THE TIMOTHIAN

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

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Meeting Needs with God's Gifts

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, ELCA
OF GRAND ISLAND, NY

October 2026

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? ~ Isaiah 43:19

Happy October!

When we think October, we often think of the end of the month when we celebrate Halloween in our culture. But as Lutherans, we know that October 31 is also the day when we remember Martin Luther and his 95 Theses, which sparked the Protestant Reformation. Those 95 complaints against the leadership of the Catholic church, were Luther's way of calling for changes, reforms, to bring the church into alignment with how he understood God's grace to work in our lives.

Luther called for big changes in the church. He called for priests to be able to marry. He called for a stop to the practices of indulgences, which was a way for people to basically buy their loved ones way out of "purgatory." It also was an effective way for the church to raise money and at the same time caused already poor people to lose their money. Luther also questioned the supreme authority of the Pope, declaring that we are all sinners before God, and all in need of God's grace through our faith.

Luther's big changes did cause reforms. Those changes were the beginnings of the many denominations, different understandings of how the church operates in the world. Those big changes sometimes make me think that every time October comes around that we need to make big changes in our congregations and in our lives. That somehow we need to live up to Luther's boldness by making big changes.

Big changes can be transformative for individuals and organizations. I'm also reminded that some of the transformative moments in my life haven't been so big. They've been a sudden reminder that the work I'm doing is worthwhile. They've been words of encouragement and kindness that helped me see my own worth in God's eyes. It's changing my attitude when my kids threw a fit, and acting with understanding. It's deciding to give grace when I'm frustrated with someone else that has led to fruitful meetings.

Let's endeavor to work on reformation this month. We don't necessarily need big reforms. Let's let the Spirit of God remind us that we can make little reforms each day, to more fully live into God's grace.

In peace,
Pastor Adam

Let's let the Spirit of God remind us that we can make little reforms each day, to more fully live into God's grace.



Altar Guild Notes, October 2026

Wait for it…. Wait for it…. Change is coming….

But not yet! Green still greets us in the sanctuary for first three Sundays this month.
Green has sustained us during this long season of Time after Pentecost.
We have been surrounded in this color inside and outside.
Our environment has flourished with sun and rain.
We have flourished with Word and sacrament.

The fourth Sunday. Red arrives! Reformation Sunday is celebrated. Our treasured vintage set of red paraments have been refreshed with a new lining. (Thank you Cheryl…) Once again ready for their occasional appearance. Fun tradition: wear red that day, fill the sanctuary with red!
This single Sunday of red turns our thoughts to the reformation and renewal of the church. Christ's sacrificial grace is a gift. This gift frees us to work with that heart that's been nourished with all the past weeks of green!



May we leave the church building renewed, responding to God's love with our words and actions.

Keep Jesus in your heart.
Your sister in Christ,
Deborah

Messages from the Co-Presidents

The view outside my window right now is not home. I am out of town for two weeks. Paul has also been traveling, so we will both share different perspectives about our congregation and events.

There is nothing that can separate us from God's love.

A couple days ago, I was in Sitka, Alaska. Anyone who has traveled there knows it is situated on a lovely, little Island off the coast of Alaska, and is surrounded by God's magnificent creation. It has a population of 8500. On the day I arrived, 9000 cruise ship visitors were expected. Our shuttle driver randomly mentioned the town has 23 churches, from Greek Orthodox to Catholic, Native and non-denominational… and, wait for it… ELCA, at 224 Lincoln Street, 99835! I found that church, and a gentleman outside the front door was offering popcorn and beverages… and what is important to all tourists, free restrooms!! He explained he is half of a volunteer couple (his wife was inside), from North Carolina, one of four such couples, who come to Alaska for a month during the travel season to help staff the Church. The sign outside the church says, "Welcoming All, Serving with Joy, Growing in Faith."

The church was established in 1843, as the first Protestant church in Alaska, built through the efforts of Arvid Adolf Etholen, the eighth Russian governor of Alaska, and his devoutly Lutheran wife, Margaretha. It served workers from Finland and the Baltics, who had come to work for the Russian-American Company in "New Archangel" (now Sitka). After the Alaska Purchase in 1867, it went through decline when many workers returned to Europe with the closure of the Russian-American Company. The last pastor left in 1865 (talk about an empty pulpit)! Since that time, this congregation has been served by traveling volunteer clergy, or lay leadership, and survived three fires. And each time, the congregation was rebuilt and revived. By 2004, it's original chandelier, and more importantly, it's Kessler pipe organ, were refurbished, making it one of the few one manual, five-rank pipe organs in North America, and the oldest West of the Mississippi. Recently a pipe organ competition was held, the winner being a young gentleman who studies at Eastman! He premiered his composition on October 16, 2025… and not only is the building alive, the congregation is growing.

On September 22, 2026, I, a pilgrim, visited and met lay leadership who shared that currently the congregation is led by an unlikely leadership candidate… a 60 year old, second career M.Div student, studying for ordination. Once ordained, her delight is in serving the Lutheran Church in Sitka!!

Why am I telling you this? Is it just seemingly unconnected paragraphs with random bits of information, or coincidental information? Not to my mind. October 31, 1517, Martin Luther poster his ninety-five Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. Now, 509 years later, while traveling, I find a Community of Faith in a small fishing village in Sitka, Alaska, 2600 miles away... similar to traveling to Jerusalem, 6000 miles away and worshiping in the Holy City… and then, best of all, come home to "the little church that can." Our Community of Faith here at St. Timothy where, as Pastor Adam says, we do church every day by creating community. There truly is nothing that can separate us from God's love. Praise God for this unspeakable gift.

Love and Hugs,
Shari

Hi

This past month flew by. We had a funeral for Gerry on Saturday and our congregational meeting on Sunday where we received our annual finance report for our organization consisting of the church and the child care center and voted on the new budget. Thanks to everyone, we ended the year positive.

Everything is back in full swing now with Sunday School and Bible Study which Rally Day kicked off. It's great to have our young friends back in church.

We have our Chiavetta's chicken barbecue on Monday, October 12th. Grab a few dinners before the Bills game and share with your friends. This is a drive thru only event. We need help in baking and wrapping dessert which we can do on Sunday. We will need scoopers for the sides and runners taking money and delivering food and desserts to the cars, as well as a low-key job helping with priority pickup for our child care families and staff. Please help where you can for even an hour or so. Every little bit helps. This fundraiser will go towards boiler expenses.

Regards,
Paul



"But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law." ~ Romans 3:19-28

Child Care Center News for October 2026!

Hello Church Family!

As we welcome the beautiful month of October, we are looking forward to a month filled with fellowship, fun, and opportunities to bring our church and child care families together.

One of the month's highlights will be our Trunk-or-Treat on October 24th! We look forward to gathering together for an afternoon of fun. We invite our church and child care families to join us and help make this a special event for our children. This event will be held from 12 pm to 2 pm. We are looking for volunteers to decorate their trunks and hand out treats, or donate bags of nut-free candy; nuts are acceptable with the parents there to supervise, but we want to make sure there's enough for our nut-free kids.

We will be having our Halloween Parade this year on October 30th at 3:30 p.m. Families are welcome to come watch our little ones show off their costumes as they parade through the center.

This month we will be conducting Parent-Teacher conferences. These one-on-one meetings are a valuable opportunity to meet with families to discuss their child's individual development. It's also a great time to share insights from home so we can work together to support their child.

St. Timothy Lutheran Child Care Center is also looking for Teacher Assistants to join our team. We are looking for caring, dependable individuals who enjoy working with young children and want to be part of a nurturing environment. If you or someone you know may be interested, please reach out to the Child Care Center for more information.

As we move into this season of changing leaves and cooler days, we are reminded of the many blessings that surround us at St. Timothy's. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our church, our child care center, and the families we serve. Your prayers, time, and generosity help us continue our mission to care for and nurture children and families in meaningful ways.

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! The link for our 9:30 AM livestream each week can be found at www.sttimothygrandisland.com. Sunday School for age 3 through grade 4 meets during the service.

News and Upcoming Events

Bible Study

Pastor Adam is leading a Bible Study on Tuesdays at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall.

Chiavetta's BBQ & Bake Sale Fundraiser

Our BBQ and Bake Sale fundraiser is coming up on Monday, October 12th! We've ordered the 400-meal minimum this year and hope to sell out. Here's how you can help us make this a success:

- Spread the word! Hang fliers in public places, hand out small fliers to friends and family, put a lawn sign in front of your house especially if in a high-traffic area, and encourage everyone you know to come to St. Timothy for their pre-game meal on Monday, October 12th between 3:30 and 6:30 PM.
- Purchase presale tickets. These will be available before and after services, through the church office by phone, and online at https://www.sttimothygrandisland.com/event-details/chiavettas-chicken-bbq-and-bake-sale-2026.
- Make baked goods for the sale. Last year, brownies and unique desserts went the fastest! Labeled desserts can be dropped off on Sunday morning to be packaged.
- Volunteer! We can use as many hands as we can get on the 12th and have jobs for a variety of activity levels - from packaging food and taking orders at cars to marking off child care priority pickup meals and assisting with the cash box. We welcome any and all to join us for whatever times they're able. We could also use some help on the 11th after the service including folding ad sponsor booklets, cutting and packaging desserts into comparable $1 bags, and setting up tables for food prep. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex at the ticket table.

Thank you for all your help again and we look forward to another great BBQ!



Trunk-or-Treat and CCC Halloween Parade

Trunk-or-Treat will be held on October 24th from 12-2 PM. We welcome participation with trunk decorating and handing out candy once again! This year, we'll remain outside, so we're hoping to have plenty of trunks to make this an enjoyable afternoon out. Candy donations are also appreciated to replenish supplies. Candy with nuts can be given since the parents of children with allergies can supervise, however it is requested that candy donations are kept nut-free. A sign up sheet can be found on the bulletin board if you're able to host a trunk.

Our Child Care Center also welcomes you to join them for their Halloween Parade on October 30th at 3:30 PM where kids dress up and parade around the parking lot or hallways, gathering treats. Anything nut-free is great—fruit snacks, animal crackers, pretzels, temporary tattoos, Smarties, etc. Thanks for helping make this fun holiday safe and enjoyable for the kids and families in both our St. Tim's and greater Grand Island community!

DRIVE-THRU
CHIAVETTA'S BBQ & BAKE SALE

$16 / $17

October 12th from 3:30-6:30 PM at St. Timothy Lutheran Church

1453 Staley Road, GI

Get your pre-game meal from St. Timothy!

Each meal includes a half chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, and roll with butter.

For $16 presale tickets, scan the QR code, call 716-773-4400, or go to www.sttimothygrandisland.com.
Tickets will be $17 at the door.

Thank you for your support!

Red for Reformation

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated on October 25th - we invite you to wear red!

All Saints Day



All Saints' Sunday is coming up on November 1st. Please let us know the names of loved ones who have died between November 1, 2025 and November 1, 2026, their date of death, and who they are remembered by no later than Wednesday, October 28th. You can turn in the upcoming bulletin insert form, call the office, or send an email to communications@sttimothygrandisland.com.

Driver Safety Course

Wayne West will hold a driver safety course at St. Timothy to get 10% off your car insurance on Saturday, November 7th from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The cost is $25 and includes a light lunch. A flier will be coming soon, but in the meantime, you can contact Terri Glassman at (716) 694-7342 for more information and for registration interest.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service & Dessert Smorgasbord

St. Timothy will host the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service & Dessert Smorgasbord again this year in partnership with the Grand Island Community Chorus on Sunday, November 22nd at 7 PM.

Missions

Grand Island Neighbors Foundation and Harvest House Thank You

St. Timothy collected generously for the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation and Harvest House once again this year, from a barrel and two large boxes of shelf-stable food items to a coat room of baby supplies. Both organizations were thrilled to continue their mission with our support and extended their heartfelt thanks.

Thank you to those who donated to St Timothy's 3rd annual Harvest House Baby Shower, especially Dorine for all the driving around and picking up items. Here's a brief summary of the items Joe Somma picked up: 1 changing table, 3 cribs, 2 crib mattresses, 5 pack & plays, 6 baby bath tubs, 4 high chairs, 2 bassinets, 4 strollers, 6 changing table pads, 4 walkers and play seats, 6 potty chairs and diaper pails, 1 rocking chair, 5 boppy pillows, more toys, books, stuffed animals, clothes, blankets, sheets, and bottles than we could count, and several boxes of wipes, diapers, and other miscellaneous items. Thank you, everyone! St. Timothy's is one of the largest contributors and it is greatly appreciated.

Karen Sturniolo

"Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Psalm 46:10-11



Last Month's Memories



On September 13th, were glad to welcome Calen Michael Jablonski in baptism! We celebrated Calen's new life in Christ with parents Chad and Kimberly Jablonski and godparents Ryan Moss and Ashley Jablonski.





Christa Glassman generously donated an extensive refresh of the courtyard, which Wayside Nursery did a wonderful job of. We now have two new hydrangea trees in memory of June and Al Glassman, which begin the year a bright white and transition to pink in the fall (limelight panicle hydrangeas). Thank you also to everyone who has continued watering the trees to help them establish successfully.









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: Ron Sweeney; Shirley Yaeger; Nina Trietley; Sarah Domster; Pr. Dan Hoffman; Tatum Michael Hill & family; Chris Toponak; Phyllis Hall; Jack Webb; Terry Gamble; Matt Sztaba; Jim Moll and family; Haley; Ruby; Tommy Harrison; Bradley Mangine; Dale Marrs; Fred Ertel; Louise Pratt; Rob Fraser; Sister Terri; Erik LaVassuer; Kalene Best; Marge Skinner; Charris Kiener; Paul Schwandt; Terri; Michael Briggs; Rob Cornelius; Mike Seguin; 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; Josh; Myles; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Brenda; Marlene; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Caroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengalio 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 Tina Cutini's birthday on October 9th, Kim Yaeger's birthday on October 12th, and Nancy and Art Morth's anniversary on October 15th.

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.

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship, 9:30 AM	5	6 Bible study, 1:30 PM	7	8	9	10
11 Worship, 9:30 AM	12 Chiavetta's BBQ! 3:30-6:30 PM	13 Bible study, 1:30 PM	14	15	16 	17
18 Worship, 9:30 AM	19	20 Bible study, 1:30 PM	21	22 Council meeting, 5:30 PM	23	24 Trunk-or-Treat! 12-2 PM
25 Worship, 9:30 AM	26 	27 Bible study, 1:30 PM	28	29	30	31

