

THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our Pastor: Thomas Glasoe

Our website: www.sttimothygrandisland.com

Our emails: communications@sttimothygrandisland.com
and office@sttimothygrandisland.com

Our phone number: 716-773-4400

Our fax number: 716-773-4413

Our Why:

*To serve God by inspiring
faith and passion through
connections, so that we can
nurture and fulfill our
community and the world.*



March, 2022

Here's what's inside:

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Message from the Pastor

The season of Lent, according to my earliest understanding of it, was primarily a time of repentance (the gloomy, guilty kind), depriving myself of something (or several things) I liked, and taking on for six weeks the burden of some usually onerous discipline, all of which was supposed to help erase my bad deeds and failures so I could enter into a proper and acceptable celebration of Easter. It seemed to me analogous to the fellow who, when asked why he kept hitting his head against a brick wall, said he did so because he felt so good when he stopped. Bring on the Easter egg hunt.

Today I understand Lent differently. Today the season for me is about cleaning the windows of my heart so light can enter and reveal the truest of what's there. William Blake, the English poet (1757-1827), wrote, "If the doors of perception were cleansed every thing would appear to man as it is, Infinite. For man has closed himself up, till he sees all things thro' narrow chinks of his cavern." Living in the world inevitably blinds us to the glory of God alive among us. Our senses grow dull, like windows grow dirty, and they need to be cleansed periodically. Moments of quiet, solitary prayer through each day do that. So does a regularly observed Sabbath. Occasionally we need to take a longer season in which to more intentionally focus on cleansing the "doors of perception" – so we can see the splendor of abundant life around us and allow it to enter more easily into our consciousness day by ordinary day. That longer season is Lent.

It was Albert Einstein, I believe, who said you can't correct a problem by using the same logic or way of thinking that got you into the problem to begin with; you have to think in a new way, and that's hard. Sometimes it can seem impossible. Joseph Campbell, the great scholar of comparative mythology and religion, observed that if you want to change the world, you don't do it by trying to change the world; you do it by changing the way you look at the world and speak of it, by changing the metaphors you use to picture the world and your place in it.

St. Paul expressed the same idea when he advised the Romans, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is" (Rom. 12:2 NLT). Apprehending God's will and knowing the abundant life it offers requires that we think in a new way, that we cleanse the windows of our hearts and minds so we can see what's right under our noses.

The season of Lent this year is a fresh new opportunity to do that, and our study and reflection around the twelfth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans will help us do that. I hope you'll join me and others in the congregation in looking at and reflecting on these scriptures more intentionally and carefully. Another way is in your preparation to welcome a new pastor to the congregation and community. A fresh voice, someone with different experience and a new and different vision of faith, can often give us a new perspective on life and faith. May God bless you richly during this extraordinary season at St. Timothy.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Rich

Transition pastor

Altar Guild Notes: March, 2022



What happened! Why are we in church on a Wednesday night? Why is the dorsal cross draped and processional cross covered? What is all this purple doing on everything? No flowers, no decorations anywhere. Alleluia is gone, both the banner and the praise. Even the music laments.

Ash Wednesday begins the liturgical season of Lent. A season that begins with imposed ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of our own mortality. Then ends 40 days later with our calling to life by redemption. Our worship space simple, without distractions. It's principle color is purple. This helps us "turn" inward for this 40 day season of introspection, prayer, and repentance. The Sundays during Lent are not "counted" toward the 40 days as they are celebrations of the resurrection.

Our Lenten journey can be a struggle. Seek God.

What is never covered? The waters of baptism in the font.

What is always revealed? The Eucharist, body and blood of Christ.

What is always offered? Forgiveness and redemption.



Be sustained in His love. The gift of grace awaits. Amen.

Your sister in Christ,

Deborah

News and updates from the Child Care Center

Hello, Everyone!

The childcare center is busy with new enrollment and lots of tours! As we continue to rebuild our enrollment and our program we are finding that many parents love St. Tim's and all we offer. Our center is the only childcare center that offers children's church, which gives the children a great foundation for the love of Christ.

As promised we would like to announce the 2021 Mike Endres's award recipient... drum roll please... Nicole Czaplicki! Nicole has been a vital part of St. Tim's since 1997. She has cared for the infants here at St. Tim's like they were her own. Parents and children adore her for her warm and welcoming demeanor, her professionalism, and awareness of each infant's needs. We thank Ms. Nicole for her years of service and for her love for the children and the program.

We look forward to spring and nicer weather but for now we are embracing the snowy weather. Please join us on facebook to see everything we are doing.

Thank you for all your support,

Amanda Weir

A Message From the President

As I sit here on my couch writing yet another Timothian article, I can't help but feel a warmth from the blustering winds whipping around outside. A warmth from having a roof over my head, clothes on my back, food to eat, and family and friends to love. A warmth of having all of you as my extended family at St. Timothy's. I am so blessed. I hope you all feel the same.

Last month we had our Congregational meeting. Thank you to those who were able to join us either in person or online. Thank you to Justin Reid for reviewing our audit, Pastor Rich, Carl Remmes, and Amanda Weir for their reports, and for Shari Miller for joining us on the council. As we did not have quorum at our last council meeting in February, I will report our council officers next month.

By now I hope you have read Pastor Rich's letter to the congregation regarding the council's decision on mask mandates. Although Governor Hochul has lifted the NYS mask mandate for all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in businesses and public places, we here at St. Timothy's will continue to mask for worship, meetings, etc., and maintain social distancing. We believe this decision, as Pastor Rich said, is one that serves the welfare of the whole congregation over the freedom of the individual. Yes, we all want this to be "over", but we still need to emphasize caution. We really are getting closer, and spring is just around the corner. Please continue to show grace and compassion to all by wearing your mask and social distancing. The council will continue to monitor the infection rates and hospitalizations and update the congregation's policy as the circumstances change. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Whether we accept it or not, the Covid-19 pandemic has been a pivotal point for our church. Our church mission remains the same, yet the execution of our mission "sending forth disciples of Christ" has looked different and will most likely continue to look different after this crisis has passed. Since we cannot always do in a crisis what we were doing before, I suggest that we view this crisis as an opportunity to rejuvenate our mission. Let us not let our "why" become dormant. Let's let our "why" – "to serve God by inspiring faith and compassion through connections so that we can nurture and fulfill our community and our world" be our inspiration. Let's focus on our mission, let's be thankful for the lessons of patience, generosity, and gratitude of these past two years and focus on making a difference in our community. At this pivotal time, we as your church leaders must listen, imagine, and lead. Thank you for trusting us to do so.

Looking forward to this month, I hope you will join us for our Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd at 7pm in person or online. We will have take home ash kits for those that are unable to worship in person. If you need one, kindly let us know. Also, please consider joining us on Zoom for Pastor Rich's Lenten book study on *Marks of the Christian* by David L. Miller starting on March 9th at 7pm. We look forward to growing in our faith with Pastor Rich.

In closing, may we continue to do God's work. Go beyond helping others to befriending them. Build conversations, not confrontations. Empathize, show compassion, and reconcile. Remember, it is the personal touch that counts the most and how we can put our "why" into action.

In peace,

Karen Rose

Worship Information and Special Services

Sunday Worship Services

Services will continue to be held each Sunday at 9:30 AM. We do ask for you to continue wearing your masks for the many people in our congregation who have compromised health. Thank you for understanding. A livestream option is also available for those who are more comfortable worshipping at home for the time being. It can be accessed from www.sttimothygrandisland.com, and a bulletin to follow along with can be found under the “Resources” tab at the top.

Ash Wednesday

Please consider joining us for Ash Wednesday on March 2nd at 7 PM in our sanctuary and on livestream. For anyone who would like an ash kit for participation at home, please call the office at 716-773-4400 or email us at communications@sttimothygrandisland.com to arrange for pick-up.

Mid-Week Lenten Meditation Series

For Wednesday evenings during Lent, March 9th through April 6th, we encourage you to join us at 7 PM on Zoom. These will combine liturgy and study, guided by the Lenten devotional *Marks of the Christian* by David L. Miller. No preparation is necessary to join us, however anyone who would like to purchase the book for their personal devotional time is welcome to do so through the office for \$11 each; we currently have two extra copies available to claim. The link to join is on the front page of our website, or you can call in to 1-929-205-6099 and use meeting ID 815 0902 9988 and passcode 001472.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Our Maundy Thursday Service (April 14th) and Good Friday Service (April 15th) will both be held in our sanctuary and livestreamed at 7 PM.

Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, April 17th, will hold our worship service at 9:30 AM in person.



News and Upcoming Events

Thank you to everyone who joined us over Zoom for some fellowship on the last Wednesday in February! We enjoyed the meandering conversation and story exchange!

The Call Committee is in the process of interviewing a potential candidate. Please pray for their discernment as well as the pastor's so that God's work can be done through the best possible partnership. Thank you.

All are invited to the Upstate NY Synod's GRACE-A-THON in which G.R.A.C.E stands for Generous love, Restorative justice, Adaptive learning, Collaboration, and Experimentation. This will be held over Zoom on Saturday, March 12th from 9AM-3PM. You can read more about it and find the link to register at upstatenysynod.org/new-events.

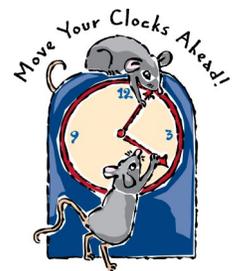


We are starting to collect Easter Lily orders to decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday! If you would like to contribute a lily in memory or honor of a loved one, please submit their name to the office by March 21st. The cost is \$10 per plant, and you are encouraged to take it home after the service.

Thank you to everyone who gave us their \$0.05 donations through Bottle Junction! Together, it has added up to \$50.35. We are grateful for your support!

Don't forget to leap ahead one hour on March 13th for Daylight Savings.

For anyone who has Thrivent, please note that you have until March 31st to designate your Choice Dollars. Thank you for all your support.



Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Synod Assembly will be June 5-6 this year and will be held at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. For anyone who would like to attend as a voting member (we need one male and one female), registration begins on March 1st and the early bird fee is good through the end of the month. Please contact the office if you are interested. The theme is Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E Mindset (Generous love, Restorative justice, Adaptive learning, Collaboration, and Experimentation.)

Save the date for our Childcare Center's Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ on June 18th!

Missions

Thank you to everyone who participated in Undie Sunday! Your donations to the Niagara County Missions and local Afghan refugees have been much appreciated.

During the season of Lent, we'll be joining the Upstate New York Synod in collecting diapers and diaper products with the goal of collecting 50,000 diapers. Please see the below message from our Dean.

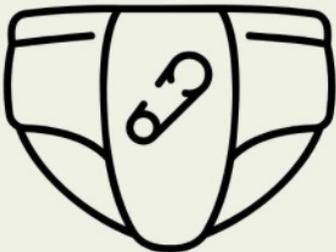
What are the consequences of diaper need? One in three families suffers from diaper need in the U.S. Based on present funding in NYS and many other areas in the United States, diapers cannot be purchased with food stamps. Babies who remain too long in a soiled diaper are exposed to increased health risks and concerns. Diaper need creates additional stress and concern for the family as well. Most child care centers, even free and subsidized facilities, require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers; therefore, many parents cannot go to work or school if they cannot leave their babies at child care.

Check out Buffalo's Diaper Bank for more information... <https://www.everybottomcovered.org/>

I hope you will join us in collecting Diapers this Lent.

Peace,

Pastor Jeremiah

	WE WILL BE COLLECTING MARCH 6TH TO APRIL 10TH
ITEMS NEEDED: DISPOSABLE DIAPERS (ANY SIZE) PULL-UPS SIZES 2T-5T WIPES DIAPER CREAM	

Missions Spotlight

Entertaining Angels

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
Hebrews 13:2

The United States is resettling 75,000 Afghans. Chances are your town is welcoming one or more families. The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is playing a major role in making this happen. In fact, the need is so great that an extra office of LIRS has recently opened in Virginia, an office staffed by Afghans, many of whom recently arrived themselves, wanting to help with those countrymen who are still coming. But please don't call them refugees. Because of the circumstances of their departure, they are being referred to as "allies" or "neighbors." These families have experienced massive trauma, and most come here with only a backpack of their belongings, if that. LIRS makes sure they get a roof over their heads, food in their cupboards, and access to medical and mental health care. The organization helps the newly arrived Afghans acclimate to the culture, learn English, find affordable housing, secure furniture and culturally familiar food, enroll children in school, and find employment. LIRS will find foster families for children arriving alone. The new Virginia facility has an active homework club and teaches people to drive and fill out essential forms.

LIRS is an ELCA ministry. You are already helping this effort because of your mission support to the Synod. Thank you!

Here are other ways you can help:

- LIRS Circle of Welcome includes co-sponsoring an individual or family.
Lirs.org/circle-of-welcome.
- Opportunities to donate, advocate, or volunteer in other capacities.
Lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies.
- Financial support. Elca.org/ldr.

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

Marcia Brown

ELCA Mission Interpreter



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 those 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.com, or contact Pastor Tom. Please also include an address where we can send cards.



We hold the following people in our prayers: Ted, Joe Morley, Mark Brakke, Colleen Morth, Gary Jackson, Mike Cutini, Lesha Tiedaman, Richard E, Isla and Eleanor, Edna, Gloria, Ron's brother, Jeannette Tate, Brian Volo, Margaret Miller, Jack Skinner, Marianne Carroll, Linda Piechowiak, Danny Penque, Robin Bengaglio Richard, Joanne M., Joyce Zimmerman, Dottie Roehrig, Sylvia and Joe Smith, Lorraine Pfohl, and Cheryl Rosati.

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. Please let us know if you'd like a directory to contact these members, or if you'd like to add your birthday and anniversary to our celebration list!



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is an important resource available at St. Timothy's. Pastor Rich can be contacted at pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com, or for pastoral emergencies, at 716-984-3541.

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 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Ash Wednesday, 7 PM	3	4	5
6 Worship, 9:30 AM	7	8	9 Worship and Study, 7 PM Zoom	10	11	12 
13 Worship, 9:30 AM	14 Finance Meeting, 6:30 PM	15 	16 Worship and Study, 7 PM Zoom	17	18	19
20 Worship, 9:30 AM	21 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	22	23 Worship and Study, 7 PM Zoom	24	25	26
27 Worship, 9:30 AM	28	29	30 Worship and Study, 7 PM Zoom	31 		