

S. Luke Lutheran Church

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Issue 7/24

July 2024



Dan Tisdel

Pastor

Pastor Dan's Musings – Summer Break

When I was a kid, we called it summer “break”. It was a break from school, a break from the routine, a break from other responsibilities. We couldn't afford to take many big vacations, but like many people, if we traveled, it was during the summer, usually to see family or see something “cultural”.

1 Corinthians 13: 11 ¹¹*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.*

In college, I also had summer breaks, but usually I filled those summers with summer jobs, still, those summers were fun because though I was working, my routine was changed and there was always something new to see or to do.

Now that I'm older, I don't get summer “breaks” anymore.

However...as I write this, there are three youngsters watching videos and laughing in the next office, there will

soon be thirty kids playing sports outside my window, next week is Vacation Bible School when the whole campus will be transformed, and a fake coyote is staring at me through that same office window. My routines are not the same and it is really wonderful. I may get a bit less done, but that is an expected blessing of summer. Yes, a blessing, not a curse.

Later in the summer, we will be going to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering, a bit later in August I will take a week away on vacation. We can all embrace the way the summer gives us a different rhythm. We have two choices. We can either see the changes of summer as unwelcome distractions to our normal life, or we can view those changes as an opportunity for creativity and growth, for embracing a bit of joy that can sometimes be hard to find in the rest of the year.

I've posted parts of Ecclesiastes 3 in my articles before but it seems like a good time to bring it up again. I am going to skip the regular pairs of lines that most are familiar with and look at the beginning and ending of the section, verses 1 and 10 through 13.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 10-13 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy

themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

What is the purpose of our work? That's the question posed by the entire book of Ecclesiastes. If we can't occasionally have a break in our routine and find joy, then work loses its meaning. Let's use this time, this time of interruptions and breaks in routine to renew ourselves. Don't be afraid of feeling the rhythm of the summer “break”.

Mike Colligan
Council President



Letter from your Council President

Luke 21:1-4 – As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. “Truly I tell you”, he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

Here we are. It is the beginning of summer and it's the end of my third term as president. This is my final newsletter. The title of my message is **\$56.56**. Okay, I'll admit that that is a very strange title. But let's unpack it. Here's the story. In January 2020,

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I started taking long daily walks at 6:00 AM and then again at 6:00 PM. This was right before the COVID pandemic. At that time, I had no idea a pandemic was coming. I just wanted to spend less time in front of my computer. Three months later, Sunnyvale streets were deserted. Instead of walking the same routes in the same areas every day, I decided to drive to different locations in the city and walk from there. During the following 4 years I probably walked 50 percent of the streets. I have called Sunnyvale home since 1996, but there was so much of it I had never seen. Now, I feel like an expert.

Anyway, back to the \$56.56. On one of my first walks, I came across a penny lying on the sidewalk. I'm sure I had seen money on the ground many times before, but this time it dawned on me that I should pick it up. I took it home and put it in a bowl. The next day I found a quarter. That was a surprise. I started thinking about how much lost money there must be in the world, especially in a wealthy area like Sunnyvale, where bending over to pick up a dropped coin might feel like a waste of energy. I decided to continue to pick up any money I found and keep it in the bowl. I'm sure you can see where this is going. Four and half years later, there was \$56.56 in that bowl. It's not all pennies. In fact, I've found 126 pennies, 17 nickels, 61 dimes, 28 quarters, a 200-peso coin, a 50-yuan coin, a dollar coin, a 2-euro coin, a 1-dollar bill, a 10-dollar bill, and a 20-dollar bill. Wow! So much lost money!

I always try to see what God is telling me through the events of my life. I have been thinking about the millions of dollars St. Luke has spent in the past year to rebuild the Mitchell Education Building, to buy

and upgrade a parsonage, and to furnish the Amazing Creations Preschool (ACP) classrooms and playground. In the light of the millions of dollars, do pennies count? The passage from Luke tells us that the 2 copper coins given by the widow were more valuable than the abundance given by the wealthy. I feel that God has been trying to teach me this lesson, one coin at a time. In the end, it's not the money, it's the giving hearts of God's people.

I have been so blessed to be able to lead the congregation during this difficult and trying year. So many people have encouraged me and supported me. It has been a humble experience. A new Council will begin in July. There will be new challenges. I am confident that the members and friends of St. Luke will rise to those challenges and that our ministries will go forward.

I want to give everyone a quick update on the projects we have worked on together this past year. First, there is the parsonage. On June 12, 2024, we closed on the purchase of a 4-bedroom 2-bathroom single-story home at 3372 Cadillac Drive in San Jose at a cost of **\$1,825,000**. This purchase completed a five-year journey for the parsonage committee. We are currently remodeling and upgrading various parts of the house. It's going to be a beautiful home for our pastor and his family inside and out. I want to thank all the people that made this possible. I want to especially thank the members of St. John's Lutheran Church of Sunnyvale who made this possible with their generous gift. They entrusted St. Luke to carry on their legacy while furthering the ministries of St. Luke. I know that the parsonage will be a blessing for St. Luke staff now and for generations to come.

As I told you last month, the Mitchell Education Building (MEB) remodeling

project was completed on May 1, 2024, at a cost of **\$3,452,816**. It was the culmination of several years of planning, design, and construction. I want to thank all those that dedicated their time and talent to making this project a reality. Cupertino Co-op Nursery School has successfully launched as the first tenant of the building. I know we will continue our mutually beneficial partnership with them for decades to come.

I want to update you on Amazing Creations Preschool. This year we raised **\$292,753** to relaunch our own preschool in the newly rebuilt MEB facility. We are currently fully remodeling the playground with fun and educational spaces including gardens, an outdoor classroom, play structures, swings, a sandbox, and a trike raceway! I want to thank Pastor Dan for his leadership and personal contributions to this effort. Inside, new furniture is arriving daily. We will soon have colorful, well-furnished classrooms ready to receive bright and inquisitive preschool children. I want to thank so many people who have contributed to this effort including our consultants, the ACP board, the Interview Committee, and especially Mary Hendrickson who spearheaded the ACP relaunch project. You couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with.

Finally, I want to thank all of you. This has been a very difficult two-year term for me. There have been so many big decisions to make and not much time to make them. I have tried to follow God's calling for me. I know it has been difficult for others on the leadership team as well. But I want you to know that I believe with all my heart that St. Luke is strong, and that God is with us. Believe in yourselves. And believe that God has a purpose for us and that he is leading us every step of the way. St. Luke is a place

The Church Calendar - July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM 2nd Harvest Food Bank Distribution (Kurtz Hall) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	3 10:00 AM Coffee Chat (Zoom)	4 4th of July Holiday OFFICE CLOSED!	5	6
7 7th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 2:00 PM Round Dancing (K.H.) 6:00 PM Youth Group (Kurtz Hall & Youth Outpost)	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 (Kurtz Hall)	10 10:00 AM Coffee Chat (Zoom)	11 12 PM Executive Committee Lunch Meeting (Kurtz Hall)	12	13
14 8th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 11:15 AM Elder's Meeting (Library) 2:00PM Round Dancing (K.H.) 6:00 PM Youth Group	15 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	16 ELCA: YOUTH NATIONAL GATHERING 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)	17 ELCA: YOUTH NATIONAL GATHERING 10:00 AM Coffee Chat (Zoom)	18 ELCA: YOUTH NATIONAL GATHERING	19 ELCA: YOUTH NATIONAL GATHERING	20 ELCA: YOUTH NATIONAL GATHERING 9:00 AM St. Luke Work Day
21 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 6:00 PM Youth Group (Kurtz Hall & Youth Outpost)	22 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	23 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	24 10:00 AM Coffee Chat (Zoom)	25	26	27
28 10:00 AM In-Person Worship & Live Stream 11:15 AM Fellowship (Kurtz) 2:00 PM Round Dancing (K.H.) 6:00 PM Youth Group (Kurtz Hall & Youth Outpost)	29 7:00 PM Scout Troop #493 & Scout Troop #442 (K.H.)	30 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Church Office)	31 10:00 AM Coffee Chat (Zoom)			

July 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>
July 7, 2024 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost					
Children's Message: Pastor Dan Tisdell					
Ezek. 2:1-5 Psalm 123 2 Cor. 12:1-10 Mark 6:1-13	TBD TBD	Sue Hutchins Setting X	Danae Moreno Laura Rubio	Oliver Smith	Wendy Callahan
July 14, 2024 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost					
Children's Message: Kirk Autsen					
Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:1-13 Eph. 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29	TBD TBD	Linda Baginski Setting X	Roy Tuason Theresa Tuason	Mark Kent	Georgine Acly Bee Robles
July 21, 2024 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost					
Children's Message: Grant Hannon					
Jer. 23:1-6 Psalm 23 Eph. 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-44	TBD TBD	Walt Wilser Setting X	Kirk Autsen Sue Hutchins	Danae Moreno	Roy & Theresa Tuason
July 28, 2024 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost					
Children's Message: Andy Wadsworth					
Gen. 9:8-17 Psalm 136:1-9 Eph. 3:14-21 Mark 6:45-56	TBD TBD	Mark Kent Setting X	Tim Tsang Denise Tsang	Roy Tuason	Shirley Loo
August 4th, 2024 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost					
Children's Message: Pastor Dan Tisdell					
Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 145:10-21 Eph. 4:1-16 John 6:22-35	TBD TBD	Tim Tsang Setting X	Roy Tuason Sue Hutchins	Jordan Mandac	Wendy Callahan



Donald & Loretta Merry: 67 yrs. -
July 5, 1957
Kevin & Christina Chang: 13 yrs. -
July 9, 2011

JULY GREETERS - FRONT DOOR

July 07 - Doug & Doriann Shreve
July 14 - Joyce Masterson
July 21 - Doug & Doriann Shreve
July 28 - Joyce Masterson

JULY GREETERS - SIDE DOOR

July 07 - Don & Loretta Merry
July 14 - Roy & Theresa Tuason
July 21 - Don & Loretta Merry
July 28 - Roy & Theresa Tuason



July 03 - Alex Rubio
July 03 - Joanna Villa
July 04 - Felicia Manullang
July 05 - John Krogman
July 08 - Andrea Tsang
July 09 - Margaret Weber
July 12 - Georgina Acly
July 15 - Loretta Merry
July 16 - Andrew Shieh
July 18 - Gary Berkland
July 21 - Irene Smith
July 25 - Diane Berkland
July 26 - Iris Morales
July 26 - Janelle Villa
July 27 - Bert Smith



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

Hello everyone!

Happy 4th of July! And happy July! I am very excited for the Youth Gathering trip this month and New Orleans will be an exciting and meaningful trip for all the youth going! There are also other exciting things like beach days, drive in movies, and many, many more adventures!

Looking back at our summer camps, both Sports Camp and VBS were amazing! Sports Camp featured our traditional trio of volleyball, tee ball, and soccer. VBS this year was "Camp Firelight" and between creative stations, great counselors, & amazing campers we had a great week exploring God and Nature all around us! Can't wait to share more with you all over the coming weeks!



Grant Hannon
Youth Director
719-761-1799

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

Letter from your Council President

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where all are welcome. It's a place for spiritual growth, patience, and understanding. I love you all and look forward to our future.

You might ask what's to become of the \$56.56? I plan to drop it in a Salvation Army bucket this coming Christmas. It was never my money anyway. It was God teaching me, and now us, a valuable lesson about what's important in our lives. Here's a hint, it's not the money!

God bless you all,

Mike

60 Years of Ministry - Rev. Gary L. Berkland



"On June 1964, I was ordained in my home congregation, Ullensvang Lutheran Church, Thor, Iowa. The Rev. Owen Gangstead, my mother's brother, was the officiant.

My first call was to Los Altos Lutheran Church, to serve as Youth and Educations pastor, as I requested. In that first year, I traveled with a large group of senior high youth to a national gathering. During those few

days, I met a young woman who was my wife for 56 years. There is much I would like to write about her role as a pastor's wife, but space doesn't allow such a beautiful story.

In 1967 I developed a mission congregation in Chino, CA for it to become self-supporting. Five years later I began a new mission congregation in Morgan Hill with six Lutheran families. I still remember saying to my wife, "Let's see if we can last ten years."

In reality, 28 years later, at the age of 65, I retired. By that time, we were worshipping 200 on a Sunday and had built a formal sanctuary and classrooms.

Throughout my years I have often said that God has always directed my life. In looking back, it is easy to see the reality of that feeling and comment." (Quoted from the article – see photo)

Well, we all know how this story continues...for our beloved Pastor Gary. He was hired in July 2015 as our new part time visitation pastor at St. Luke and our lives changed forever, especially for our shut-ins. Pastor Gary worked tirelessly visiting and checking in on our members and friends in need even throughout COVID limitations and was a strong pillar for us after Pastor Bob retired in 2021.

Even though Pastor Gary decided to 'retire' again in June 2022 from St. Luke, he has remained a regular in our congregation and helps with communion when needed. We are so blessed to have Pastor Gary in our church family - thank you for your 60 years of ministry!

SPORTS CAMP - JUNE 17TH - 21ST



VBS PREVIEW - "CAMP FIRELIGHT" SET



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**



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 ***

Returning after Rally Day

Fellowship after worship

11:00AM

Confirmation Class

Returning after Rally Day

Youth Group

6:00 PM

To:



