



Called to Care - "From the Inside Out"

"For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." 1 John 3:11

We have been blessed with a loving community here at Sanlo. It's not something we take for granted. If you look at our church history, caring for one another and others (especially after World War II when much of our community had to re-enter life after internment camps) is something that has always been a part of our church's DNA.

However, we desire to grow deeper and wider in our culture of care - especially for those who may feel marginalized. To this end, I facilitated a special 3-session class in July called "Called to Care". I am thankful for every person who attended. It was a faith-stretching and challenging time where we were drawn nearer to Jesus and one another. My hope is that in these sessions we moved towards becoming an even more unified and caring body of Christ than we are presently. By being unified it is not that we necessarily agree on everything but we are unified in loving others as Christ loves us despite our differences.

Early in our parenting years Kathy and I made an intentional decision to do our very best to create unity in our family through nurturing a safe place for our girls. If there was disagreement on certain choices between us and the girls, we wanted them to know that they would be loved and accepted by us. It wasn't always easy, but I like to believe this guiding principle greatly contributed to the relationship we currently have with them.

The overarching Scripture for "Called to Care From the Inside Out" is what Jesus says in John 13:34-35:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The two topics, divorce and growing up gay in church, were specifically chosen to discuss in our "Called to Care" class because they are not usually discussed among the fellowship of believers. The fear of being judged and rejected for bringing up the conversation and the fear of not knowing how to engage "properly" can create unintentional walls. Anyone who has lived through divorce or is a part of the LGBTQ community probably understands what I mean when I say it can feel like an isolating experience within the church.

Unfortunately and tragically the Church has become known as an unwelcoming place for people who are hurting. Stones are quickly cast, people feel judged, unloved or unaccepted in the circumstances mentioned. We are very grateful for the invaluable insights gained from our guest speakers, Shinja, Amy, Andie, Allison and Tim. Each of these individuals shared from their hearts the hurt, pain and struggles encountered within the church. They courageously spoke about their experiences as Christ-followers who endured divorce and being gay in places of worship they previously attended.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

We desire to be a safe, loving, accepting community that allows for important conversations like the ones that took place in our Called to Care class. We are learning how to do that. I also want to make it clear that SanLo believes the Bible is God's Word, infallible and inerrant in its original manuscript. Therefore according to the Bible, we believe that God's design for marriage is between a man and a woman and a lifetime commitment. Anything outside of His plan is called sin. We are *all* sinners and fall short of the glory of God. Only by His grace can we claim freedom from sin's grasp. Tension is felt in trying to balance the truth of His Word and His grace.

From our guest speakers and breakout discussions, it is our hope and prayer that this class helped to guide us towards seeking a healthy balance between His truth and grace. Further, we desire it to mark the beginning of steps forward in creating a culture of care that is a safe space and place to openly discuss relevant and sometimes controversial topics without judgement.

*By His Truth and Grace,
Pastor Brian*



THANK YOU VBS VOLUNTEERS!

A huge thanks to VBS leadership team who made VBS AND the August weekly VBS "review" Sunday School times so special and fun!! Here are a few quotes from the kids and helpers who attended:

"I liked Bible points...you memorize them every day and it's fun because you learn new things." - Callie Yata, 8

"I liked how it's in person and we can see our friends!" - Mia Tokudome, 11

"My favorite part was crafts or games. It's fun." - Akari Fujikawa, 7

"I liked the songs. My favorite song was Priceless Treasure...You should try it [VBS] sometime!" Emi Abalos, 7



"I liked hanging out with everyone and having a good time." Asella Furuyama, first year leader

"I liked seeing all the kids and knowing they're getting to know God more." Priscilla Yata, 5th year leader

"I like volunteering better [than being a participant]! It's fun helping the kids have fun!" Zachary Lee, 2nd year leader (1st year in-person!)

"Even though it had to be smaller this year, I really liked it because it was more intimate. The kids really bonded with each other and their crew leaders!" Randee Lee, veteran leader

Grow SanLo and Reopening Update



Thank you for your faithful giving and generosity! We have reached a significant point in our Grow SanLo campaign at 91% of our goal, and we have received the pre-approval letter for a \$1.5 million loan. We have now come to a critical step in the process of our campaign by the end of this year the Elders will be presenting the essential next steps. Please be in prayer and look out for church notification and meetings to come.

COVID-19 Update:

Pause on Multi-Use Reopening & Changes to Children's ministry!

Last month, the Elders were excited to announce that we would begin our multi-use reopening on Sunday September 4th from 9am in order to allow for an increased capacity and to bring back more space for children. However, due to the delta-variant, we have decided to pause on the multi-use reopening.

Instead, we are going to change a few things for reopening. First of all, we want to thank Adora Lee and Melissa Wong in leading the VBS review for our kids this past August. It was a wonderful start and time to bring our kids back for children's ministry. Now, we will have the English sanctuary capacity at a 85-person capacity and a children's class for 15 children from 1st to 5th graders outside.

We know that this change doesn't meet all of our needs, but we are doing all that we can in order to further reopen safely. We appreciate your patience as we adjust our worship service and children's ministry.

Important Notes:

- **Registration:** It will be online through our weekly email updates or church website. You can register yourself and your family unit. The registration will be first come first serve open on Mondays.
- **Changes for children's ministry from 1st to 5th grade:**
 1. Make sure to register your child for Sunday children's ministry ONLY. No need to register them for service.
 2. Bring your child directly to children's ministry outside for a temperature check and safety protocol **at 10:30am.**
 3. Children's ministry will have a **NEW START TIME at 10:45am** and end time at 11:45am. The children will be brought back into the sanctuary for the end of service by their teachers.
- **Parking:** A friendly reminder is that our parking lot is designated for those who are handicap, seniors, or families with young children. Please park at FoodMaxx or Papa Murphy's parking lots.
- **Safety is a Priority:** Wear a mask at all times, social distance at three feet, and you are welcome to hang out in the English afterwards.
- **Live Streaming:** We will continue our live streaming service for those who would like to remain at home.

We want you to know that we have vigilantly taken the necessary precautions to reopen, and we look forward to seeing you in person and worshipping the Lord together.

In His Care,
Pastor Eric on behalf of the Elders

Praise/Prayer Requests

- We praise God for the continued phases of reopening, but also ask for prayer for our elders and pastoral staff as they continue to make decisions regarding reopening further.
- Praise God for all the students who have gone back to school in person from preschool to college...we pray for safety and protection of school communities and communities at large.
- Pray for guidance and discernment as we continue to build up the Foster the City (formerly Foster the Bay) ministry in our church, and also for the families that may be in the process of welcoming a child into their home.

Our summer series "What is A Healthy Church?" is coming to an end with our special guest speaker Pastor Will Yancy bringing the message this Sunday, 8/29. We look forward to journeying through Acts with our new sermon series, "Unleashed", which begins the first week of September.

9/5/21 (Pastor Josh)

Preparation - Acts 1:1-26

9/12/21 (Pastor Brian)

Pentecost - Acts 2:1-41

9/19/21 (Pastor Eric)

Miracle - Acts 3:1-26

9/26/21 (Elder Chris Wu)

Community - Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-5:11, 6:1-7