

St. Philip's Lutheran Church Tidings

St. Philips Lutheran Church
8065 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel 93923

November 2024

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Fall Greetings,

This newsletter happens to come out right before election day 2024. How are you feeling? Excited, fearful, depressed, uncertain, angry, unsure what to do? All of those emotions are so valid! As I was pondering what to write this time around, I kept coming back to the interchange between our faith and civic life, and then, an epiphany of sorts, the following letter from Bishop Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. Sometimes, others just put what one is thinking into words so well that it doesn't make sense to try and recreate it. So, instead, I share the Bishop's words with you this month. I hope they are helpful as we navigate election day and post-election day. – *Pastor Tony Rhodes*

“Dear Beloveds,

As the election season is here, I have been doing some reflecting on what it means to vote as a Lutheran Christian. Please know that I am not telling you who to vote for in this election. It is not for me to tell you who to vote for. I mean, after all, God is neither Republican or Democrat, or even American.

But in saying that, I am not abdicating the responsibility that we have as Lutheran Christians who live in a country where voting matters. As children of God, we are called to vote beyond our own self-interest or individuality. As people who follow Jesus, we are called towards God's vision of a just and mercy-filled world. As people who have received grace upon grace, we are called to stand against injustice, and to remind everyone that, in God's eyes, every single person is loved and beloved.

So, here are a few thoughts and questions:

1. Jesus is all about loving one's neighbor. Even when it's hard. When he's asked, “Who is my neighbor,” Jesus expands his answer. In Jesus' stories and actions he constantly goes to those who are on the outside, those marginalized, those without status, and shows how they are loved by God – how they are, in fact, his neighbor.

As you vote: Who is your neighbor?

2. Throughout scripture, hospitality to the stranger is embraced. In the Old Testament, the command to welcome strangers is repeated 37 times. In Matthew, Jesus says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

As you vote: Who is the stranger?

3. God’s will and God’s calling is towards equity and justice for those who have been silenced, oppressed, or harmed. As we hear in Isaiah, “Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow.”

As you vote: Who are the silenced, the oppressed, the harmed?

4. The eighth commandment declares that we are called to not bear false witness against our neighbor. This, of course, means not lying about another but seeking the truth. This means no name-calling or false accusations. But it goes beyond this. As Martin Luther tells us in his Small Catechism, we are to defend our neighbor, speak well of our neighbor, and explain everything in the kindest way.

As you vote: Who is speaking truth?

5. God created this beautiful earth and declared that we are both part of the creation and are also called to be stewards of it. As we read in the ELCA social statement called “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice,” we affirm that it is God’s intention for us to join in the healing and wholeness of creation.

As you vote: Who is caring for creation?

Dear Beloveds of God, there is so much more that could be written about the state of our country and what voting means. We could make this all complicated and intricate and difficult. But truly, it comes down to this: God’s love is unconditional and unending. Jesus came to this earth to show, to embody, to be God’s love for us and for all people. And so, knowing this, trusting this, believing this, we are called. We are called, as children of God, to show this love to the world. We are called to vote against hate. We are called to vote for God’s love. As we hear in 1 John, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ... We love because God first loved us.”

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee”



I-HELP AND ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Philip's has been a part of the I-Help program since in inception. Our pastor at the time, Roy Blumhorst, was one of the initial pastors who were approached about starting the program. Over the years that we hosted the men, the days of hosting have changed and we have now settled into housing the men and serving a meal on the second Tuesday of each month. If there is a fifth Tuesday, the men stay at the church as well.

Concerns at the start of the program – having strangers stay in the church, proper cleaning of the church, commitment to serve – have all become non problems. The men have become friends over the years, worked with us to help improve their stays, and have sometimes joined in our Psalm 150 band practice. We have two groups that serve on alternating months, but some people serve on both teams. It is a blessing to have an opportunity to be a part of I-Help.



I-HELP FUNDRAISERS:

To help purchase a 2006 Ford E450 18 passenger van. This would replace one of the three vans which each have close to 350 thousand mile. Donations can be made at the web site <https://www.ihelpmontereybay.org/>.

Jazz at *il vecchio* restaurant in Pacific Grove - The restaurant has a Jazz night on Thursdays from 6-8 pm and will donate 10% of alcohol sales to I-Help. Restaurant is located at 110 Central and reservations are recommended. Enjoy some jazz and support I-Help.

Monterey County Gives will again be a fundraising source for I-Help. It becomes available on November 15 through December 31 through Monterey Weekly.. This is a good way to donate to many local non-profits. <https://www.montereycountynow.com/>

THE WAYWARD WANDERERS

A recent walk brought together a few of the group to visit Pacific Grove's Community Garden, the Butterfly Sanctuary, and walk down to the beach and back. The next walk will be November 2 to check out the murals in Sand City.

Saji George is the contact person – (650) 537-7647.



Music at St. Philip's

Psalms 150 at practice – getting ready for the next Chicago Folk Service. Look for them in December.



The choir has been practicing and have several Sundays when they will be adding to the service. If you would like to join, contact Justice.



And watch for information about the December 14th Christmas Music event!



NEWS FROM THE ELCA AND THE SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD



Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Church in America

2024 marks the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger. Throughout that time, that organization has served the needy and hungry through the United States and the world. Recent reports tell of helping families in Guatemala and Indonesia to establish home gardens and grow much needed crops, supporting health care, and assisting churches in the US with food ministries. They also coordinate with Lutheran Disaster to work with people in Ukraine and the Middle East.

To get more information go the website – <https://www.elca.org>

This video was created to celebrate the 50 years, [Share the video](#)

On September 28, the voting members of this year's Assembly gathered on Zoom to review and agree to the budget for 2025-2026. The budget approval was postponed from the Assembly in order to give the budget committee more time to plan. The approved budget includes income from churches, ELCA grants for programs, property, and interest on investments. Expense includes salaries for staff and contracted staff, supporting programs of the Synod and property expenses.

Planned income - \$2,432,370

Planned expenses - \$3,339,432

Deficit - \$197,860

The deficit for 2023-2024 was \$1,062,331. Changes involved employing less contract staff, a decrease in property taxes, decrease in legal fees, and changing to an in-person assemble every two years.

Oktoberfest - Reformation Sunday

Thanks to everyone for sharing food and company



WORSHIP NEWS: NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

November 3rd is All Saints' Sunday, a time when we remember those who have gone before us, as we celebrate all as saints, worshipping our Lord. At St. Philip's we will again have opportunity to light candles in remembrance during worship. You may bring pictures of loved ones to display on a table in the sanctuary. If you wish someone to be mentioned during a special prayer time, please email the names to the church office or to Pastor Tony before Sunday. This has always been a very meaningful tradition at St. Philip's. The choir is also planning to sing during this service.

Nov. 24th is Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday in the church year. The following Sunday begins the new church year, beginning with the four Sundays in Advent, as we prepare for Christmas. Beginning the first Sunday in Advent, we will again use the Haugen liturgy, including a cantor leading the congregation. The congregation is encouraged to stay after worship on December 8th to decorate the church for the Christmas season. A Music Fellowship is planned for Saturday, Dec. 14th at 3 pm. On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, two services are again being scheduled, at 3 pm in the afternoon and 7 pm, to accommodate families and friends. Join us in worship and song, as we prepare to once again celebrate the birth of Christ.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

George Isaac	President
Sharon Anderson	Treasurer
Emily Rustad	
Carolyn Berry	Congregational Life
Mike Berry	Property
Susan Alexander	Secretary

Pastor Clark Brown, formerly of St. Timothy's will be installed as pastor at Hope Lutheran, Fresno Lutheran Church at 2pm on Sunday, November 17th. You can join in the installation online at <https://www.hopelutheranfresno.org>.

BIRTHDAYS

November

16th Hal Dahlen
24th Anke Richter
30th Brian Mahoney

December

4th Jamie Burgess
9th Ashlee Ponder
21st Fred Watson





 Interfaith Outreach of Carmel &
our Volunteers at Joining Hands Benefit Shop
invite you to our
16th Annual Celebration of Gratitude
featuring
**Carmel Mission Basilica & The Monterey Peninsula
Schola Cantorum Gospel Community Choir**
**Sunday, 3:00 pm
November 17, 2024**
Coffee/Tea Dessert Reception to follow
**Carmel Mission Basilica
3080 Rio Road, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921**
Free and everyone is welcome
831-238-0316 email: nancyjjones@earthlink.net
joininghandsbenefitshops.org

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30 am Food Bank	2 Parking 2:30 – 5:30pm
3 Daylight Savings Time 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/Social Hour	4	5	6 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	7	8	9
10 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/Social Hour	11	12 4 pm Men's Dinner	13 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	14	15 8:30 am Food Bank	16
17 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/Social Hour	18	19	20 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	21	22	23
24 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/Social Hour	25	26	27 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/ Social Hour	2	3	4 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	5	6 8:30 am Food Bank	7
8 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/ Social Hour	9	10 4 pm Men's Dinner	11 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	12	13	14 3 pm Holiday Music
15 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/ Social Hour	16	17	18 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	19	20 8:30 am Food Bank	21
22 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/ Social Hour	23	24 3 pm Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/ Social Hour	30	31 New Years Eve 4 pm Men's Shelter only				