

THE TIMOTHIAN

Newsletter for St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Grand Island, NY

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Meeting Needs with
**God's
Gifts** 



March 2026

Great things are happening at St. Timothy's! Here's what's inside:

- ◇ From the Pastor's Desk
- ◇ Altar Guild Notes
- ◇ Messages from the Co-Presidents
- ◇ Child Care Center News
- ◇ Worship Information
- ◇ News and Upcoming Events
- ◇ Missions
- ◇ Last Month's Memories
- ◇ Lenten Schedule
- ◇ Prayer Chain & Pastoral Care
- ◇ Calendar



From the Pastor's Desk

My wife and I came down with a nasty cold this past weekend: Low grade fevers and lots of congestion. This made for a weekend of lots of rest time. Not feeling up for cooking a big meal, we searched our cabinets and found some cans of soup we keep on hand for just such an occasion, and of course some crackers or toast to soak it up. It is amazing how a bowl of soup can warm you from the inside and give you just enough energy to finish the things you need to get done.

This Lent, as we reflect on the ways that we've fallen short of God's hopes for us, as we recognize where we've missed the mark in our lives following Christ, we may feel that we are spiritually sick. We are looking for hope in a world where we are sometimes told we're not good enough.

Here's my suggestion for us this Lent: find some soup and bread to warm you up.

Now you can do this at home of course, but how much warmer does that soup seem when you are with fellow travelers on God's Way? How much more filling is the bread when you break it with others in community? How much more encouraging is the bread of life, Jesus the Christ, when we hear him speak to us together, recognizing that together we can turn around and live lives that God hopes for us?

Lucky for us there are many opportunities to break bread together and then to hear God's word!

Take a look at the calendar to see the opportunities we have to worship and eat together. Note especially that in addition to midweek lunches at Trinity church, at St. Tim's we will have a meal of soup and bread as part of our Maundy Thursday worship, April 2nd.

I hope you can join us and remember that eating together isn't just something that's nice to do, it is an example that Christ has set for us about where Christ is present: In the breaking of the bread.

Let's eat!

In God's Grace,
Pastor Adam



Messages from the Co-Presidents

One of many of my favorite Scripture readings is from Micah 6...it was our first reading, February 1st. Verse 8 is pared down, and what I hear most clearly, direct and written with little ambiguity. "...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" Could it be any simpler? On that Sunday, February 1st, Pastor Hayden was with us, and pointed out that doing justice is "messy and layered." I was raised in Minneapolis; my vision of justice right now is indeed layered and messy. I have many family members still living in the Twin Cities, and they tell me first hand of what, for them, has been 70 days of a "reign of terror." With the news that there is to be a reduction of ICE agents in the City, they are more hopeful, but it is hard to know what to trust or believe in.

And along comes Lent..the time for Believers to prepare for Easter..allowing reflection on faith, and growing closer to God. We clearly need a bit of that right now. We at St. Timothy are so blessed to be surrounded by this Community of Believers. We have the opportunity to come together to worship, listen, pray, learn, love, and ask God to help us find The Way.

There is a lot available right in front of us..such as the sudden "expiration" of one of our boilers, with a sanctuary temperature of 48 degrees, and sudden inability to keep the CCC rooms warm enough for the babies. Alleluia (I know the children put that word away on Sunday), but Praise the Lord, we had excellent service and care from Paul G, Paul Y, Carl R, Karen S, and so many others, who know about such things, and we were up and running quickly, with a new boiler and warm building!

As well, we have multiple worship opportunities during Lent with Luncheons on Wednesdays. On March 18th St. Tim's is responsible to provide the luncheon, and volunteers are needed and necessary. And Holden Evening Prayers are offered on many evenings..multiple offerings during this Lenten Season to grow, learn, and be convicted in doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with your God.

We are also working toward a successful Chili Cook-off, Mark Steck's gift to us as another way to build the larger Community. This is such an uplifting event during a dreary, cold winter! The availability of many hands and cooks continues to be necessary. As we heard on Sunday, joy is Holy, and can help sustain us.

Is this our moment of clarity?...our moment to gather with others, in faith, and tell our story? When have you felt the hand of Jesus, the presence of God? My Mother would say this is a time to remember Who you are, and Whose you are.

Come Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Love and Hugs.
Shari Miller



*This is a time to
remember
Who you are, and
Whose you are.*

Hi.

Days are getting noticeably longer, and we are about to flip the calendar to March. Lent is in full swing. I'm hoping that many people will be able to take advantage of all the Lent activities here and in the greater community. We have the Holden Evening Prayers on a few weekday evenings. We have three Lenten luncheons coming in March, the 3rd of which Saint Timothy's is running. They're always good time to reflect on the word and also enjoy fellowship.

We installed our Church officers this month and I thank all those who volunteered their time and effort and continue to make Saint Timothy's Lutheran Church and Child Care Center a wonderful place. We don't do this alone - we have a large supporting group behind us as we are one big team that keeps us running.

Things I'm sure most of you are aware of, we had issues with our boilers for the heating system as one of the Sundays we met in the fellowship hall because the church was too cold. We worked on repairing one of the boilers and found that it just needed to be replaced. We are now running on one full boiler and limping along on the second. Once spring comes and we don't need the boilers anymore we'll work on the second boiler and see if it's repairable or also needs to be replaced.

We have several volunteer opportunities coming. For the Lenten luncheon we will need some help setting tables and cleaning up. We also will need help with people baking for dessert. The chili cook-off is rapidly approaching and we're in need of some fabulous chili dishes and of course lots of taste testers so we can crown the new chili champion.

If anybody is interested in riding their bike to raise money for Roswell Cancer Institute, I have created the St Timothy's Lutheran Church and Child Care Center team. You can also donate to the riders to help the cause.

Easter is coming but let's enjoy this Lenten season.

Paul Yaeger



Altar Guild Notes, March 2026

March. Winter is not quite ready to release it's grip. Spring is yet a promise. We find hope in the hints and the knowledge of what's to come.

Lent seems much the same. It is a somber season of reflection. Yet it is also filled with hints and the knowledge of what's to come. The first four Sundays brings us into the sanctuary surrounded by purple.

Purple paraments drape the altar furnishings. A purple veil covers the communion vessels and elements. Purple surrounds the vases, covers the wall banners, lies under the baptismal font. It even hangs from the dossal curtain cross as well as the two processional crosses!

Perhaps take a moment to reflect as the purple draws our eyes and heart to the waters of our baptism, the cross of our redemption, the holy feast of communion.



Dramatic changes occur on the last Sunday this month. Purple's gone! Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. It is the only time you see scarlet in the sanctuary! We will wave palms in our procession to the sanctuary. Time to listen to the Passion narrative, Jesus' journey to the cross.

Lent concludes. Keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah



Child Care Center News for March 2026!

Hello Church Family!

This month we are looking forward to celebrating the start of spring! March 20th is the first day for spring and we look forward to the fun learning activities following the theme of growth, renewal, and exploration. We will attempt to start a garden this spring and have the children participate in all aspects of the process. We will also be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with Dr. Seuss' Read Across America the week of March 2nd to March 6th. We will be fostering a love for reading through fun and engaging stories and activities.

Looking ahead to the warmer months, we have a couple important dates to keep in mind. In April we will begin our summer enrollment. We do this on a first come basis and enroll current families first before extending it to our waitlist and the public. Please contact the child care office for more information about this. On May 30th, 2026 we will be hosting our annual Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ. This is a wonderful family event that includes live music, activities for the children, a raffle, and food. We will announce when tickets are available in the next newsletter.

As always, thank you for your continued encouragement, prayers, and support. We are grateful to partner with you in nurturing the hearts and minds of these precious children.

Thank you!

Athena Torain
Center Director



A look into the
childcare center
this month:



Worship Information



Worship continues at 9:30 AM each Sunday. All are welcome! You can also watch us on our livestream at www.sttimothygrandisland.com. Sunday School for age 3 through grade 4 is held during the 9:30 AM service. Please see our Lenten Schedule page for additional upcoming special services.

News and Upcoming Events

Lenten devotional resources

If you'd like a devotional booklet and daily devotional prayer cards that follow the theme "Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent" from A Sanctified Art, which we're following in worship this season, these can be picked up in the Narthex. Electronic versions are also available upon request from the office.



Bible Study

Our Bible study on Matthew continues in the parlor on Thursdays at 1 PM.

Easter flower orders

If you would like to purchase spring flowers to make our sanctuary extra celebratory for Easter this year and then take them home to enjoy, please let the office know who they are in memory or honor of and how many of each flower you would like. Choices are: Easter lilies, daffodils, pink, blue, and white hyacinths, and pink, red, yellow, white, and purple tulips. Flowers are \$13 each this year. Donations can also be made to the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation in memory or honor of someone to be celebrated and remembered on Easter. Preliminary flower orders are due March 1st and final orders by March 15th.



Lenten Lunches & Volunteer Request

St. Timothy will once again be joining Trinity and St. Martin's in an ecumenical mid-week Lenten lunch series on Wednesdays from 11-12:30 on March 4th, 11th, and 18th. Meals are \$10 each, and proceeds will benefit the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation. Pre-registration is requested so we can get a good head count for food. St. Timothy is hosting on March 18th, and we welcome help taking money, setting up, serving, cleaning up, and providing baked goods for dessert. Volunteers and baked goods can arrive around 10 AM or baked goods can be dropped off on Tuesday, 9:30-2, or at Holden Evening Prayer at 7 PM. Thank you for your help!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those who have Thrivent Choice Dollars, please designate them before the end of March. The additional support is appreciated!

Winter Weather Prep

In the event of unsafe winter weather, services will be moved to a YouTube livestream and the information communicated by email and on Channels 2 and 7.

Third Annual Chili Cook-off!

Our Third Annual Community-Wide Chili Cook-off is coming up on Saturday, March 28th from 4-6:30 PM! Invite friends, family, and neighbors to come for an enjoyable evening of fellowship and fun around bowls of hot chili as we vote on the best! Chili registrations are still welcome at www.sttimothygrandisland.com/chili-cook-off, and both red and white chilis are being accepted this year.

Not into chili but want to come for the fun anyway? Your entry ticket can either be turned in for tasting or for a meal of a hot dog, chips, drink, and dessert which will also be available for purchase. A bake sale will be held during the event, and we welcome baked good donations! Chili cooks and bakers will be given one free ticket each for the event.

Entry tickets are \$5 presale and \$7 at the door. These are available for purchase before and after worship on Sundays and through our child care center office during the week. Additional activities will include bingo, door prizes, music, and a guest appearance by the Easter Bunny!

Chili cooks should plan to bring their chili hot in a crock pot between 2:30 and 3 PM on Saturday, and baked goods can be brought prepacked for \$1 each the day before or between 2:30 and 4 PM the day of. We can also package them that day if brought by 3:45 PM. Volunteers are appreciated to help the cook-off run smoothly, from helping at the ticket table and running bingo to taking hot dog orders and cleaning up after. A sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex or you can talk to Karen Sturniolo, Mark, or Kim.



We hope you can come with friends for this fun community event! Thank you!

Google reviews request

Want to help attract folks to come check out our church and child care center? Writing a review on Google can help! To do so, please go to google.com, type in “St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Grand Island, NY,” and scroll down to Reviews on the side panel to the right that will appear with our information. Right above the first review is a small box that says “Write a review.” Thanks for taking the time to help us out!

Lutheran Grants for our Child Care Center

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Lutheran Charities of WNY, the Lutheran Foundation, and the St. John’s Children’s Home in providing funding for our Child Care Center, which helps support extracurricular activities, improvements to our facility and classrooms, staff trainings, and staff appreciation among other things. If you have the opportunity to support them in turn, know that their funding means a lot to us and to many other amazing local organizations sharing the love of Christ!

Missions Opportunities

Undie Sunday

Thank you for all your Undie Sunday donations to help out our shelterless neighbors! St. Timothy filled two hampers with new underclothing for the comfort and dignity of those who need them most.

Lenten Luncheon Proceeds

All Lenten Luncheon profits after covering food costs will benefit the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation. Donations can also be given to the Neighbors Foundation in lieu of or in addition to Easter flower orders through mid-March.

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Lunch

Wednesday, March 4th from 11 AM - 12:30 PM, Trinity, hosted by Trinity, \$10

Soup Supper & Worship

Wednesday, March 4th from 6-7 PM, Good Shepherd (2669 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda)
(Pastor Adam leading worship)

Lenten Lunch

Wednesday, March 11th from 11 AM - 12:30 PM, Trinity, hosted by St. Martin-in-the-Fields, \$10

Soup Supper & Worship

Wednesday, March 11th from 6-7 PM, Augustana (3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda)

Holden Evening Prayer

Tuesday, March 17th at 7 PM, St. Timothy

Lenten Lunch

Wednesday, March 18th from 11 AM - 12:30 PM, Trinity, hosted by St. Timothy, \$10

Soup Supper & Worship

Wednesday, March 18th from 6-7 PM, St. Martin (322 Old Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda)

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesday, March 25th at 7 PM, St. Timothy

Soup Supper & Worship

Wednesday, March 25th from 6-7 PM, Trinity Old Lutheran (3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst)

Palm Sunday

March 29th at 9:30 AM, St. Timothy

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd at 6 PM, St. Timothy; meal of soup and bread will become the beginning of the service

Good Friday

April 3rd at 11 AM, Augustana (Pastor Adam preaching)

April 3rd at 12 PM, St. Martin-in-the-Fields

April 3rd at 7 PM, St. Timothy

Easter Sunday

April 5th at 9:30 AM, St. Timothy



Last Month's Memories



Our First Communion students met to learn about the sacrament they will soon partake in and had fun making communion bread. Their First Communion will be on Sunday, April 12th.

On Transfiguration Sunday, our Sunday School kids rolled up the Alleluia banner and placed it in a treasure chest next to the baptismal font, to be always present but not seen throughout Lent.



Prayer Chain



Here at St. Timothy, we believe that prayer is powerful and can be incredibly helpful in our lives and in the lives of others. Our prayer chain allows you to ask others in our church community to pray for your friends and loved ones in their times of need.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain, you can call us at 773-4400, email us at communications@sttimothygrandisland@gmail.com, or contact Pastor Adam. You can also fill out the prayer chain request sheet in the Narthex at the table next to the Sanctuary entrance. Please include an address where we can send cards to those in our prayers.

We hold the following people in our prayers: Nancy H; Rob Fraser; Dr. Paul Paterson; Sister Terri; Erik LaVassuer; Kalene Best; Marge Skinner; Charris Kiener; Paul Schwandt; Terri; Michael Briggs; Rob Cornelius; Phyllis Hall; Rick Burns; Mike Seguin; Matt Rowe; Esmaeil & Fariba; Dana; Jerry & Sharon; Eliana & Lilly; Jay; Dan; Michelle Ramsey; Mike & Tina Cutini; Diane & Brian Lind; Aiden Haynes; Vanessa; Logan McKenzie; Karen Wiswall; Ronald Olson; Janet Upham; Deborah Piotrowski; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Myles; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Brenda; Marlene; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengaglio Richard; Joanne M.; Sylvia & Joe Smith; Lorraine Pfohl; and Cheryl Rosati.

Please note that we no longer remove people unless we have heard of their improvement or their passing. Updates are always appreciated and can be directed to the office by paper note, email, or phone (communications@sttimothygrandisland.com, 716-773-4400). Thank you.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Eilene Gebrian's birthday on March 6th, Herb Westfall's birthday on March 20th, and Mark and Lauren Steck's anniversary on March 27th. If you'd like to add your birthday or anniversary to our celebration list, please let the office know.



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is an important resource available at St. Timothy's. To contact Pastor Adam for pastoral care needs, you can reach him at pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com or at 716-773-4400. The following are some situations in which you should call:

- ◇ In the event of a hospitalization or placement in another health care facility.
- ◇ In emergency situations of injury or illness, even if there is no hospital admission. People are often sent home under difficult circumstances.
- ◇ In times of personal crisis or struggle in which you may benefit from direct pastoral care.
- ◇ When in need of pastoral services such as baptisms, weddings, home communion, funeral, or memorial services.
- ◇ In any other circumstance where pastoral care may benefit you. When in doubt, call.

March 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Worship, 9:30 AM	2	3	4 Lenten Lunch, 11-12:30	5 Bible Study, 1 PM	6	7
8 Worship, 9:30 AM	9	10	11 Lenten Lunch, 11-12:30	12 Bible Study, 1 PM	13	14
15 Worship, 9:30 AM	16	17 Worship & Music, 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer, 7 PM	18 Lenten Lunch, 11-12:30	19 Bible Study, 1 PM Council meeting, 5:30 PM	20	21
22 Worship, 9:30 AM	23	24	25 Holden Evening Prayer, 7 PM	26 Bible Study, 1 PM	27	28 Chili Cook-Off! 4-6:30 PM
29 Worship, 9:30 AM	30	31				