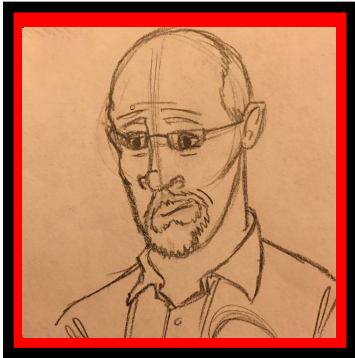


St. Luke Lutheran Church

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Issue 2/24

February 2024



Dan Tisdell

Pastor

Thoughts From Your Pastor . . .

"Hit the ground running"

I have used this phrase all my life and only now I began to think that there might be a history behind the saying. It is a "dead metaphor" which means that the rationale behind the saying has been mostly lost to the people who use it. When I did a little research, it became something even more appropriate for where we are right now at St. Luke.

Part of the story comes from paratroopers in world war 2. They were told to "hit the ground running" for two primary reasons. The first reason was that enemies could see the parachutes and target the area they landed. So they needed to quickly leave the area, hence to "hit the ground running" but they also needed to do that because their landing would be easier and less hard on their bodies if they were landing in a run.

The modern version of the saying means that we jump right in and move forward and/or move forward with the momentum already granted to us. It reminds me of how annoyed I can get when people merge into the highway too slow, like at 45 miles per hour. No, we are supposed to merge into the

highway at the speed of the traffic. Much like hitting the ground running.

I really believe that you all have already been doing wonderful ministry here at St. Luke and I have been getting up to speed and hitting the ground running with you all. And that's how I feel about 2024. We are all getting up to speed with each other.

In Second Timothy, First Corinthians and the book of Hebrews, we hear language about running the race set before us as a metaphor for the Christian life. Here's the passage from Hebrews.

Hebrews 12: 1-3 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

I love the idea that, as a community, we can all "hit the ground running" and run the race set before us. Now, ACTUAL running is not something I have ever been very good at. So, think of it like this. We "Fix our eyes on Jesus" and his life and teachings. We show love for our neighbor, and we get excited about preaching the Gospel through our words and actions every day, both while we are physically at the church and in our daily lives.

Let's hit the ground running, together!

Pastor Dan

Mike Colligan
Council
President



Letter from your Council President

1 Philippians 3:13-14 – "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

I grew up in a sports family. Most notable was my younger brother Mark. He knew exactly what he wanted to do in life from age five. That's hard to believe, but bear with me for a moment. I remember watching the 1968 Mexico City Olympics with him. He loved everything track and field but was enthralled by the shot put. The idea of throwing a 16-pound ball of iron as far as you could just fascinated him. At that time, my Dad was in the process of re-paving the driveway. Mark decided he could take some leftover concrete and mold it into a round ball the size of a shotput. And it worked. After that, he was frequently seen practicing what he had seen on television, spinning and heaving the concrete shotput. Mark went on to be a very good high

Cont'd on Page 2

Letter from your Council President

Cont'd from Page 1

school track athlete, the 1986 Big 8 shotput champion, and finally the shotput coach at the University of Nebraska, where he continued until his untimely death in 2011. Every January I return to Nebraska and gather with my family for the Mark Colligan Memorial Track Meet. Mark was always someone who had his eye on the goal and never gave up on his dreams. And I admired him for that.

As I began my term as president of St. Luke, I had my own goal in mind. I needed to lead the Call Committee to find our next pastor as quickly as possible. I felt we needed someone who was open-minded yet solidly grounded in faith. I also knew that our new pastor would be confronted with a huge number of financially complicated projects. I'm happy to say that God led us to the right person. Pastor Dan is the right pastor at the right time for St. Luke. We often joke about how much time we've spent together in difficult meetings. But through it all, God is with us. And Pastor Dan has been there to remind me of that. God's timing is perfect!

Let's talk about those financially complicated projects. For those of you who attended the congregational voters meeting on January 28th, this will be a repeat of a presentation I made. The goal was to discuss the big picture of the projects the church has undertaken in the past year and the financial impact of those projects. All the votes taken during the meeting passed.

The Parsonage:

On October 22nd, the congregation had approved setting \$2,000,000 of the St. John's Gift (SJG) fund aside for the purpose of buying a parsonage. The reasons for buying a parsonage were these.

First, one of the best ways to preserve the value of the generous gift from St. John's members is to reinvest it in the Bay Area housing market. Currently, the fund is invested in Mission Investment Fund (MIF), which is a financial ministry associated with the ELCA. However, as we all know, the Bay Area housing market is also a great investment. Long-term trends show that real estate has appreciated around 6% annually. Second, during the Call process it became very clear that the staggering cost of housing in the Bay Area was the biggest challenge for finding and retaining pastors. To future proof our pastoral housing needs, we need to purchase a home. Third, the housing allowance for our pastor is about \$40,000 per year, as prescribed by the ELCA. By purchasing a parsonage, we can eliminate this cost from our budget. Finally, we want our pastors, now and in the future, to live among us in comfortable surroundings. Purchasing a parsonage enables us to achieve all our pastoral housing goals. We expect to purchase a parsonage mid-2024.

ACP Relaunch:

When the COVID pandemic hit in 2020, Amazing Creations Preschool (ACP) was forced to pause operations due to the sharp decline in enrollment. In the following years of the pandemic, the Mitchell Education Building (MEB) task force decided that we should use the absence of ACP students to remodel the building. This decision kicked off an effort to plan for an expansion and an extensive rebuilding of the MEB. In the meantime, ACP remained licensed but paused. The decision whether to relaunch ACP was suspended pending completion of the MEB construction. Whether ACP relaunched or not, one thing is clear. We will need two tenants in the MEB to pay for the construction loan required to complete the project. The first tenant, Cupertino Co-op Nursery

School (CCNS) has been identified and will lease rooms 1 and 2 beginning around March 1. The second tenant will either need to be ACP or some third-party preschool. The congregation has approved a disbursement of \$86,000 as seed money to restart ACP. In February we will be looking to the congregation to see whether there is sufficient financial and administrative support to restart ACP. If not, we will need to engage with a commercial real estate broker to find a second tenant.

MEB Project:

The MEB Project is by far the most complicated. The intent of the project was to extensively remodel the building such that it could be divided into two separate business units as well as updating the building to the current building code. During the planning phase, it was decided to add an additional room on the west side of the building. This room is configured as a staff room. The rooms are now identified as 1 through 5 starting with the new staff room. The projected project cost will be around \$3,350,000. This is a very large amount of money, so I'm going to explain how financing will be achieved with round numbers. First, a gift of \$960,000 from the Angela Kendall estate was deemed appropriate for this use by the family and church leadership. That money has already been spent. Second, an internal loan of \$700,000 from the SJG fund was made available by vote of the congregation on November 19th. That money has also already been spent. On January 29th, the CCNS board of directors approved a one-time payment to St. Luke for \$550,000, which is due upon lease signing. We expect the lease to be signed by February 9th. This payment is a combination of construction costs for room 1 plus advanced rent to pay

Cont'd on Page 5

The Church Calendar - Febuary 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	2	3 2:00 PM Marrvin Bertelson Memorial Service & Reception
4 Baptism of Our Lord 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream (Children's Sunday School during Worship) 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary) 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 11:30 AM Confirmation 2:00 PM Round Dancing (K.H.) 6:00 PM Youth Group	5 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	6 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM 2nd Harvest Food Bank Distribution (Kurtz Hall) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	7 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30 PM Choir Practice	8 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	9	10
11 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM S.C.L.C. Chinese New Year Celebration 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream (Children's Sunday School during Worship) 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 11:30 AM Confirmation 2:00 PM Round Dancing (K.H.) 6:00 PM Youth Group	12 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	13 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office) 11:30 AM Witness Meeting (Kurtz Hall)	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	15 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	16	17 9:00 AM St. Luke Work Day 9:00 AM Elder's Meeting (Library)
18 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream (Children's Sunday School during Worship) 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 11:30 AM Confirmation 6:00 PM Youth Fundraiser: Italian Restaurant	19 President's Day Holiday OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	20 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM 2nd Harvest Food Bank Distribution (Kurtz Hall) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office) 7:00 PM Council Meeting (Kurtz Hall)	21 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper (Kurtz Hall) 6:45 PM Lenten Service (Kurtz Hall) 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	22 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	23	24
25 4th Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream (Children's Sunday School during Worship) 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 11:30 AM Confirmation 2:00 PM Round Dancing (K.H.) 6:00 PM Youth Group	26 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	27 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	28 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper (Kurtz Hall) 6:45 PM Lenten Service (Kurtz Hall) 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	29 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)		

February 2024 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>
February 4, 2024 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany					
Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou					
Isa. 40:21-31	TBD	Sue Hutchins	Lisa Pierce	Grant Hannon	Wendy Callahan
Psalms 147:1-11, 20c	TBD	Setting III	Tim Tsang	Brandon Pang	
1 Cor. 9:16-23					
Mark 1:29-39					
February 11, 2024 - Transfiguration Sunday					
Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou					
2 Kings 2:1-12	TBD	Roy Tuason	Laura Rubio	Kathleen Peters	Georgine Acly
Psalms 50:1-6	TBD	Setting IV	Danae Moreno	Ryan Peters	Bee Robles
2 Cor. 4:3-6					
Mark 9:2-9					
February 18, 2024 - 1st in Lent					
Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou					
Gen. 9:8-17	TBD	Kirk Autsen	Lisa Pierce	Tim Tsang	Roy &
Psalms 25:1-10	TBD	Setting IV	Denise Tsang	Jacob Su	Theresa Tuason
1 Peter 3:18-22					
Mark 1:9-15					
February 25, 2024 - 2nd Sunday in Lent					
Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou					
Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16	TBD	Wil Mandac	Tim Tsang	Mark Kent	Shirley Loo
Psalms 22:23-31	TBD	Setting X	Denise Tsang	Danae Moreno	
Rom. 4:13-25					
Mark 8:31-38					
March 3, 2024 - 3rd Sunday in Lent					
Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou					
Exod. 20:1-17	TBD	Chris Frye	Lisa Pierce	Grant Hannon	Wendy Callahan
Psalms 19	TBD	Setting IV	Sue Hutchins	Brandon Pang	
1 Cor. 1:18-25					
John 2:13-22					



Grace Alexandrou
Children's
Ministry
Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear St. Luke,

Happy February!

As the store aisles fill with chocolates, teddy bears, and red heart balloons, many people have a hard time finding joy on Valentine's Day. How can we stay in the peace of Christ during times when we may not

be feeling so great? I'd like to offer you to reflect upon the verse that talks about love, remembering that every day is a chance to receive God's love and to practice it.

Corinthians 13:1-13

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

How do you best show God's love to yourself and others? What is an area you could practice more?

Many Blessings!
Grace

FEBRUARY GREETERS - FRONT DOOR

Feb. 04 - Doug & Doriann Shreve

Feb. 11 - Joyce Masterson

Feb. 18 - Doug & Doriann Shreve

Feb. 25 - Joyce Masterson

FEBRUARY GREETERS - SIDE DOOR

Feb. 04 - Don & Loretta Merry

Feb. 11 - Roy & Theresa Tuason

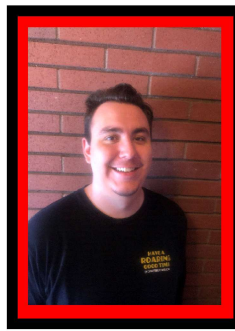
Feb. 18 - Don & Loretta Merry

Feb. 25 - Roy & Theresa Tuason

down their monthly rent. On January 28th, the congregation approved a disbursement from the Endowment fund of \$274,000. This disbursement will be made in the coming months as needed. Also on January 28th, the congregation approved an internal loan from the \$2,000,000 parsonage fund to the MEB Project in the amount of \$1,750,000. The reason for making this short-term internal loan is to bridge the time gap between the immediate need to pay the remaining construction costs and the funding date for an MIF construction loan. Ideally the construction loan would have been requested and received before construction began in July of 2023. But that didn't happen. On January 26th, MIF approved our loan request for \$1,200,000. Funding for the loan is expected around March 26th. Once we receive the \$550,000 payment from CCNS and the \$1,200,000 construction loan from MIF, we will have the funds required to repay the internal \$1,750,000 parsonage fund loan. We may also repay a portion of the \$700,000 internal loan from the SJG reserves fund.

Thank you for staying with me through this lengthy financial discussion. There are a lot of big numbers and dates to deal with. I wanted to give you a totally transparent view of how this has worked out. It has not been easy. Many people in church leadership have devoted endless hours to these projects, and I am so very grateful for their help. I also want to thank the congregation for trusting me to be your president during these last 7 chaotic months. It has been both overwhelming and humbling. And above all else, I want to thank God. There have been so many days when I have felt the pangs of despair. But then I remember that God is with us. And his timing is perfect!

Grant Hannon
Youth Director
Youth News



Hi everyone happy February!

We had an exciting end to youth group in January with the 4th annual cookie bake off. So many interesting and almost delicious cookies were created as the youth baked "without a recipe style" we also officially opened sign ups for the ELCA youth gathering and announced fun plans for February.

In February we will be going to an escape room, baking bread and learning more about each other and continuing to dive deeper into our relationships with the world around us! If anyone would like a sign up for the ELCA youth gathering please see me so I can get you one! Happy February!

Grant Hannon
Youth Director
719-761-1799

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



Gary & Patricia Walz: 40 yrs. -
February 12, 1984

Alex Rubio & Suzanne Strohmaier-
Rubio: 24 yrs. -
February 19, 2000



Feb. 06 - Jordan Mandac
Feb. 07 - Trinity Johnson
Feb. 10 - Julious Villa
Feb. 11 - Trish Wadsworth

Feb. 12 - Ryan Peters
Feb. 14 - Rebecca Nissen
Feb. 17 - Paul Mitchell
Feb. 19 - Nathaniel Su
Feb. 20 - Austin Yoder
Feb. 22 - Lucas Morales
Feb. 23 - Walt Wilser
Feb. 24 - Ashlyn Mooney
Feb. 25 - Henry Hayes
Feb. 28 - Natalie Smith

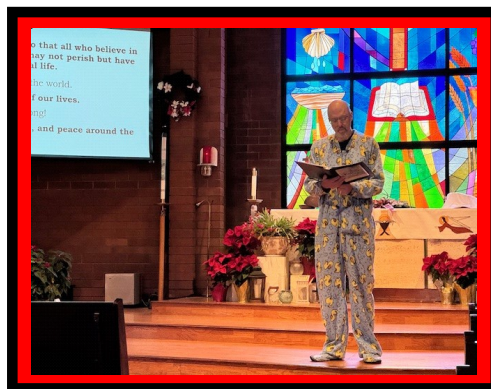
BOB & AMY MCKEE VISIT
- 1/06/2024 & 1/7/2024



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - 12-24-2023



NEW YEAR'S EVE PAJAMA SERVICE - 12-31-2023



FIRST COMMUNION - 1/07/2024



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



FIRST COMMUNION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6 - 1-07-2024



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

***Sunday School ***

(during Worship Service)

Fellowship after worship

11:00AM

Confirmation Class

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Youth Group

6:00 PM

To:



