

Easter Season 2020

The newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA

Easter Season Tidings

Happy Easter all!

I am trying really hard not to say "unprecedented" or "these trying times," but I continue to give thanks to you and God for the grace we have found in these trying times...see it's so hard to stay away from "danger words" (Ellen's game of games). We are completely dialed into the diocesan COVID team as well as staying up-to-date with Contra Costa county's latest directives. We will open the church when the experts tell us it is safe to do so. In the meantime, keep tuning into our online worship services.

Worship You might be wondering why you see the same faces for weeks in a row during online worship. Based on the latest guidelines, the diocese asks that we keep a small team consistently serving weeks in a row. Everyone on the Altar is under 65, so that is also why you see all younger acolytes. Thank you Allie, Adam, Kate, Camille, and Thomas. Another acolyte team will be coming online mid-May. I also want to thank Tania for helping us keep 6ft apart. She is at many of the tapings gently reminding us to get away from each other. Lisa was at every taping making sure we knew which end was up. I am grateful to the prayer writers Cathy, Sharron, and Lisa. Darita's worship both on campus and off continues to bless us all. Jeanette got up to speed fast with our new normal and worked seamlessly behind the scenes. Jacque is the behind the scenes go- to for keeping us on schedule. And finally, forgive the indulgence, but I'm super proud of my son and his reading as well as also grateful for my wife's indulgence in wearing a phone on her head to capture Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

Even after the shelter-in-place is lifted, it will almost certainly not be business as usual.

I want you to know that we are praying, working, and thinking about our new normal and how our campus worship will look with social distancing as well as safeguards for vulnerable parishioners. I don't want to give a lot of detail, because there are so many outside forces. A written 2020 plan would give the illusion that we've got it all figured out - we don't.

If you want to revisit some of the offerings go to https://www.sainttimothysdanville.org/sermons--full-worship.html. Also Facebook has some offerings that are only on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/sttimsdanville

Outreach Thanks to the outreach team, the Episcopal Impact Fund, and your generosity we are continuing to support our outreach partners. The need is deep and there is still much to do. FOTH won't be on campus this year, but Leslie and the team is thinking about the shape this aspect of outreach may take this year. Thank you to the whole outreach team for our MCC food drive.

Pastoral Care I am proud as punch of your leadership and you. The connections we are building will endure long past this crisis. The vestry called everyone and is still having ongoing conversations with some. The grocery brigade is still helping the vulnerable with deliveries of groceries and pharmaceuticals. Pastor Susan continues to connect with those who need a little extra pastoral care. She works tireless behind the scenes, especially working with families who have lost loved ones (not necessarily Covid).

The Tech Nerds I want to give a special shout out to Don, Rand, and Ryan. They are the ones behind the scenes, making worship accessible. Don has spent countless hours making our worship better than almost anyone else - I am not at all biased. His work to integrate video, text and audio is unprecedented....sorry for using a 'danger' word. He works many, many hours to facilitate your worship experience on Sunday. Another unsung

nerd is Emma. She was the magician behind the curtain, making the bishop's visitation work flawlessly.

Bishop Marc I am delighted that Bishop Marc led a virtual visitation for us. To my knowledge, it's a first of its kind. He was gracious and warm to the gathered zoom team and was game for the idea of a completely 'zoomed' visitation. The zoom coffee hour was so bright and light and fun. If you want comic relief go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qWxZ3_i24Q&feature=youtu.be and watch the first 15-20 mins of the April 19th visitation video. We started right at 10am, but the video was live before that.

Looking Forward When the time is right, we will celebrate Easter in our church. Our bishop wants all the Church to celebrate Easter in style at a later to be determined date.

Pastor Todd

FOOD DRIVE FOR MCC



Please donate food for Monument Crisis Center to help those who have been heavily impacted by the pandemic.

Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church 1550 Diablo Road – Danville

1st and 3rd Sundays (starting May 3rd, 2020) 2 to 4 p.m.

Drive through drop-off in the front parking lot. Pop your trunk and volunteers will unload the food. We will be following safe practices of social distancing, with all volunteers wearing their own masks. Gloves will be provided.

DONATIONS MUST BE WITHIN "BEST BY" EXPIRATION DATE, OR OTHERWISE. - NO GLASS -FRESH PERISHABLE DONATIONS ARE OK ONLY ON COLLECTION SUNDAYS

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

-Cereal - Tuna

- Canned Meals (beef ravioli, canned chicken, hearty stews) - Peanut Butter

Canned and Boxed pantry items, such as:

- Vegetables

- side dishes

- fruits

- macaroni and cheese

- rice, beans, oatmeal

- pasta

- soups (canned and dry)

- baby food

- paper bags to distribute items

To donate funds to MCC online, go to: www.MonumentCrisisCenter.org or mail checks to: Monument Crisis Center - P.O. 23973 - Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

We can accept checks on our Food Drive Sundays if they are made out to Monument Crisis Center, and we will deliver them by hand.

For more information on the food drive, contact Carolyn Bried, carolynbried@gmail.com, or Tania Hansen De Young, taniahd@comcast.net - SaintTimothysDanville.org

ONLINE WORSHIP

Online worship Sunday at 10:00am and Wednesday mornings. Check your email or the St. Timothy's Facebook page for the link.

A RITE FOR THE BLESSING OF A GARDEN

Maybe someone would like to offer these prayers—or a child or teen lead the prayers—all is good.

Blessed be the God of all creation: For in your goodness you make all things new.

God be with you. And also with you.

Gracious God, you open wide your hand and give of your goodness to all things living: Renew the face of the earth and increase the sustainable harvests of the world, that the land may bring forth enough for all, and your people may share justly and give honor to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Lover of all you have made: Protect and sustain the creatures of our local habitat, especially our bees, and all those critters who are part of our welfare and we do not usually see. Increase their well-being, watch over them with love, and give us wisdom to honor our kinship with them; through Jesus Christ, the first-born of all creation. **Amen.**

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water. Bless the waters on the ground and under the ground, and the waters that fall from the sky, that this garden may flourish and bear good fruit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

God, who alone provides seed for the sower and bread for the eater, you have taught us to ask of you our daily bread: Bless the sowing of the seed this year, grant fertility to the soil, and strengthen the hands of the gardeners and children who till it, that through their labor your people may be nourished; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

Holy God, you have blessed our plowing and preparing of the ground: Protect what we plant in your name, all food and flowers, and grant that working late and early, we and others may enjoy a fruitful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God, you have blessed our plowing and preparing of the ground: Protect what all your people plant and bring it to maturity, that we and others may enjoy a fruitful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Sustainer. **Amen.** Holy One: Bless and protect this garden and all who keep it.

Strengthen and uphold all your children in their labor, that these plants and all plants in our gardens and farms may bear good fruit and our care for the earth may witness to your love and justice; in the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity. **Amen.**

Thank you God!

ST. TIMOTHY'S MUSIC UPDATE

Dear Parish,

Thank you for the wonderful outpouring of kind words regarding the music during this temporary new normal. I forgot how nervewracking it is when you click that "Go Live" button, knowing that you don't get to privately correct a mistake. The most important learning curve in all of this is the understanding that no matter which way we do it: it is worship. From strategically picking out the songs, to practicing them, getting them under my fingers, the details of audio and video editing--it is all worship. I rejoice in that. Because of this, I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with some of the most highly skilled



professionals within our Parish to shape the online services that you all see from home. I would have never imagined this unlikely bunch of people working together to achieve this beautiful common goal.

If you're wondering where our choir went, you ought to know that yes, I MISS THEM TOO. We recently had to opportunity to connect via Zoom, simply because we all missed each other. (The picture attached) The good news in this is that we are still connected, and are currently SCHEMING to put together something special while we all learn how to worship together without physically being at church.

I can't wait to have the distinct responsibility in leading you in worship within our church walls again. Remember-that particular responsibility is my own personal worship. From the emerging opera singers at the 8:30 service to spontaneous baby-screams from the back of the church at 10:00 service, it reminds us that God is clever, and God is timely.

Grace and peace, Darita Seth, Director of Music

NOAH'S ARK

Noah's Ark Preschool has gone virtual! With the unforeseen circumstances and school coming to a stop rather quickly, we have regrouped and are now providing a distance learning preschool program. The staff is working as a team to deliver daily preschool classes to each of the age groups.

Though nothing can take the place of being together in community, we are excited to build our skills and connect with our children. We are full of joy as we share time singing, smiling and learning.

We are currently operating remotely, and still enrolling for the fall 2020-2021 school year. Send us an email noahsark@sainttimothysdanville.org and we will get the process started.

Take care and Stay Well, Noah's Ark Staff

ENDOWMENT DOCUMENTS

As you deal with ongoing uncertainty we re-offer a planning guide that we used as part of the Endowment Workshop of 2019. Most of us are under prepared to deal with crises around end-of-life and compromised health. This guide has a wealth of worksheets and guides to remind you of the many ways you can help your family have clarity should you face compromised health or death.

The guide includes broad strokes like advanced directives and medical power of attorney. It also includes spreadsheets for tiny reminders like how to inform families where passwords to your email account or where the key to your PO Box lives.

Go here for the whole document.

THANK YOU

Thanks to Greg Skuce from Altar Guild for applying the art work to our new Paschal Candle.

ST. TIMOTHY'S BOOK GROUP



The St. Timothy's Book Group is alive and well and continuing to meet to support one another and discuss the

books we are reading. In April, we talked about Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine. In May, we will discuss "The Tattooist Of Auschwitz" by Heather Morris. As of today, we don't know whether we will meet at church on May 17th or via Zoom. Contact Sally Shea Potts to be added to our group list and find out when and how we will meet.

Amazon describes The Tattooist as follows: In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a Tätowierer (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners.

Imprisoned for over two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he

uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive.

One day in July 1942, Lale, prisoner 32407, comforts a trembling young woman waiting in line to have the number 34902 tattooed onto her arm. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her.

A vivid, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful re-creation of Lale Sokolov's experiences as the man who tattooed the arms of thousands of prisoners with what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust, The Tattooist of Auschwitz is also a testament to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions.

EPISCOPAL IMPACT RELIEF

You may have read in the April 7th edition of Diocal that the Episcopal Impact Fund, the outreach arm of the Diocese of California, set up an emergency fund to help local organizations which are on the front lines of addressing the most pressing needs during this terrible time.

Liaison Sally Potts brought this to Monument Crisis Center's attention and Sandra Scherer immediately applied. We were thrilled to get notification on April 13th that Monument Crisis Center was getting a check that day for \$10,000. Monument Crisis Center has been distributing food to anyone that needs it. During the week of March 23, on three days, in nine hours, Monument Crisis Center distributed over 35,000 pounds of emergency food to over 900 families feeding over 3,000 individuals! They continue to distribute food weekly, two days a week for three hours each day with a staff of only 7 people.

Please keep the staff at St. Timothy's in your prayers. The food barrels will remain outside of Grace House for donations until St. Timothy's is open again.

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

Acts 2:46-47a - Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

Now is a good time to take our cues from the early church, and choose new/ancient ways of being in community together for the sake of the world. How would you like to see this "new normal" unfold?

TAX LAWS FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

The recently passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, included several provisions that encourage people to give this year and have less taxes owed when they file in 2021. These items could affect public charities like St. Timothy's. Two in particular are:

- 1. For taxpayers who do not normally itemize on their tax returns (i.e. take the standard deduction) there is a new \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for a married couple) deduction for cash gifts to public charities for 2020. There are some rules such as the money has to go directly to a charity (donations to donor advised funds and certain organizations that support charities are not deductible) and must be in cash (no stocks, in kind service or property).
- 2. For taxpayers who itemize deductions on their 2020 tax return, the cap on how much in cash gifts to public charities a donor can deduct in a single year is lifted. Prior to 2017 the cap was no more than 50% of adjusted gross income (AGI) then with the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) the cap was raised to 60% of AGI and now with the 2020 CARES Act the cap is eliminated entirely for 2020, making gifts of as much as 100% of AGI deductible in 2020.

Finally, a reminder, that the tax law for years now has contained a provision called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) that can be useful to some taxpayers. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian payable to a qualified charity (e.g. St. Timothy's) that can be excluded from taxable income. This can be useful for taxpayers who do not itemize (i.e. take the standard deduction) as it can be used to reduce their taxable income. This provision requires taxpayers to be at least 70 1/2 and is limited to a maximum of \$100.000 per year.

If you have interest or questions about any of the previous I would be happy to talk with you about your interest or questions. You can contact me at Neal Matsunaga at (925) 838-1617 or nkmats@aol.com.

SHELTER, INC.





We are fully operating during 'Shelter in Place'

Though SHELTER, Inc.'s offices are closed to the public, we continue to provide vital services to the community. From virtual meetings with participants, remote supportive services, and housing more people, the work continue

Already, during this crisis SHELTER, Inc.'s team has:

- Purchased and delivered additional hygiene and sanitation supplies for participants.
- Helped resource jobs through SHELTER, Inc. Employment Services for those who need work.
- Prepared Easter baskets for the holiday so that children in our programs still have a fun day.
- Continued smooth operations and supportive care at our shelters where "cabin fever" takes on new proportions to those with severe mental illness.
- Cleaned and repaired SHELTER, Inc. owned properties to prepare them for new tenants.
- Found permanent housing for multiple households so they could "Shelter in Place" in their own home.
- Hosted <u>Contra Costa Health Services</u> at the Family Shelter so they
 could provide information and ease fears for residents.
 SHELTER, Inc. will not waiver and will continue to work on the front lines
 providing essential services that meet the evolving needs of the community.

SHELTER, Inc. P.O.Box 5368, Concord, CA 94520

To learn more about the work SHELTER, Inc. is doing or to donate, please go to shelterinc.org.

LOAVES AND FISHES





COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE: Loaves and Fishes is Open and Serving More Than Ever

Loaves and Fishes is on the front lines. Please consider making a special gift to help us continue to serve individuals and families in need during the COVID-19 crisis.

As an "essential service provider," Loaves and Fishes has remained open and is serving meals to the community. The reality is, Loaves and Fishes provides food to the most vulnerable in our community; without our services many will not be able to feed themselves or their families. Loaves and Fishes is committed to the health and safety of all of our guests, staff, volunteers and partner agencies.

Since March 16th, all 4 dining rooms are serving meals in "to-go" containers out the front doors and filling grocery bags with food from the food pantries. Also, we also continue to deliver meals to our partner agency, Trinity Center in Walnut Creek.

By remaining open and serving under these challenges, we are incurring unexpected costs related to the "to-go" containers, gloves, masks, gowns, sanitizers, cleaning rags and supplies. Additionally, with the cancellation of two our largest fundraising events, we are projecting a deficit of \$95,000.

Over the last 4 weeks, we have seen our meal counts increase by 10-28% depending on the dining room location as more people are in need of food in our county. Please consider making a donation today to help us continue to feed those in need.

Stay well, Joleen Lafayette, Executive Director

If you wish to learn more about L & F and/or to donate, please go to loavesfishescc.org.

HOPE SOLUTIONS





Formerly CCIH - Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

Hope Solutions heals the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.

- COVID-19 UPDATE: We are deeply appreciative for your partnering
 with Hope Solutions. It's through our partnership with one another that we
 are able to address the catastrophic effects of homelessness. But,
 unfortunately, it's the homeless and formerly homeless clients we serve
 that are among those most at risk of suffering dire health consequences if
 they contract the COVID-19 virus. Our staff are on the front lines providing
 care, education, supplies and support to all our residents during this time.
- Your donation to the Emergency Fund will allow Hope Solutions to maximize our efforts to keep the individuals and families we serve on the path of housing stability within a healthy environment and provide the services one would need to thrive.

Hope Solutions has made great strides in mitigating homelessness by expanding our housing navigation function by more than five-fold. Now in its third year, this program brokers housing by partnering with landlords to lease units for residents who are homeless and have special needs or disabilities. In the past fiscal year our team has managed to help more than 200 people, 99% of whom remain stably housed.

In 12 months, across all of our programs, 262 people were housed in 152 units. Not only do residents deserve a new place to call home, our program provides cost-effective housing resources that prevent use of high-cost emergency room visits, hospitalizations and incarcerations.

- St. Timothy's supports Hope Solutions (formerly CCIH) with our annual Backpack and School Supplies Drive. This organization has expanded to become a multifaceted program to help end homelessness.
- We cannot let COVID-19 jeopardize the impact we have made together on the individuals and families we serve. We need your help! Please donate to our Emergency Fund today. To learn more about Hope Solutions, go to www.hopesolutions.org.
 Hope Solutions 399 Taylor Blvd. Suite 115
 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

St Timothy's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Highlights – March 2020 The vestry met using Zoom on Sunday, April 5th at 12:00 pm and Wednesday, April 15, at 4:30 pm.

MOTIONS:

- In late March, the vestry voted via Doodle Poll and email to approve renovations to the Parish Hall. The glass on the patio and Clydesdale Avenue sides of the building will be replaced and the hall will be repainted. The renovations are currently on hold due to the COvid-19 pandemic
- On April 5th, the vestry approved the loan application on behalf of the St. Timothy's parish and the Noah's Ark preschool for a CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program.
- The vestry voted to approve donating \$10,000 from the Outreach Emergency Fund to 6 local charities (who have all been supported in the past by St. Timothy's) to help them in the current COvid-19 crisis. The donations were proposed by the Outreach Committee and reviewed by the Finance Committee.
- The vestry approved suspending the cost sharing fees for AA, ACA, and TOPS during the current COvid-19 crisis. Note: None of the listed organizations are currently using the facilities at St. Timothy's.
- The March meeting minutes, the April emergency Vestry meeting minutes, summary of the March email vote on Parish Hall renovations, treasurer reports and Outreach and Property commission reports were approved as submitted.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Vestry Calling: The vestry will again contact parish members based on the February directory and their experience calling "their list" during March.
- Noah's Ark Board: Rayne Devlin and Kari Doolittle are looking for an additional member for the Noah's Ark board from the parish.

At an emergency vestry meeting on April 5th using Zoom, Neal Matsunaga briefed the vestry on the proposal to apply for a CARES Paycheck Protection Loan on behalf of the church and the preschool. The vestry approved the application.

Neal Matsunaga updated the vestry on the impact of the pandemic on church finances based on data through the end of March.

Neal Matsunaga informed the vestry that the parish has received a check for \$1000 from the Diocese of California to help local organizations during the pandemic.

Pastor Todd briefed the vestry on the plans for the Bishop's virtual visit on April 19th.

The planned Fruits of the Harvest Outreach fundraiser on Saturday, May 16th has been cancelled. Plans for fundraising for Outreach are in process

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Contact Sally Shea Potts if you wish to be invited to the Zoom meeting.

The minutes of the vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office after they are approved by the Vestry.

Submitted by Sally Shea Potts, Vestry Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 15, 2020

Financial Highlights

- Financial results through March appear to be positive. Income underrun is mainly due to pledges
 that have not been paid yet to date and expenses reflect slowdown in expenses due to shelter in
 place rules and winter weather.
- Pledge income in our approved budget for 2020 is based on 159 pledges and includes an assumption that at least 6 additional pledges for at least \$13,400 will be received. Through March 2 additional pledges for \$12,620 have been received. Our budget has a revenue shortfall of about \$58,400 (\$13,400 more pledge dollars assumed and projected deficit of \$45,034). The hope is that new pledges will be received during the year, as in 2019, but there is also an opportunity and challenge for parishioners to make or increase their pledges.
- 24 pledges for \$106,020 have not made any payments yet in 2020. Last month this number was 42 pledges so thank you.
- 23 pledges are paid in full for \$113,710. Last month it was 19 for \$94,969.
- 2020 budget vs actual results, through March, adjusted for amortizing "pledges paid in full" in the current year:

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledge Income	\$164,655	\$139,830	\$(24,825)
Other Income	\$ 19,115	\$ 17,881	\$(1,233)
Expenses	\$193,552	\$183,807	\$ 9,745
Net Income	\$(9,782)	\$(26,095)	

Income

Pledge income difference due to about \$26,500 for pledges that have not made any payments yet.

Other Income difference due to:

Plate Offerings \$(1,800) under budget.

Expenses – Operating expense difference is the sum of several over and under budget items, with main ones being:

Personnel expenses \$3,640 under budget

Altar Guild expenses \$(400) over budget due to December flower bill paid in 2020.

Music expenses \$360 under budget.

Children & Youth Ministry expenses \$890 under budget.

Fellowship expenses \$510 under budget.

Administrative expenses \$2,010 under budget due mainly to quarterly copier leases paid in March and less office supplies and paper expense.

Facilities expenses \$4,930 under budget due to campus and rectory maintenance being under budget and services being over budget.

Finance expenses \$(4,890) over budget due to timing of quarterly insurance bill payment.

Contingency expenses \$910 under budget.

Neal Matsunaga

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