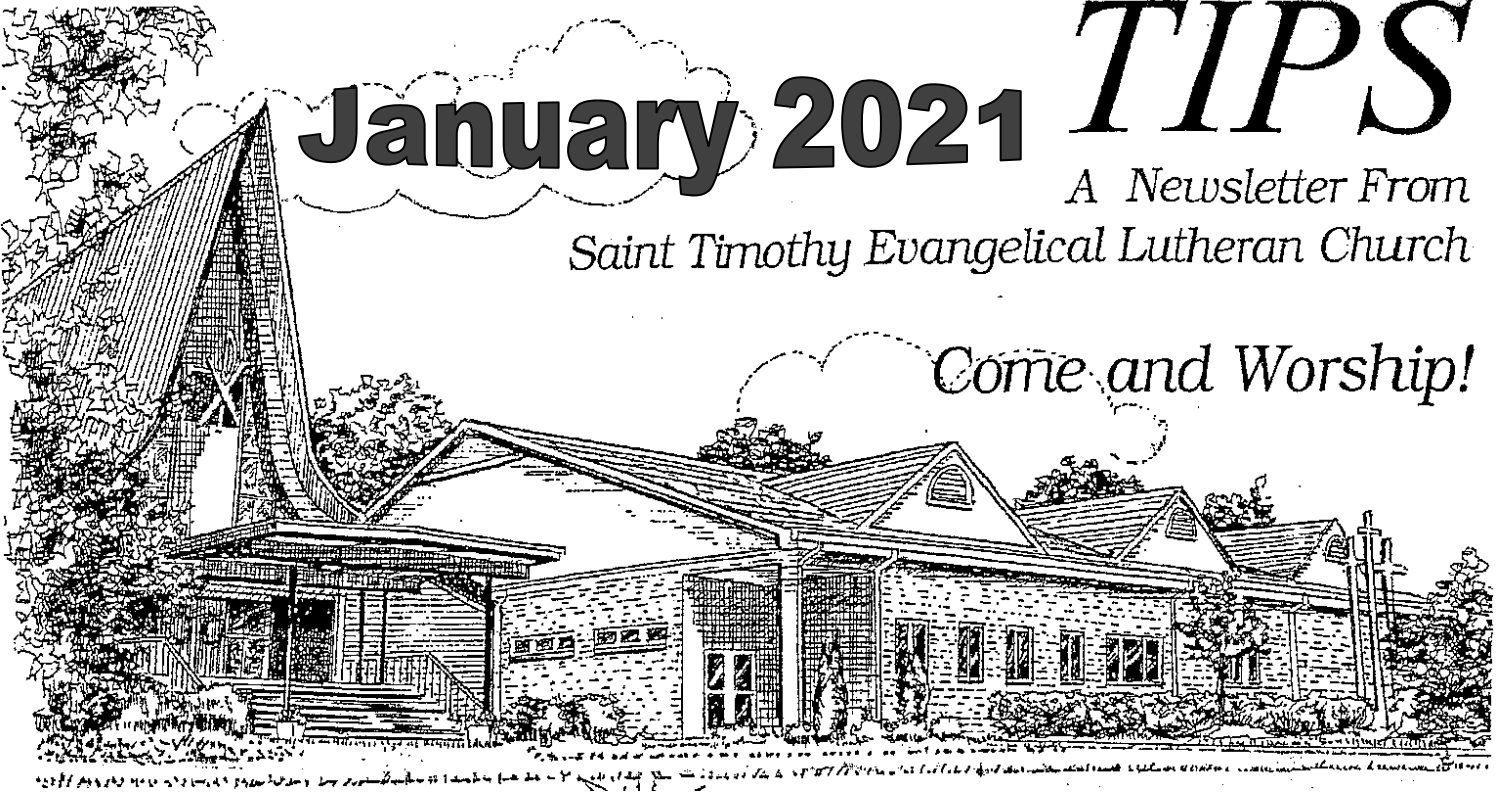


January 2021

TIPS

A Newsletter From
Saint Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church

Come and Worship!



Sunday Worship 10am

Saturday Worship 6pm

395 Valley Road, Wayne, New Jersey 07470

sttimothynj.org

395 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470

Interim Pastor

Director of Music

Office Manager

Church Office Email

Phone: (973) 694-8316

Pastor Bernd Weishaupt

Caroline Parody

Laurie Crowley

st.tims395@yahoo.com

Church Council

Dr. Lori Bleeker	.....	(201) 485-7384
Edward Cleaver	.....	(201) 337-5411
Ken DeAngelis	.....	(201) 289-0641
Cindy Gaffney	.....	(973) 694-1595
Fallon Goskowski	.....	(862) 485-2651
Pat Kaplan	.....	(973) 341-7920
James Koppenal	.....	(973) 406-7405
Karen Sajban	.....	(973) 229-4624
Eddy Schloesser	.....	(973) 402-1464
Lori VanDerStad	.....	(862) 203-9549
Rich Wantula	.....	(973) 809-1257
Barbara Westerberg	.....	(973) 696-1471

FOLLOW THAT STAR

New Years Resolutions

It's that time of the year, when we think about another year to come and sketch out in our mind some New Year's Resolutions of what we might like to change, or new things we might like to do in the coming year and give some thought what happened in the previous year.

Some typical resolutions might deal with our health such as lose weight or eat better; some might be to socialize more or spend time with friends and family; others may have to do with our bank accounts like save money and pay off debt, while giving more to charitable causes; still others might be about breaking bad habits, and some might be about expanding our horizons like getting education or travel!

Wait a minute did I just say travel? What travel? Is anyone traveling these days?

In fact, trying to accomplish any of those other resolutions might will certainly take more resolve than previous years.

Just thinking about 2020, I'm more than happy to put 2020 behind me!

2020 has been a wild card year...

Little did we know that on the world stage, a news story about a December 2019 viral infection in Wuhan, China would be of more consequence than only a news story. Certainly, there was a human cost and sadly enough people were getting sick. But Wuhan was quite a distance from us and the town eventually would become locked down by the Chinese government to take action to contain an infectious virus. We were none the wiser not knowing the full extent of the effect this would have in a matter of three months.

Early news reports gave no indication the infection would spread beyond China to become a pandemic of biblical proportions! The entire world became infected as this unrelenting plague spread forcing us to close our offices, our churches, our businesses, our communities, our town, our cities, our country-the entire world.

This past year in 2020, the virus has sickened over 81 million people and killed 2 million worldwide and that number is rising daily and devastating our world economies and disrupting our lives and our livelihoods in ways we are still learning about. The effect that this is having upon all of us is at present unmeasurable and unbearable. We don't need six degrees of separation to name someone, if not our very own selves, who has been infected or affected.

Most houses of worship stopped holding “regular” services Mid-March of 2020 and haven’t gone back to doing church the way we know it.

Although this plague is invisible to the unaided eye, we all have one very obvious visible sign that we share publicly and that is the style and color of the masks we wear.

2020...I don’t really enjoy “the year in review” this year like in previous years. Some years we all would very much like to put behind us and 2020 is definitely one of them.

But before we put the year behind us, for better or worse, I think we all need to congratulate ourselves for what we have accomplished together. We held together as a church and as a society and learned many new things and, thank God for the public parks and healthcare workers, for takeout and grocery store workers, zoom and google meets, for teachers and janitors, for all public servants and service providers...literally for anyone and everyone that helped to keep us all functioning.

A New Year and 2021!

I am actually looking forward to 2021 knowing that it won’t be a repeat of 2020. Help is on the way, not just in the form of a vaccine but as a society we have learned new ways of coping and new ways of dealing with the challenges of a world that changes as rapidly as ours. We have proven ourselves capable and skilled at adapting as a society. As a church we have even more to celebrate as children of God. God is not asleep and God is not silent. There is plenty of God’s light to break forth as the prophet Isaiah tells us “Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard” (Isaiah 58:8).

The Signs of the Times

Yes, help is coming and we all can watch for the signs of it. In a recently published book “Contextual Intelligence” the authors Len Sweet and Michael Beck suggest now is as good as any time for reading the tea leaves-the signs of the times. They suggest that Matthew’s Jesus tells his disciples that while they know how to read the signs of the sky” Red sky at night sailor’s delight...” they might also learn to read the signs of the times (Matt 16:3). The main point the authors suggest is that we read the signs and follow up with a course of action.

This Sunday I will be reading from Matthew 2, the Epiphany story which tells of the magi coming from the East to visit the Christ child because they were able to read and follow a star, the sign in the sky.

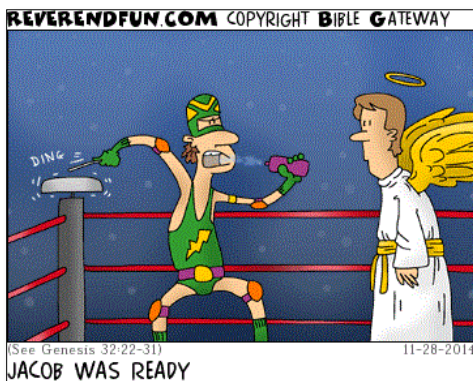
Manifestation (theophany) or Flash of Inspiration (epiphany)

The bible tells us that God appears!

To Moses God appeared in the form of a burning bush. To the people of Israel God led them out of slavery as a pillar of a cloud by day and as a pillar of fire by night. God can appear in a conspicuous way as a fire, a cloud, or in thunder and lightning, even in "thick darkness" (Exodus chapters 19-24). God can also appear in a gentle way as a voice walking in the garden of Eden, or in the form of a sent messenger. However God wants to appear, God does.

The two words theophany and epiphany have similar meanings, they both suggest a divine appearance. It's two ways that God comes to us. Let's look at theophany, which is a temporary showing or appearance of God to a particular person or people such as to Moses in the burning bush or Jacob in a dream.

Moses, minding his own business climbing Mount Horeb describes a mind ending sight-a burning bush. Out of curiosity, he approaches the bush and it speaks to him. He's stunned to discover the voice of God telling him that he will soon deliver his fellow Israelites from slavery out of Egypt. Good deal!



In another example of theophany, Jacob is awakened from a great dream to find a man standing next to him challenging him to a wrestling match. The match goes all night until daybreak as Jacob realizes he was wrestling with God. Jacob gets a new name "Israel" and a new identity out of the encounter.

Not too shabby!

So, while a theophany is a temporary showing or appearance of God to a particular person or people. Epiphany is the continual presence of God to benefit everyone. We are familiar with the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, that's the Epiphany.

The Epiphany, is the divine and permanent living presence of God in the person of Jesus who walked and talked, ate and drank, taught and preached for the benefit of everyone, for all time.

Our Christian celebration of the epiphany (a Greek word most nearly meaning divine appearance) is January 6, and that is the date marking Christ's presence which is announced to the world by way of the special visitation of Magi from the East.



Epiphany is a special time, it brings newness, mystery and possibility to a tired world. Unlike theophany, epiphany is the continual-ongoing presence for the entire world to share in. A gift to us all.

In the Gospel of John, we read: “The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.” (John 3:35)

We could only guess what John meant by “everything,” but to take this literally it might possibly mean that Jesus would do the great “cosmic” work of God’s plan of restoration and renewal for the entire creation. That is how I like to understand what is meant by “everything.”

So here we are in a New Year 2021 with a new decade ahead of us, anticipating new experiences, with a new hope looking forward to new manifestations or theophanies of God while experiencing the ongoing epiphany that God has in store for us individually, our families, our friends, our work, our communities, our church and our world.

Indeed, as we watch and wait for God to enchant our lives, our world, and our everything, let us respond and partake by singing a new song this year, planning a new decade for our lives, our own personal beatitude of gratitude and praise for what God has done and will do in and through Christ Jesus for all. Follow that star the sign of God!

For in Christ Jesus, God has announced and declared the great and beautiful work of new things for everyone, and “everything” ...everywhere. Let’s together seize the decade!

“Carpe Decennium”



*Follow that star, follow that star, Uncover
the mystery of Who You are
I've searched for a lifetime
I've come from afar
Discovered my destiny is to follow that star
What joy, what hope, what good news
He brings to me and you
~ Paul Baloche*

Rev. Bernd Weishaupt



Wayne Interfaith Network

Currently WIN is serving 160 clients and their families. Approximately 70 children are served each month. ***The pantry is now open to accept donations by appointment only.*** Please call 973-595-1900 for information.

Monetary donations are still the best way to donate at this time. They are greatly appreciated and may be made “in memory of” or “in honor of”. Mail to Wayne Interfaith Network, PO Box 3341, Wayne, NJ 07474-3341.

Thank you for your generosity.

www.WinFoodPantry.org

Thanks to a donation from Haskell Paving Inc. St Timothy delivered 50 Christmas trees, lights and decorations to St Paul's Community Development Center in Paterson, making many family's Christmases a little brighter.

Much thanks go to Rich Wantula for driving and grunt work, to scout troop 170 of North Haledon for use of their trailer and to Heart 'n' Hands for use of their van. This truly was a group effort. 😊

To God alone
the glory,
Cliff Konnerth





1/2 Elsie McKenzie
 1/3 Tanner Purcel
 1/4 Nancy VanHorn
 1/6 Brandon Kratky
 1/8 Robert Kratky
 1/10 Melissa Pardalis
 1/10 Robert McHugh
 1/10 Tanya Kellstrom
 1/12 Kaylee Tango
 1/14 Andrew Koppenal

1/15 Danielle Dittmer
 1/16 Deborah Andersen
 1/17 Edward A. Cleaver
 1/23 Barbara Westerberg
 1/24 Joseph Mikutta
 1/25 Lori Van Der Stad
 1/26 Ethan DeRose-Travia
 1/27 Leonard Smith
 1/29 Scott McGrath



1/12 Clifford & Nancy Konnerth
 1/24 Elizabeth & John Koch

Should you be on this list, and you're not??
Please email Laurie at st.tims395@yahoo.com
or call the office at 973-694-8316!



MEMORIALS

Since November 15, 2020, gifts have been given to the General Memorial Fund in memory of:

Johanna Wilbert

and to the Organ Fund in memory of:

Louise Hawkrige

During this month we have used Memorial funds to purchase a new laptop for the Church secretary. Our thanks to Ed Cleaver, Sr., for arranging the purchase and setting up the computer.



No Memorial Garden pavers were purchased this month, so our paver total stands at 115. The price of a paver is \$300.00. Checks may be made to St. Timothy Memorial Fund, with the words “Memorial Garden” on the memo line. Pavers may be engraved with the names of deceased loved ones or left blank for future engraving. Paver application sheets are available in the narthex. See

Pat Winters for further information or assistance. The Memorial Garden is self-supporting; gifts are welcome at all times!

We also welcome contributions to the fund for restoration and enhancement of our Church organ. The work is on-going and should be completed very soon. Checks may be made to St. Timothy Memorial Fund, with the words “Organ Repair” on the memo line.



We are grateful to all who have given to the St. Timothy Memorial Funds – the General Memorial Fund, the Music Fund, the George Laubscher Monday Morning Fund, the Memorial Garden Fund, the Eternal Light Candle Fund, and the Flanders/Schleer Scholarship Loan Funds – and for the faithful repayments to the loan funds. We welcome additional contributions as we assist families with the high price of college.



Happy New Year.

It has been a difficult year for all of us. No one has escaped difficulties.

I happened upon an article in the newspaper about the movie "Meet me in St. Louis" which was released in 1944. Judy Garland sang to Margaret O'Brien "Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas". Both Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra requested changes to the original lyrics. These resulting lines are a reminder to all of us: "Let your heart be light, from now on our troubles will be out of sight.... from now on our troubles will be miles away.... faithful friends who are dear to us gather near to us once more. Through the years we all will be together if the fates allow.... until then we'll have to muddle through somehow.... so, hang a shining star upon the highest bough and have yourself a merry little Christmas now."

I hope I have you all singing the song now. The vaccines are hopefully going to speed up when we can all be together again. I hope those dear to you have not been affected by the virus. Meanwhile remember nothing in life remains the same. If you are sad today, it's up to you to change it and what better way than to help someone else.

Happy new year and remember the angel said "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Amen.

More "Make Life Easy" next Tips
Barbara Westerberg



Would you like to be part of a prayer chain? If you are interested please contact me at the number listed below.

Here's how it works: When someone calls me with a request you will be contacted to pray for that person, you will then pass the request on

to one other person who will do the same. These requests will not be published.

To ask for prayer, call me and I will start the prayer chain. Requests can be as simple as "please pray for my neighbor who has to move into a nursing home?" or it can be please "pray for my daughter Ann". Feel free to give as many or as little details as you feel comfortable. Your request will be on the list for 4 weeks unless you call to continue.

Those calling with requests will be asked if it is confidential or if it can be shared. If you get my answering machine, you can simply say something like 'this is for prayers' and leave a phone number and I will call you when I get home.

Please call for any additional information,
Barbara Westerberg ~ 973-696-1471



Angels Circle

Angel Circle will meet again
when it is safe to get together.

Barbara Kaplan

Heart 'n Hands Mission



Happy New Year from all of us at Heart 'n Hands Mission!

With your support, our 2020 Blessing Bag Project was a great success, even amid so many challenges. Your donations provided 336 Blessing Bags filled with personal size toiletries, hand sanitizer, and medicated powder to our

homeless, and full-size shampoo, body wash, lotion, and toothpaste to more than 450 families.

We delivered these blessings to:

- Catholic Charities Supportive Services for Veteran Families, Paterson
- Community Outreach Services, Inc. Food Pantry and Clothing Ministry, Paterson
- United Passaic Organization Food Pantry (formerly 1st Presbyterian Pantry), Passaic
- Global Emergency Response and Assistance: GERA, Paterson
- Helping Hands Food Pantry, Passaic
- Iglesia Vision Celestial Church, Newark
- St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church Lunchtime Ministry, Hoboken
- Wayne Interfaith Network (WIN), Wayne

This was our eighth annual Blessing Bag Project. We have now distributed more than 4,100 blessing bags with the support and generosity of many individuals, congregations, youth groups, clubs, scout troops, schools and businesses. Our most sincere thanks to all who donated to our 2020 project.

Lord, we ask that you watch over those in need, that they may find shelter when they seek it, food when they are hungry, clothing and comfort when they are cold, and Your grace and loving encouragement in their darkness.

JANUARY LECTIONARY

Friday, January 1	Numbers 6:22-27	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 2:15-21
Saturday, January 2	Proverbs 1:1-7	James 3:13-18	Psalms 148
Sunday, January 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:[1-9] 10-18
Monday, January 4	Proverbs 3:1-12	James 4:11-17	Psalms 110
Tuesday, January 5	Proverbs 22:1-9	Luke 6:27-31	Psalms 110
<i>Wednesday, January 6</i>	<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i>	<i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i>	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>
Thursday, January 7	1 Samuel 3:1-21	Acts 9:10-19a	Psalms 29
Friday, January 8	1 Samuel 16:1-13	1 Timothy 4:11-16	Psalms 29
Saturday, January 9	1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12	Luke 5:1-11	Psalms 29
Sunday, January 10	Genesis 1:1-5	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Monday, January 11	Genesis 17:1-13	Romans 4:1-12	Psalms 69:1-5, 30-36
Tuesday, January 12	Exodus 30:22-38	Acts 22:2-16	Psalms 69:1-5, 30-36
Wednesday, January 13	Isaiah 41:4-12	John 1:29-34	Psalms 69:1-5, 30-36
Thursday, January 14	Judges 2:6-15	2 Corinthians 10:10-11	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
Friday, January 15	Judges 2:16-23	Acts 13:16-25	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
Saturday, January 16	1 Samuel 2:21-25	Matthew 25:1-13	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
Sunday, January 17	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
<i>Monday, January 18</i>	<i>Acts 4:8-13</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 10:1-5</i>	<i>Matthew 16:13-19</i>
Tuesday, January 19	1 Samuel 15:10-31	Acts 5:1-11	Psalms 86
Wednesday, January 20	Genesis 16:1-14	Luke 18:15-17	Psalms 86
Thursday, January 21	Jeremiah 19:1-15	Revelation 18:11-20	Psalms 62:5-12
Friday, January 22	Jeremiah 20:7-13	2 Peter 3:1-7	Psalms 62:5-12
Saturday, January 23	Jeremiah 20:14-18	Luke 10:13-16	Psalms 62:5-12
Sunday, January 24	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
<i>Monday, January 25</i>	<i>Acts 9:1-22</i>	<i>Galatians 1:11-24</i>	<i>Luke 21:10-19</i>
Tuesday, January 26	Genesis 45:25—46:7	Acts 5:33-42	Psalms 46
Wednesday, January 27	Proverbs 8:1-21	Mark 3:13-19a	Psalms 46
Thursday, January 28	Deuteronomy 3:23-29	Romans 9:6-18	Psalms 111
Friday, January 29	Deuteronomy 12:28-32	Revelation 2:12-17	Psalms 111
Saturday, January 30	Deuteronomy 13:1-5	Matthew 8:28—9:1	Psalms 111
Sunday, January 31	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

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KarenSajban@marykay.com
www.marykay.com/karensajban



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Evalyn Johnson's Granddaughter:



Leash N' Lather
862-215-3779

LeashNLather@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/LeashNLather

505 Saddle River Road
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

LeashNLather@gmail.com
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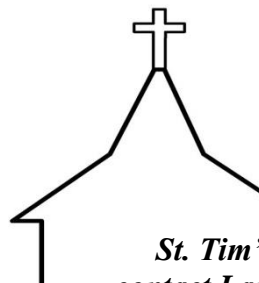
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