret Steen:
31 yrs. - December 30, 1994

Emily Bradshaw, VP of Council - Cont'd

I'm excited to be your new VP and hope to do a good job.

BLOOD DRIVE-11/09/25



**Anna
Buskirk**
Head Chair



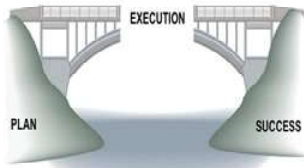
I have been a member of St. Luke for about 25 years. I've been a reader, a coffee pourer, a greeter and an elder. My personality is that of a follower, not a leader. I was very reluctant to become the "Boss" Elder, but there was need and maybe I could fill it. Pastor Dan encouraged me.

On Saturday, November 8th, I conducted my first meeting as Chair of the Elders. I've been at this church a long time and have never attended a council meeting. On, Tuesday, November 18th, I will attend my first council meeting. With God's help, I will try my best to do a good job.



BRIDGING THE GAP

St. Luke Deficit Campaign **A Call for Support**



Total budget deficit: \$155,000

Update:

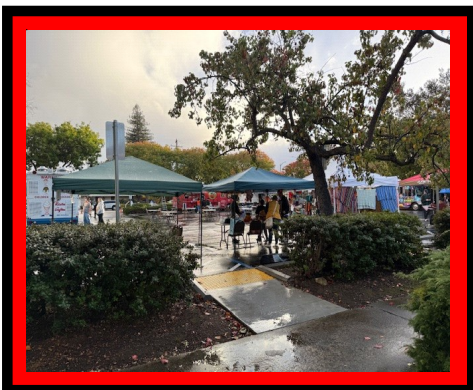
- Total pledged: \$128,720
- Total given as of 11/16: \$101,357

We ask that you honor your pledge by the end of the year.
When sending your gift, please indicate it is for “Bridging the Gap”.
Thank you for your support!

ACP HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL - 10/26/2025



FOOD TRUCK NIGHT - 10/26/2025



Donate Hygiene Items



For sleeping and cleanliness:

Backpacks, sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, sheets, towels, washcloths, soap, toothpaste and tooth brushes, deodorant, shampoo, disposable razors and shaving cream, band-aids, lotion, laundry pods.

For ladies: Feminine products, makeup, lipstick, hairclips.

Clothing: For men, women and children - clothing, hats scarves, gloves, underwear. The greatest need is for men's clothing.

Shoes & Socks: For all sizes but especially larger men's shoes.

Water Bottles: Reusable and 8 oz disposable

— **The Witness Team**



5TH SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER 2025 – YOUR GIFTS HELPING MANY!

The last 5th Sunday for 2025 arrived on November 30th! Second Harvest was designated to receive November's special offering. Second Harvest visits our campus the first and third Tuesdays of each month to provide food to our local community members who are helped with the extra food that they pick up at no cost. The St. John's Future Benevolence Fund will again match every dollar donated for the 5th Sunday Special Offering. Please write "5th Sunday or Second Harvest" on the memo line of your check made out to St. Luke. God bless you as we begin the holiday season. The Witness Team

PERSONAL CARE CAFE SERVES THE HOMELESS - HOW YOU CAN HELP IN THIS SEASON

St Luke families have been very generous, donating many useful and essential items to the Personal Care Cafe sponsored by Hope Lutheran, Santa Clara and supported by other Lutheran congregations. The need continues...

Items needed include anything you might need on a camping trip without a store nearby.

St. Luke Lutheran Church

1025 The Dalles Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
(408) 736-9216
www.stlukechurch.org

Worship Times

Sunday Worship Service * (In-person and streaming)

10:00 AM

Fellowship after worship

11:15 AM

Sunday School @ 11:30 AM

Confirmation Class @ 11:30 AM

Youth Group - 6:00 PM

To:



