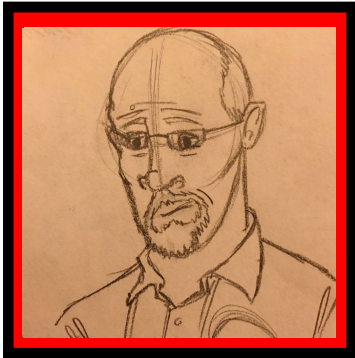


St. Luke Lutheran Church

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Issue 1/24

January 2024



Dan Tisdell

Pastor

Thoughts From Your Pastor . . .

It has been over twenty years since I wrote a Christmas letter. This year, I wrote one again, and the whole process made me think hard about why we do that. Part of the reason I hadn't in so long was out of pure laziness but honestly the bigger reason was I didn't think anyone would be too excited about what was going on in my life over the last year. I'd ask myself...why would anyone care? The people who I am closest to already know what's going in my life, and those who don't know, probably don't care much, so what's the point?

Over the course of my lifetime, I believe that we have lost something very valuable. Connection with each other. When I was a kid, we knew all our neighbors by name, and we had block parties. At some point or another as a kid, I was inside almost every house within a block of my mom's house for one reason or another. We walked to school from a young age. Now, we don't know most of our neighbors and we certainly don't trust them. Now kids are dropped off and picked up outside schools and the pickup lines stretch for blocks.

Having a global pandemic made this disconnection even more

palpable. We were quarantined in our own homes for weeks and even months with very little to no face-to-face human interaction. The whole world is only beginning to adjust back to talking to each other again.

When you are in public, apparently, it's taboo to talk to strangers. I still do it sometimes.

The truth is human beings need connection. Even the introverts. We need face-to-face interaction, and we need communication in other ways. We were created by God to be in community. Not just with family and close friends but with all creation.

That's part of the joy of being part of a church community. It's about worship and tradition, but it's also about connecting with other humans and sharing a journey together. More connection is almost always better, whether it is by making a phone call, having a cup of coffee together, or sending a Christmas letter.

This past year I had a lot of major life events, and I was proud and excited to share all that had happened. The coming year has its excitement coming too. Sharing life's highs and lows is a way of being in community. If we can be open and vulnerable enough to share the difficult times and welcoming and joyful to share the good times, we grow so much closer to each other in the process. I believe that sin is anything that separates us from God or from each other. If so, then the opposite of sin is anything that connects us with God and each other, anything that helps us grow closer to each other. Find connection. Meet that neighbor you've lived two doors down from for ten years. Learn the name of your mailperson. Sit with people at fellowship after church who you might not know as well. We were made by God to be in connection with each

other. Improve connection with those you already care about and create connection with those you may not know. In the end, I believe that increased human connection can create peace among all people.

Mike Colligan
Council President



Letter from your Council President

John 8:32 – “and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Can it possibly be 2024? I remember when I started working at Lockheed Martin, right out of college, way back in 1985. I had two co-workers that grew up in New York City. One day they asked me if I'd ever been to Times Square for New Year's Eve. I told them I hadn't. In fact, I'd never been anywhere in New York. They told me that it is the most amazing celebration I could possibly imagine. And they invited me to go with them to experience it. Great, I said! When should we go? They said let's go for the biggest celebration of them all. Let's go and ring in the year 2000! I remember saying, “Let's not wait until 2000. We'll all be old by then.” Such are the thoughts of a 23-year-old. Now I look at 2000 in the rear-view mirror. And it's a long way back there. But I no longer think about

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Letter from your Council President

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being old or not old. I think about today. What can I do today that makes my life meaningful? I may be older, but hopefully I'm wiser!

During my presidency, I have been talking a lot about church finances and projects and that is going to continue. It isn't that I have nothing else I'd rather talk about, but I feel that total transparency between church leadership and members is extremely important. There is a lot going on and I want everyone to be aware of everything. Big decisions are not just the purview of the leadership team, they involve every one of us. We are family and a family is open and honest with each other. With that said, here's an update to begin the year.

The remaining expected MEB (Mitchell Education Building) project cost as of November 1 was \$2,356,245. Since that time, we have received two invoices from our builder in the amounts of \$763,000 and \$561,000. As of this writing, both of those bills will be due by December 31st. If you'll remember, the congregation approved a loan from the SJG (St. John's Gift) fund to the MEB project in the amount of \$700,000 specifically to pay bills that were coming due.

We have also discussed the fact that we expect to sign a 12-year lease with CCNS (Cupertino Co-op Nursery School) for the use of 2 of the 5 rooms in the MEB plus a large playground space. Upon signing the lease, we expect to receive a construction payment from CCNS in the amount of \$550,000. This payment will also help us to pay the bills that are due by the end of

December. We expect to sign that lease very soon.

If we subtract these two payments from the November 1 expected remaining project cost, we see that the new expected remaining cost will be \$1,106,245. To address the remaining project cost, the congregation approved the pursuit of a construction loan from MIF (Mission Investment Fund) not to exceed \$1,600,000. As of this writing, we have submitted all required financial information to MIF for consideration. The information they required included our own financial information, financial information for CCNS, and a business plan for the relaunch of ACP (Amazing Creations Preschool). Many of you are probably wondering where we are with the ACP relaunch. When the pandemic hit in 2020, most of the ACP students were pulled out and kept at home with their parents. The lack of students and the sharp drop in income forced us to temporarily close the school. Because of this decision, school staff had to be let go and all operations ceased. However, we maintained our licenses so that we could restart the school at the appropriate time if we chose to do so. The expected completion date for the MEB project is February 1. It is now time to decide whether to relaunch ACP. Mary Hendrickson was involved in ACP's initial launch and has been leading the effort to put together the relaunch plan. The final decision will be based on MIF's analysis of our ACP business plan and on our ability to produce sufficient relaunch funds. Most of the original ACP furniture and office equipment was discarded during the MEB demolition effort. Therefore, we would need to refurnish the preschool rooms, upgrade the playground, begin a marketing and enrollment campaign, and of course hire staff. All of that would cost money beyond the money spent on the MEB project.

At the December council meeting, the council voted to approve loaning up to \$100,000 from the endowment fund to the ACP project if we choose to relaunch. The money would be used to hire a preschool director, to begin refurnishing the preschool rooms and staff space, and to begin the marketing and enrollment campaign. The director would be responsible for most of these activities. However, the total cost of a successful relaunch is estimated to be approximately \$300,000. Since there are no other funds available, the plan would be to raise these funds through an appeal to the congregation. The council voted and approved a fund-raising campaign for up to \$300,000 should we choose to relaunch ACP. All these approvals and decisions would need to be approved by the congregation before moving forward. It must be noted that whether we choose to relaunch ACP or find some other third-party preschool tenant, we must have additional income from MEB to pay for an MIF loan and to repay any internally loaned funds. We cannot successfully reopen MEB without two tenants and the associated income. We will be continuing our conversation on all these topics starting in January. The plan is to have an open forum discussion on MEB finances and the ACP relaunch on January 14th. We will also have a voters meeting on January 28th to discuss and approve these measures and any other measures that arise from council meetings in the final week of December and the first week of January.

I realize that there is a lot of information in this article, and it may not be clear. I encourage everyone to attend the open forum on January 14th and bring your questions. The EC (executive committee) and I will be available to discuss any of these

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The Church Calendar - January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM 2nd Harvest Food Bank Distribution (Kurtz Hall)	3	4	5	6 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Cupertino Co-OP Nursery School - Tour Event 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM B.Y.O. Lunch w/Bob & Amy McKee (Kurtz Hall)
7 Baptism of Our Lord 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	8 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	9 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office) 11:30 AM Witness Meeting	10 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30 PM Choir Practice	11 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	12	13 Private Internment
14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream (Children's Sunday School during Worship) 11:15 AM Open Forum (Sanctuary) 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 11:30 AM Confirmation 2:00 PM Round Dancing (K.H.) 6:00 PM Youth Group	15 Martin Luthern King Jr. Holiday OFFICE CLOSED 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) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	17 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	18 5:30 PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	19	20 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM San Jose Symphonic Choir Meeting (Kurtz Hall) 9:00 AM Elder's Meeting (Library)
21 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 Group	22 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	23 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	24 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	25	26	27 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Open House for Neighbors & Friends to meet Pastor Dan
28 4th Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream (Children's Sunday School during Worship) 11:15 AM Congegational Voter's Meeting - MEB (Sanctuary) 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 11:30 AM Confirmation 2:00 PM Round Dancing (K.H.) 6:00 PM Youth Group	29 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	30 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	31 10:00 AM Bible Study (Zoom) 6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)			

January 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>
<u>January 7, 2024 - Baptism of Our Lord</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou</u>					
Gen. 1:1-5	TBD	Linda Baginski	Kirk Autsen	Oliver Smith	Laura Dhanaraj &
Psalms 29	TBD	Setting X	Sue Hutchins	Brandon Pang	Wendy Callahan
Acts 19:1-7					
Mark 1:4-11					
<u>January 14, 2024 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou</u>					
1 Samuel 3:1-20	TBD	Tim Tsang	Laura Rubio	Kathleen Peters	Georgine Acly
Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	TBD	Setting III	Danae Moreno	Ryan Peters	Bee Robles
1 Cor. 6:12-20					
John 1:43-51					
<u>January 21, 2024 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou</u>					
Jonah 3:1-5, 10	TBD	Walt Wilser	Lisa Pierce	Tim Tsang	Roy &
Psalms 62:5-12	TBD	Setting IV	Denise Tsang	Jacob Su	Theresa Tuason
1 Cor. 7:29-31					
Mark 1:14-20					
<u>January 28, 2024 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou</u>					
Deut. 18:15-20	TBD	Mark Kent	Tim Tsang	Mark Kent	Lisa Pierce
Psalms 111	TBD	Setting III	Denise Tsang	Danae Moreno	
1 Cor. 8:1-13					
Mark 1:21-28					
<u>February 4, 2024 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany</u>					
<u>Children's Message: Grace Alexandrou</u>					
Isa. 40:21-31	TBD	Sue Hutchins	Lisa Pierce	Grant Hannon	Laura Dhanaraj &
Psalms 147:1-11, 20c	TBD	Setting III	Sue Hutchins	Brandon Pang	Wendy Callahan
1 Cor. 9:16-23					
Mark 1:29-39					

JANUARY GREETERS - FRONT DOOR

Jan. 07 - Doug & Doriann Shreve
 Jan. 14 - Joyce Masterson
 Jan. 21 - Doug & Doriann Shreve
 Jan. 28 - Joyce Masterson

JANUARY GREETERS - SIDE DOOR

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

Letter from your Council President

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topics with you at the open forum or individually. As a reminder, the EC members are Pastor Dan, Mike Colligan, Mary Hendrickson, Sue Hutchins, and Roy Tuason.

As I said earlier, we are a family. And a family succeeds by being open and honest. In **Matthew 12:25** Jesus said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand." 2024 will be a challenging year. But God is with us. And the Spirit moves among us. Thank you for being part of the St. Luke family.

Peace and Happy New Year

Mike

**Grant
Hannon**
Youth Director

Youth News



Hello Everyone and Happy New Year!

2023 is in the rear-view mirror and now with 2024 here it is crazy to think of all the exciting things we have going on this year. Over the course of 2024 the youth will be going to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering, VBS and Sports Camp will be happening over the Summer, & the youth group will have many events and adventures that promise to be full of impactful and great moments.

In January we have 2 major events going on. On January 21st the 3rd annual Cookie Bake-Off competition will be happening during youth group. The next week January 28th we will be taking our annual trip to the escape rooms for a night of team building and bonding. Signups for the escape room are open now and as always youth group will be every Sunday Night from 6pm to 8pm.

We also have another major milestone we will be celebrating in January. On January 7th many of our Sunday school and Confirmation youth will be celebrating their first communion. They completed their class on December 17th and on the 7th they will be celebrated and honored for their completion of the class. We look forward to celebrating with you all then!

—
Grant Hannon
Youth Director
719-761-1799

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



**Grace
Alexandrou**
Children's
Ministry
Director



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear St. Luke,
Happy New Year!

I hope that you have been able to enjoy quality time with family and friends this Holiday Season.

We ended the year by partnering with the Scouts to host "Kids Night Out" for four Fridays in December. There were many families who participated and enjoyed the event. I want to highlight Tanmayi Manduva, who did an exceptional job at organizing and managing the events. Hopefully we can continue to collaborate in future projects with the Scouts.

We had some fun performers act, sing, dance and read poetry at our 3rd Annual Christmas Show, next year maybe you could sign up to perform too!

We are trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us in this new year. Can you pray with us for God to guide us in how to be his hands and feet to our family, friends and community?

Many Blessings!
Grace



Dave & Lourdes Johnson: 21 yrs. -
January 18, 2003

Roger & Yukako Yoder: 23 yrs. -
January 20, 2001



Jan. 01 - Richard Duesbury
Jan. 01 - Sally Colligan
Jan. 05 - Carolyn Christian

Jan. 05 - Margaret Steen
Jan. 07 - Jon Jenson
Jan. 11 - Amy Bloom (Tsang)
Jan. 13 - Steve Schmidt
Jan. 13 - Emma Mitchell
Jan. 15 - Chuck Eggen
Jan. 16 - Louise Gore
Jan. 17 - Marlene Custer
Jan. 17 - Alexander Skov
Jan. 17 - Tristan Shov
Jan. 19 - Oliver Smith
Jan. 19 - Marlene Pool-Martianto
Jan. 20 - Kelsey Hayes
Jan. 21 - Janet Riddell
Jan. 21 - Aimee Skov
Jan. 24 - James Morales
Jan. 26 - Mason Wadsworth
Jan. 28 - Sandi Wilkening

ADVENT SOUP SUPPER - 12/13/2023



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE - 12/20/2023



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY



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



1st COMMUNICANTS BAKING BREAD



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:

