



Good News

ST. TIMOTHY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2024

Pastor's Pen

It's that time of year again! Advent... the Christmas season... Time to pull out the decorations, the favorite Christmas music, reignite that debate about whether or not *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie, and get into the Christmas Spirit!

Each year, during this season, we revisit the Christmas story in new and fresh ways, as well as in classic and traditional ways. It is fun for me as a dad to see how some of the Christmas traditions I grew up with continue in my own family, how they morph and change, or how they are replaced by new traditions as my kids are growing old enough to really enjoy the season themselves. One way that our family celebrates the season is by pulling out our 2 Nativity sets: one is nice carved wooden one that Elizabeth and I received as a wedding gift, and the other is a *Little People* toy Nativity set that our kids can play with. Each of these have figures that remind us of the core elements and people involved in that first Christmas story that we find in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph... shepherds, wise men, and angels... various animals, and more.

But one of the more recent developments for me personally is to spend time in the third account of the Christmas story. In Matthew and Luke, we get the details of what happened. But in John's Gospel, we get the *meaning* of what happened... it's significance.

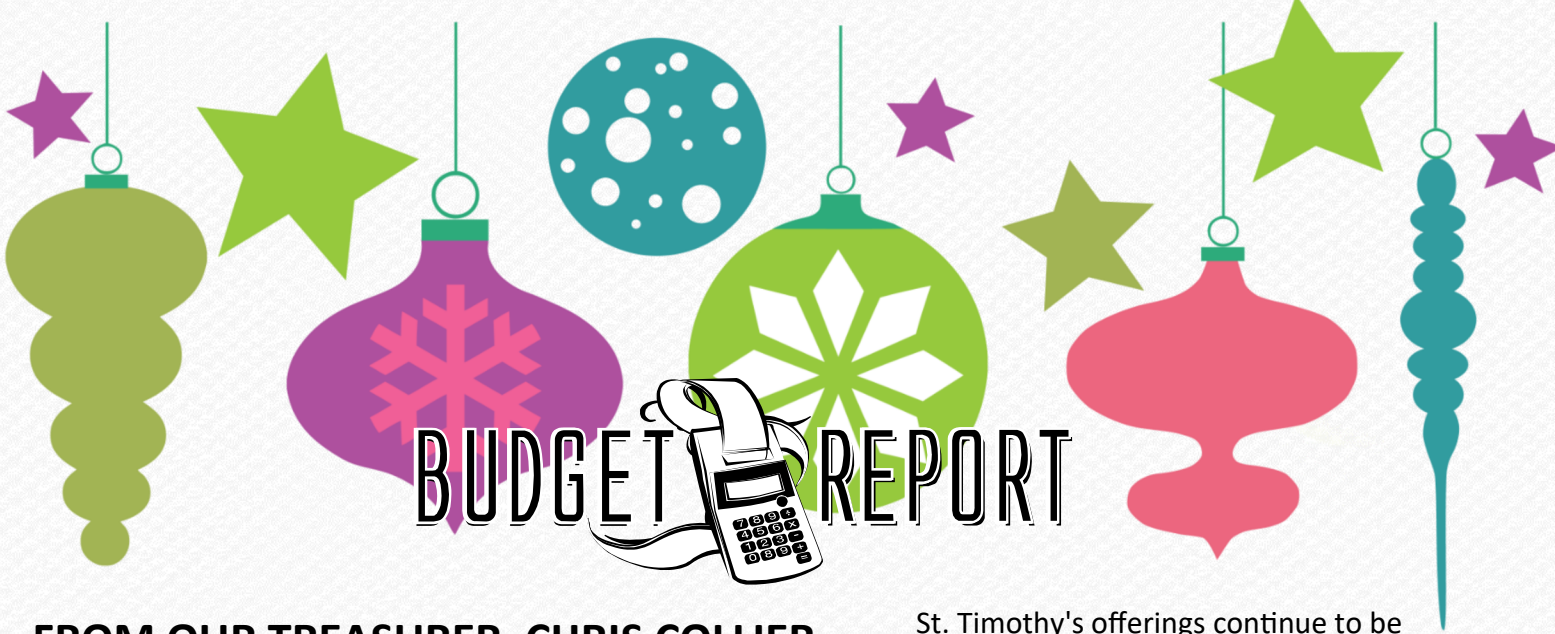
The Gospel of John, chapter 1 says...

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning... In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it...to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Jesus Christ, the Word of God, dwelt among us, a light shining in the darkness that the darkness cannot overcome. Life to a world living under the dark cloud of death. This Christmas season, in the midst of the business, shopping, Christmas parties, year-end deadlines, and more, remember that Jesus didn't just come 2000 years ago- he also comes to bring life and light to *you* today.

In Christ,
Pastor Joe



FROM OUR TREASURER, CHRIS COLLIER

St. Timothy's offerings continue to be supported by generous giving by our congregation, however, we continue to be

at a lower than our budgeted level despite having realized nearly \$106,000 of income from our cash and investments, which is included in our Actual Offerings & Other Income. It is our practice to not budget income from investments. So, while we anticipate a greater level of offerings during the final months of the year as we enter the holiday season, it is important that we recognize that your continued generosity is important to fund our operations and ministries.

We continue to operate prudently and with sound oversight of our spending. We remain on budget as we have been able to offset increases in campus related maintenance activities and higher than planned utilities costs through lower spend in other areas. Administration has done a tremendous job of operating with a much lower level of cost and investment.

Financial Performance (Year-to-date as of October 31, 2024)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Approved 2024 Budget
Offerings & Other Income	\$746,998	\$810,593	\$1,250,000
Benevolences	(80,350)	(81,000)	(110,000)
Admin & Operations	(1,060,911)	(1,108,282)	(1,369,912)
Preschool	(13,179)	4,215	7,635
Excess/(shortfall)	(\$407,442)	(\$374,474)	(\$222,277)

Offering Envelopes for 2025

are available for pick-up in the church entryway through December 15. Stop by and grab yours to help save on postage for the church.

Contact Beth if you need envelopes issued to you, can't find yours, or you no longer need envelopes.

Email: info@stlcsj.org

Phone: 408-264-3858





Advent begins December 1.

Stop by the church entryway for advent calendars, devotionals, & candles for children through adults.

A JOURNEY TO JOY

Christmas Cantata
by Joseph M. Martin



**Sunday, December 15
9 & 11 AM**

PERFORMED BY THE CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Take the journey to Christmas with this inviting cantata filled with music of hope and promise. The prophecy and acclamation of Christ's birth are wonderfully conveyed through new music and fresh arrangements of treasured carols alongside scripture-based narration.

St. Timothy's Lunch Bunch

Thursday, December 12 at 12:00 noon
in Fellowship Hall
\$30 per person

Catered Tri-Tip Steak & Salmon,
Veggies, Salad, and Rolls
All by our Super-Chef Greg
Drinks and Dessert

Our "Bells of Praise" will play Christmas Music.

Reservation and \$30 payment per attendee must be received by Sunday, December 8.

PLEASE RSVP TO BETSY GRANDEY
408-629-6093 or egrandey@yahoo.com

If you prefer your own food for lunch, that is OK and there is no charge. Just come! St. Tim's Lunch Bunch is a fellowship group open to ALL. New attendees are always welcome.

If you would like to bring your own Christmas plate and silverware, you are welcome to do that. Paper plates and plastic utensils will be provided.

COME GET YOUR FAMILY PHOTO TAKEN ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

Who: available for everyone

When: 2pm until the last person leaves

Where: Room B1

What: portraiture photography with a complimentary 5x7 photo print

Note: This is a free gift from St. Timothy's. There are no photo packages to purchase.



Christmas

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24

3pm 5pm 7pm 9pm

All services are
traditional style and
have candle lighting.

December Worship Schedule

- Dec 1-** 9am Traditional & 11am Contemporary
- Dec 8-** 9am Traditional & 11am Contemporary
- Dec 14-** 4-6pm Messy Church Christmas
- Dec 15-** 9am & 11am Christmas Cantata
- Dec 22-** 9am Traditional & 11am Contemporary
- Dec 24-** 3, 5, 7, 9pm Candlelight Worship
- Dec 29-** 10am Combined Service



We are writing to give our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all that you have done for Dream House. We are all deeply moved by your gifts and donations. Your sincerity and passion in wanting to bless us was very evident. God's word tells us, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." Proverbs 19:17 (NIV). Our prayer for you is that God will reward you hundred-fold for all you've done for us.

WE'RE VISITING OUR FRIENDS IN ETHIOPIA!!! WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US!!! CHAPA PARTNER VISIT JULY 10-20, 2025

One of the most exciting aspects of a HopeChest partnership is the opportunity to visit our CarePoint community! HopeChest does not host traditional mission trips. Rather, our "partner visit" will focus on traveling to Chapa with the goal of building meaningful and lasting relationships.



Katy and Michael Stamos are thrilled to be leading this wonderful adventure to Chapa! During our visit, we'll have the opportunity to meet our HopeChest Friends, observe the impact of CarePoint programming, encourage in-country staff, build lasting friendships, and be immersed in another culture. While on our visit we'll be guided to "be" instead of "do". Relationship building will be at the core of our experience!

Please join us for a brief informational meeting to learn more!

Sunday, December 8 at 12:00pm in Room B-1

ST TIM'S COOKIE EXCHANGE

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1-3 PM
ROOM B1**

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Bring **three dozen** (or more!) of your favorite homemade Christmas treats, share the joy of baking, and leave with an assortment of festive treats to sweeten your holiday season

Please bring a copy of the recipe/ingredients to share or in case anyone has dietary restrictions.

South Valley FISH Food Pantry
**DECEMBER
Food Item of
the Month**
PEANUT BUTTER



We are collecting
Hams

For South Valley FISH Food Pantry.

Collection dates:

Sundays December 8 & 15 as well as
Thursdays December 5, 12 & 19 (9-noon)

Looking forward to our St. Timothy's Journey through The Story in 2025

I am eagerly anticipating our journey together through the Bible in 2025. As we explore the Bible using The Story, we will delve into the significant narratives of Scripture, seeing how they illuminate God's character and have the power to profoundly impact our lives. We will learn that Our Story is shaped and connected to God's Story.

Each week, we will focus on a single chapter (spanning multiple chapters in the Bible) and gain profound insights into the essence of God. This exploration will empower us and shape us as we are sent by God as ambassadors for Christ each day. I am filled with hope and anticipation for how this journey will shape and transform our mission as the body of Christ together in this time and place.

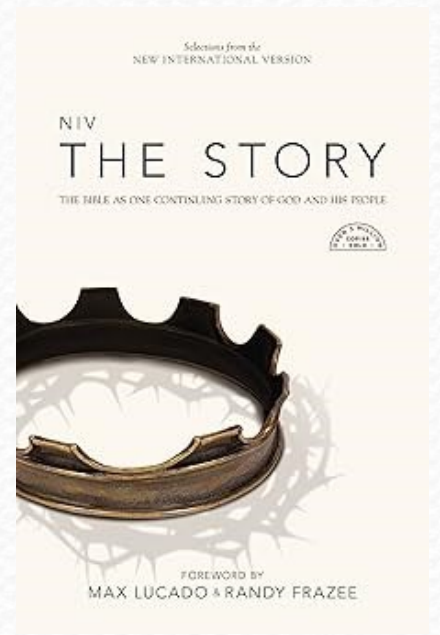
The Story presents a chronological account of the Scripture, enabling us to deepen our understanding of the Biblical narrative and appreciate the historical context in which it speaks. This provides us with the tools we need to see how God is at work in our lives and world today. The never-changing God in the ever-changing world.

Bookmarks will be provided showing the Scripture section we will be covering. I joyfully request your commitment to this transformative journey. Make plans now to incorporate this reading plan into your daily schedule in the new year. And, if at all possible, make plans to join with others weekly (grow group or Bible study) to discuss what you are hearing Jesus say to you through the Scripture.

Together, we will witness the awe-inspiring movement of God at St. Timothy's, experiencing a fresh revelation of God and His transformative work in and through our lives.

Pastor Jim

***If you don't have a book, we will have books available in December.
Books can also be purchased online at Amazon.***



A new group will begin on January 9, 2025. This is a 13-week course that will support anyone who is grieving a loved one, regardless of how recent (or not) this loss may be. *If you are still grieving, you are welcome.*

GriefShare combines 3 components: a video, small group conversation, and a private journal (called a workbook).

Members and non-members alike are welcome. Tell your friends! We want to do as God has called us to do: to care for one another, bearing one another's burdens.

You do not have to walk this journey alone. You have friends who will walk with you. More importantly, God walks with you. "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me." (Psalm 23)

Thursday, 10 am – 12 pm,

beginning January 9, 2025

Room B1 (next to the office)

Suggested donation for workbook: \$20

Sign up after church or griefshare.org/groups/178405

- ST. TIM'S -
YOUTH
- MIDDLE SCHOOL &
HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY -



Rob Walter
rob.walter@stlcsj.org
or 408-264-3858, ext. 122
Scott Campbell
scott.campbell@stlcsj.org
or 408-264-3858, ext. 120

Check us out on Instagram



**CORNER
STONE**

**MIDDLE AND
HIGH SCHOOL**

**WEDNESDAYS
6-8 PM
YOUTH HOUSE**

We start together with dinner and worship then break off into our respective small groups. We end the night with a game. The Youth House will be open every week after Cornerstone until 8:30 pm.

No Cornerstone December 25 & January 1.

6TH-12TH
GRADE **HUME
WINTER CAMP**

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2, 2025

COST IS \$349.

A \$50 DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED AT SIGN-UP.

STLCSJ.ORG/HUME

**SNOW. BOXSLED BLITZ. MONSTER TUBE RUN.
BROOM HOCKEY. SNOWBOARD MOUNTAIN.
FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST A LIFETIME.
TRUTH THAT LASTS FOREVER!**

6TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS
DEVOTIONS

&

DONUTS

SUNDAYS 10:15-10:45 AM

NOTE: NEW LOCATION STARTING DECEMBER 1

UPSTAIRS



FUN



FREE

San Jose

December 14, Sat, 4-6 PM
Celebration Crafts Games Food
Christmas

[www. STLCSJ.ORG/MESSY/](http://www.STLCSJ.ORG/MESSY/)
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
5100 Camden Ave San Jose 95124 408-264-3858
Please RSVP CM@STLCSJ.ORG
www.meetup/messy-church-san-jose/events/304514963



PLAYTIME

Hey Kids! Bring your parents.
Dec 1, Sunday 10 - 11 am
St. Tim's Playground
5100 Camden Ave

- Play Together
- Free Brunch
- Free Coffee Bar
- Meet New Friends

For more information:
cm@stlcsj.org



**LOOKING FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS**

**FLEXIBLE
SCHEDULE!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CM@STLCSJ.ORG



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

"FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE."

- ISAIAH 9:6

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS UPON US ONCE AGAIN AND WE ARE REMINDED OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR. OUR FOCUS THIS MONTH IS THAT GOD LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE US HIS ONE AND ONLY SON. AS WE MOVE THROUGH THIS MONTH MAY YOU BE REMINDED OF WHAT THIS SEASON IS ALL ABOUT AND TAKE TIME TO FEEL GOD'S PEACE.

CHRISTMAS BREAK -
WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 RD - MONDAY JANUARY 6 TH
WE WILL WELCOME ALL STUDENTS BACK ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

