



News And Important Information

Sunday Lenten Worship — ALLELUIA!

Somewhere in the history of the Church, someone decided to zap the use of "Alleluia" during Lenten worship. Problem is, they forgot that Lent is 40 days, and that it doesn't include Sundays (go ahead, grab your calendar and count it out)! Sundays, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. That certainly calls for praise (Alleluia!). Lent was originally a time for spiritual growth. That means Word, Spirit, and living the faith — more alleluias! So, this Lent, no grim faces. Don't worry about giving something up — unless you've really got some serious vices. Instead, work on adding to your spiritual maturity.

Praise the Lord!

Pastor Neal

Wednesday 12:30 Meditation

Beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb 22nd, noon, and continuing through Lent, we will be reflecting on God's grace using *The Genesis of Grace* by John Lendermark. Books will be provided at the door. Please join us in the fellowship hall at 12:30. Bring your Bible!

Raising Moses

Ash Wednesday worship is February 22nd, 7 p.m.

Our story for Lent is *Raising Moses* — the story of Moses' life from birth to prophet. We will continue this journey weekly at our *Soup and a Story* time beginning February 29th (Sadie Hawkins Day! Yikes!), 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The stories will be told through a series of skits. The Confirmation and Sunday School youth want to participate, but there are more parts to go around. If you're interested contact Pastor Neal.

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Pastor Pat Green

"Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel, "I am now a hundred and twenty years old, and the Lord has said to me 'You shall not cross the Jordan.'" Deut 31:2

There comes a time in every pastor's life where the Lord says, "You shall not cross the Jordan." Or in these words, "your work here is done." So it is for me. My work at St. Timothy's is done. For the past eight and a half years we have labored together to renew and restore the life of our congregation. But just as Joshua took over for Moses and led the people into the Promised Land, it is time for a new pastor to take over from me and lead you into new life.

This is God's plan for his people. When one leader retires and needs to go in a new direction, another leader is raised up with enthusiasm and energy. There are new programs to be initiated. There are new people to gather in. There are new relationships to build and nurture.

I will miss being your pastor. I have grown to love each of you. You have been a blessing to me.

May the road rise to meet you,
 May the wind be always at your back,
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 The rains fall soft upon your fields
 and,
 Until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

(Irish blessing)

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Pat



ST. TIMOTHY'S MISSION STATEMENT

WE ARE A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS COMMITTED TO CHRIST WHO COME TOGETHER TO NOURISH OUR BELIEFS, PLANT THE SEED OF THE GOSPEL AND REACH OUT IN JOY TO SHARE OUR FAITH AND BLESSINGS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES.

WELCA News

By Rita McMahon

WELCA'S February meeting is Thursday, the 16th, at 1pm in the Community Room. The Bible Study Session 6, "TOUGH QUESTIONS" will be led by Janet Christenson. This study is structured around a series of formidable questions, some posed to Jesus and others to His followers. Surprisingly, these questions were not only for those who met Jesus long ago, but they also represent the kind of questions we ask, and Jesus asks of us, today. Helen Deuell, our RED LADY, will be hostess in this VALENTINE MONTH. All women are invited to join us in study, refreshments, and fellowship.

WELCA'S Sewing Group meets Wednesday, February 1st, from 9:30 till Noon to work on summer quilts. Come and join us. No experience needed. Quilts are sold w/money going to charities; quilts not sold are given to charities.

Church Women United will meet Friday February 3rd. Registration and coffee at 9:30 A.M. at ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 530 Ponderosa NE. PROJECT: Martineztown of Neighborly Service needs new and "gently used" children's books for preschool and primary school age children.

Information

In the sermon on Sunday, January 22nd, I mentioned the plight of child slaves on cocoa plantations, and how this has not been addressed by the big chocolate companies of the world. If you'd like to read more, here are links:

CNN: http://thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/2012/01/19/child-slavery-and-chocolate-all-too-easy-to-find/?hpt=hp_bn2

BBC: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/panorama/hi/front_page/newsid_8583000/8583499.stm

In Christ,

Pastor Neal

St. Timothy's February Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 9am - WELCA Sewing 12pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Choir Practice	2 7pm - AA Kiva Group	3 9:30am - CWU Meeting	4
5 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 11am - Stewardship 11am - Sunday School	6	7 12pm - Pr. Text Study	8 12pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Choir Practice	9	10	11
12 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 11am - Sunday School	13	14 12pm - Pr. Text Study	15 12pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Choir Practice	16 Audubon Society 1pm - WELCA Meeting	17	18
19 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 11am - Sunday School	20 Office is Closed	21 12pm - Pr. Text Study 7pm - Council Meeting	22 Ash Wednesday 12pm - AA Meeting 12pm - Lent Meditation 7pm - Ash Wed. 7pm - Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 11am - Sunday School	27	28 12pm - Pr. Text Study	29 12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Soup & Story - 7pm - Choir Practice	1	2	3

COUNCIL CORNER



By Michele Benton

The council met Tuesday, January 17th

Devotion

Our devotion for this day was Psalm 62: My Rock and My Salvation. This psalm is instructional. We place our trust in God in the face of adversity. He is the source of our strength and from him alone comes our salvation.

Election of Council Officers for 2012

Council elected Becky Lee to serve her second year as President, and Michele Benton to serve as Vice President. Ruth May will continue as Secretary and Rob Evers will continue as Treasurer. Thanks to all for your service in these important leadership roles.

Welcome To Pastor Neal Mather

Pastor Neal reports he has been our interim pastor for 9 days. He is getting to know everyone and will give us a full report next month. He works part time and will hold office hours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Finance Committee Report

Michele Benton reported that our committee will more actively review our investments this year and we will conduct an audit of our books soon. It has been 2 years since our last audit, and the council feels it is important to perform annual audits. Rob Evers presented the budget for approval. We have some cuts in our budget this year primarily to bring us more in line with our actual spending. We also reduced the pastor's salary to an amount more in line with Synod guidelines which should be enough to hire a new pastor this year. Finally, we reduced our general fund contributions to reflect the decrease in pledges received this year after several members left our congregation.

Facility Committee Report

Ken Sherrell presented the priorities for 2012 improvements: Refinish and replace exterior woodwork; Install bike racks; Maintain asphalt on parking lots; Add round tables in community room; Add padded chairs in community room.

Preschool Tuition

Debbie Woodworth has requested a 3% increase in tuition for the next school year. The council voted to approve this request.

Synod Delegates

We asked for volunteers to attend Synod Assembly and Ken Bauhs expressed interest. If anyone else is interested, please let a council member know. This is an important year at assembly since we will elect a new Bishop. We budgeted money to send 2 representatives and Pastor to assembly.

Ruth May, Council Secretary, can supply complete minutes of this meeting.

Pastor Neal & Sue

Sue and I met while working our way through college and are now in our 44th year of marriage. After college I joined the Air Force, and we left our home state of Maryland. In our journey around the nation, God blessed us with two children, Cindy and Matt. Cindy, husband Tom, and daughter Natasha, live in Brookfield, Connecticut; and Matt, in Dallas, Texas.

Our nomadic life in the Air Force made us experts in moving (15!) and establishing a new home. Important to that resettling was finding and becoming active in a new faith family. We still have a large Christmas card list consisting of faith family members. While I was flying, Sue made her way back into education field. For the last 20 years she has been teaching and administering Graduate Education Degree (GED) programs).

My AF experiences were all about teamwork. On aircrews we worked together to accomplish the mission; in staff, we supported the combat units in the field. Each person, regardless of gender, race, or rank was valued for their contribution to mission success. It is that attitude that I try to cultivate in my ministry. After retiring from the Air Force, I taught Business and Management for four years using an experiential learning curriculum at Bellevue University in Nebraska. My call to ministry came in 1994. So as Cindy finished up her teaching degree at the University of Nebraska, and as Matt headed off to Iowa State to pursue his computer engineering degree, I entered Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa (I think that was move #11). I interned at a rural congregation in rural Iowa (there are large towns in Iowa, like Des Moines). We enjoyed the rural setting and put that as a preference on my call sheet.

Consequently, upon graduation, I was called to a rural congregation in Southeast Nebraska. This congregation had just come out of a conflict in which the previous, just-from-seminary pastor, had lasted 18 months. With the Lord's guidance and help, things turned around over the next seven years. They are now growing and healthy. My second call was to a larger congregation in a rural town. Unfortunately, this congregation was steeped in internal conflicts and struggles. After 20 months I resigned my call, and immediately began to fill in for an interim pastor who had fallen seriously ill. This was a two point parish, and it was love at first sight. They called me, and we had a wonderful 4½ years together.

In my four calls, I did not walk into a congregation that was prepared to receive a new pastor. It didn't take the Lord tearing the sky open for me to see that in my retirement I am called to help congregations get themselves in the best shape they can be to receive a new pastor — and make that subsequent call a success.

During all of my years living in rural areas, I struggled with allergies and worsening bronchitis attacks. I finally saw a specialist who tagged me with asthma triggered by allergies. He and my family doctor agreed that living someplace else (like Albuquerque) would be a big help. So here we are! And it has been a big help!

Meanwhile, Sue and I take daily walks. I hike the mountain each week with a local group. Sue tutors math and GED. Our home church is Holy Cross. Sue will periodically be there to assist in ministry and fellowship. We like cross country skiing, inline skating, and balloon rides. We are active in Albuquerque Newcomers.

It is a blessing and privilege to serve with you!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Neal Mather



Call Committee News

The six member Call Committee has been appointed by the Church Council and has begun the process of calling a new pastor to St. Tim's. We are looking forward to actively engaging the members of our St. Tim's community to provide input & visioning to the call process. The starting point is to gather thoughts and ideas about who we are now, where we want to be in the future, how we could get there and what we're looking for in a pastor. Some serious prayer, examination, contemplation and imagining is called for and we are counting on You for help! This is an exciting time of change and opportunity for St. Tim's – let's work together to take full advantage of it!

Below is a list of questions that we would like to discuss with you. Please take some time for prayerful consideration of these with open hearts and minds. Please come to one of the 4 times we have scheduled and let's share ideas and do some brainstorming.

1. What are you excited about at St. Tim's?
2. What things do we do well?
3. What gifts and resources are our top 3 assets?
4. What do we need to change in order to make best use of these top 3 assets?
5. What are some specific things you'd like to see us doing differently that could affect our future?
6. What characteristics /gifts would you like to see in our new pastor other than great preaching/worship leading?
7. What are 3 areas of activity or focus you wish our new pastor would give special attention to during the first year?
8. Thinking ahead about our whole St. Tim's community: congregation, preschool, music camp, youth and adult studies; what does St. Tim's look like in 3 years?

Dates, Times & Locations:

Tuesday, February 7th, 6:30pm at Ron & Marie Henkel's, 912 Sierra Dr. SE; 610-0802
light dinner provided

Friday, February 10th, 6:30pm at Dan Rader & Becky Lee's, 5620 Cometa Ct. NE; 252-1472
light dinner provided

Sunday, February 12th, 11:00 am, Adult Education time in the Community Room

Saturday, February 25th, 11:30am at Ken & Mona Sherrell's, 728 Valverde SE 266-1291
light lunch provided

Please let us know which session you will attend. You can sign up in the community room, email Marie Henkel, mlhenkel@gmail.com, or call the church office 255-8001

Thank you from the Call Committee: Marie Henkel, Mona Sherrell, Beth Neer, Sam Brandt, Wayne Aspholm, Casey Denhollander. Please feel free to talk to any of us if you have questions or concerns about the call process.

The Interim Pastor

As your interim pastor I am under contract with you for 32 hours/week in contrast to Pastor Pat at 40 (though, I know she worked much more). The plan was to be in the office Monday - Wednesday, and off Thursday - Saturday. Sunday of course is worship, Sunday School, and meetings. So far I've taken off Thursday mornings and Friday. Saturday is sermon prep and other "homework."

Meanwhile, here are the tasks outlined by council that are included in our agreement:

- Lead worship & preach
- Participate in:
 - Council meetings and committees — 1 evening time block/week.
 - I've already met with Council, Worship, Stewardship, treasurer, Family of Promise, etc. — it's been great getting to know everyone!
 - Women's Bible Study – participate in monthly meeting as time allows.
 - Visitation group being formed.
- Be in the office M-Weds
 - Work with Admin Assistant
 - Bulletins, worship prep, reports, benevolence actions, pastoral calls, drop-ins, etc.
 - But you will likely want to minimize your driving. We can be flexible on this – figure out a happy medium.
- Confirmation: Teach (1/3 time) plan Affirmation of Baptism.
- Adult Education – assist as needed.
- Preschool — Wednesday interaction time with children.
- Funerals/Weddings – as needed
- Crosslight (monthly newsletter)
- Pastor's text study on Tuesdays
- Administer Local Benevolence funds
- Participate in the Synod Assembly in April.

This is pretty much everything Pastor Pat was doing full time!

I have already done a lot that is not on the list, so we will see what fits into the 32 hour bag.

Key word: flexibility!

Additionally, as an interim pastor, I am tasked by the Rocky Mountain Synod to help you prepare all facets of St. Timothy's so that when the next pastor walks in the door, things can get off to a good start (see my bio letter for why this is so important to me). Here are the basics:

DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD

1. Come to terms with history:
 - Recognize that the former pastor has departed, so that relationship can no longer be the same;
 - See that this is a good time to come to terms with elements of history thus far avoided or denied;
 - Grieve and celebrate the past in preparation for a richer, freer future.
2. Clarify the identity of the congregation:
 - Claim a new awareness of self that is independent of previous pastoral leadership;

- Update the congregation's sense of who they are as a changing, growing people of God in a changing world.
3. Respond positively to changes in leadership/power dynamics:
 - Allow alternative leadership to come to the fore constructively;
 - Support and nurture growth in old and new leadership.
 4. Affirm denominational relationships:
 - Look to the denomination for helpful resources, especially with respect to the pastoral call process;
 - Make use of the denomination as a spiritual and practical community of support.
 5. Build commitment for new pastoral leadership and a renewed vision for the future.

In addition, in our contract there are still two blank spaces to add congregation foci for the interim ministry goals. I am already working up a list of my own from minutia to big. Fortunately, there is the 4th dimension of time — this all does not get done tomorrow — helps keep the 32 hour bag still a possibility. On the other hand that new pastor could arrive in six months. This means the important tasks of preparation will need to be put on the front burner. This is a team effort, so let's agree to keep each other, the call committee, and St. Timothy's in our prayers. Blessings!

In Christ,
Pastor Neal Mather

Inspired Reading ~ Thinking with God



Inspired Reading is a method of meditation that can be used to open up one's mind to God's Word. So, set aside 45 minutes and grab your Bible, a pen, and paper.

Follow the steps below.

1. Expect to find God. The Bible is the inspired word of God, so we need God to inspire us as we read. We begin in prayer:

O God, open my heart and mind to the power of your Holy Spirit, so that as I read your inspired Word, I may grow in faith and understanding of your love for me and for all people, as revealed through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Open your Bible to the New Testament book of Luke, chapter 7. We will be meditating on verses 1-10. Read and concentrate on the

passage (Luke 7:1-10). Read it several times. Ask yourself, "What does this mean?" Jot down your ideas. Then ask, "What did the Lord want Luke to tell the churches of his time?" To try to answer that question, a Bible commentary can help. Good commentaries are hard to come by, but you can always ask your pastor or check with your church's publications. For today, I'll give you some key ideas for this passage.

A centurion was a Roman soldier in charge of 100 troops. In this case he was part of an occupation force in what is now northern Israel — Jesus' home stomping grounds. He was a powerful foreigner who imposed the rule of Rome on a conquered people; hence, he would have been disliked by the native peoples. Apparently, this centurion was different in that he was a Godfearer — a non-Jew who worshiped the LORD God. He understood that the Jewish people considered all non-Jews ritually unclean; therefore, a faithful Jew would not enter a Roman's house, nor would a Godfearer ask them to do so. For his mission and all the power authorized him, this centurion has some admirable qualities. Knowing these things, re-read the passage aloud asking what this might mean to the follower of Jesus today. Jot down any new ideas.

2. Meditate. Think about the passage some more. Seek to discover the beauty and goodness of God's truth and apply it to your own life. Before you re-read this particular passage, it might be helpful to think of it in the form of a parable. That is, a story from life that causes you to think about the kingdom of God in new ways. For instance, this passage would be a great focus for a leadership seminar. Is that what Luke had in mind? Church leaders? Re-read the passage once again. Write down your insights and reflections.

3. Pray. When we pray, we respond to God's Word by entering into a conversation with Christ who first speaks to us. Then we respond with gratitude, love, petition, contrition, praise, sorrow, joy, commitment, dedication—as inspired. Allow the dialogue to become intensely personal, intimate, and emotional. We can accept the Word for our lives or dismiss it. The Christian seeks a heartfelt reaction if Christ is to have an affect on their life. Reflect on the Word and relate its meaning to your life. Your response can come in various ways: words, thoughts, desires, feelings, resolutions, decisions, or commitments. These may include feelings like sorrow for past failures, gratitude, or praise.

4. Contemplate. This is a time for experiencing God's peace, receiving insights, perceptions, joy, love, and the mystical union with Christ himself. This is the uniting of your mind and God's truth, of your heart and God's love, of your life and God's life, and of your person and the person of God.

One Last thought: Don't over analyze this process. Instead, let it come to you as a gift. As the days pass you may discover the fruit of the Spirit in your life through love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

NEXT MONTH WE BEGIN WITH THE PSALMS AND THIS SAME TECHNIQUE. OR, YOU COULD START NOW . . .

BLESSINGS, *PASTOR NEAL*

Picture: Serra Retreat Center, Serra Canyon, Malibu, California.

Upcoming Dates

February 1 WELCA Sewing Group
 February 3 Church Women United
 February 16 WELCA Meeting
 February 16 Audubon Society

Coffee Hour Schedule

February 5 Larry and Deb
 February 12 Available
 February 19 Available
 February 26 Available

St. Timothy's Sunday Worship Schedule

Communion Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
 Coffee Hour 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 11:00 a.m.

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Guiding Principles of St. Tim's

- There is one God and we know Him through Jesus.
- Living in relationship with God changes people.
- Everyone is welcome and needed.
- We invite all to experience God's love in our church community.

~ 6 ~

www.StTimChurch.net
 office@sttimchurch.net
 fax: 505-268-0328
 505-255-8001

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211 Jefferson NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87108

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