

THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our Pastor: The Rev. Richard Neal

Our website: www.sttimothygrandisland.com

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

Our phone number: 716-773-4400

Our fax number: 716-773-4413

Our Why:

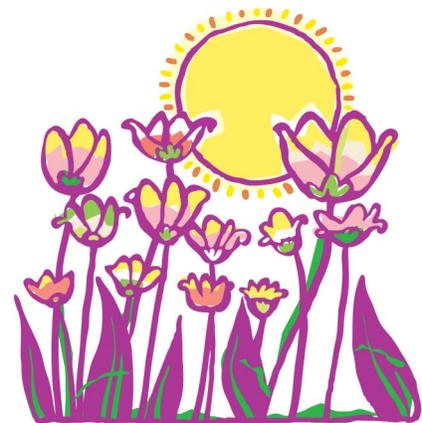
*To serve God by inspiring
faith and passion through
connections, so that we can
nurture and fulfill our
community and the world.*



April, 2022

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Message from the Pastor

For the first time in ages, I recently heard Elvis Presley sing Jerry Butler's song, "Only the Strong Survive." In the song, someone recalls his first love affair and how suddenly "Somehow or another the whole darn thing went wrong," and he found himself all alone, crying his eyes out. His mother's advice was, "Only the strong survive, / Only the strong survive / Yeah, you gotta be strong / You better hold on."

The sentiment has been repeated in many ways. Anne Frank wrote, "The weak die out and the strong will survive, and will live on forever." Bangambiki Habyarimana, a Rwandan writer and community worker, wrote, "The universe runs on the principle that one who can exert the most evil on other creatures runs the show." And American writer Ursula K. Le Guin, harkening back to Charles Darwin and his description of the evolution of species, wrote, "The law of evolution is that the strongest survives!"

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the idea that the strongest would survive began to be applied to economic and social systems. Adherents believed individuals, groups, peoples, and large-scale economic systems are subject to the same laws of natural selection as plants and animals; the weak, their cultures, and their economic systems would diminish while the strong grew more powerful and culturally influential over the weak, resulting in the survival of the best competitors and in continuing improvement within the population.

But it's not the strongest who survive, Darwin maintained, nor is it the most intelligent. *The one who survives over time is the one who is most adaptable to change.* It's true with cities. Look at Buffalo, for example. Once one of the largest, wealthiest, most innovative cities in the nation, it began to weaken and fail, following the course of most other major industrial cities. Buffalo was a strong city, and it almost didn't survive. The beginning of its turnaround required a radical change in its character; it would continue to need plenty of office workers, but it would also need more residents, shoppers, visitors, tourists, students, and seniors.

The need for radical change is just as relevant in today's mainstream church. Most congregations maintain the form and function of the church of the 1950s and 1960s and have experienced marked decline in membership, mission, and vitality. But wonderful, graceful new ways of being church are being imagined and developed throughout the world, including some particularly well adapted to our culture in the United States. And while the pandemic has in many ways been a difficult burden, it has also sparked imaginative, innovative ways to be the gospel in our time and place.

The process of calling a new pastor, and the congregational self-assessment, the reappraisal of existing ministries, and the development of ones that goes with the process, make up one of the best opportunities the congregation can have to open itself to God's invitation, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it (Isa. 43:18-19a)?"

Blessings to you all,

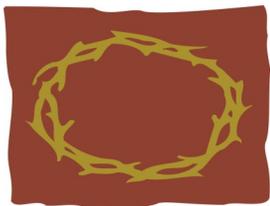
Pastor Rich

Transition pastor



Altar Guild Notes: April, 2022

Purple. Scarlet. Gold. White. All that and more this month! April begins still in the shadow of Lent. The sanctuary is still completely draped in purple. This first Sunday is the last Sunday of the Lenten penitential liturgical season.



Palm Sunday is next. It begins Holy Week in a flourish of scarlet red. This is not the deep rich red of Pentecost or Reformation. This red tells a different story. Our senses are heightened to hear the Passion narratives from scripture; Jesus' public acceptance with palms and celebration quickly falling to public betrayal and abandonment. A glimpse of what is to come.

The Triduum. The Three sacred days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. We are back in church on Thursday, The candles are lit, scarlet paraments still in place, the communion vessels and elements are ready. There is more; a basin and pitcher, towels for washing feet. We hear the words Jesus gives us that take Him and us to new life; "take this bread, this wine in remembrance of me." But then the service changes. A chanted Psalm begins as a few altar guild members and helpers strip the altar and chancel area of all decoration, vessels, linens. Even the Pastor's vestments are removed. We leave in silence without benediction to return tomorrow.



It's Friday. We are in church. We are unsettled and somber. The sanctuary has unfinished black drapes over the crosses. A crown of thorns encircles a set of candles on the altar table. The service that started yesterday continues. Each candle is extinguished after a scripture reading and meditation. Christ has died and the tomb slammed shut with a loud noise. We leave once more in silence without benediction.

It's Saturday night, Easter Vigil. We wait in anxious anticipation. It is the third day of the 3-day Triduum. We will not have the formal service in church this year that brings the benediction. Individual prayers at home and faith will suffice to carry us through this darkness.

It is Easter Sunday. Christ is Risen! Alleluia! It is the most important Christian celebration of the liturgical year. It is the only Sunday you see gold underneath the white paraments and a gold banner on the dossal cross. Flowers are in abundance. The music is joyous. The Christ candle is flaming. Hope is manifest in the risen Christ. We will share the sacred meal of communion again.



The last Sunday of the month. The gold is gone from the sanctuary, but the white paraments remain. The Easter season continues. The joy of answering the greeting of "Christ is risen!" with "He is risen indeed" continues, too!

Purple. Scarlet. Gold. White. Christ is Risen. Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah

Childcare Center News

The Month of March was an exciting and busy one. We have a few spots open in some of our classrooms, but we are filling them with so many interested families. In March, we also received the exciting news that we were selected to be a location for the Grand Island UPK. For those who do not know, Universal Pre-K (UPK) is a state and federally-funded program that is free to families within each district who turn 4 by December 1st of the current year. This is exciting for us because our families will benefit from the free hours, and we can offer before and after care, known as “wrap around care,” for those who need it.

Finally, I would like to share with you that we added a new position, the Christian Education Coordinator. As a Christ-centered Childcare center, we are moving toward providing more Christian education throughout the day. Ms. Amanda Sreniawski has been promoted to this position. Amanda has a strong Christian background including teaching Sunday School since she was in high school. Her experience also includes working at Camp Pioneer leading Bible studies and devotionals for children of all ages. In this role, Amanda will support the teachers and children by providing ideas and feedback for Christian education. Amanda will meet with the Pastor and me regularly to discuss and develop goals and communicate progress.

Thank you and enjoy the month of April,
Amanda Weir, Center Director

Join us for a visit from the **Easter Bunny and an egg hunt on Wednesday, April 13th at 10:00am.** This is a small event for St. Timothy Childcare and Church families. If you are interested in donating plastic eggs or items to fill the eggs with, we would appreciate it! Please RSVP to myself by calling the daycare at 716-773-9249 or by texting to 716-220-1850.



Don't forget to check us out on **Facebook!** Each month we spot light a child in each classroom that was “**caught being kind**” by sharing their picture on Facebook. Many times this means the child was kind to a friend or a teacher. It's important to recognize the children for the good they do to encourage good behavior. What better way to start than with kindness!



A Message From the President

Happy Spring! So happy to see the sun peaking out and the days getting longer! Hope this finds everyone looking forward to the fresh air, green grass, and beautiful flowers preparing to bloom.

Here at St. Timothy's, we continue to bloom as well. This past month, the council elected our officers for the year 2022. Cheryl Wasson will continue as vice president, Dorine Fabio graciously offered to be secretary, and I agreed to complete my last and final year of my second term as council president. A huge thank you to Cheryl Wasson, Dorine Fabio, Mark Steck, Paul Yaeger, and Shari Miller for their commitment to St. Timothy's church council. Please thank them for their time, insight, and leadership.

By now I hope you have received our mask survey either online or in person. We thank you for your input as it will help us make our decision on masks. Although we may never be able to please everyone with our decisions, we as a council want you to know that your voice matters. We will tally these surveys and let you know the results. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Have you seen our coat room? It's not just a coat room, it's our Easter room waiting for the Easter Bunny to come visit our childcare children and church families. Thank you to Karen Sturniolo who volunteered many hours to decorate the room AND buy a bunny costume to wear. She and Amanda Weir, our childcare director, are planning on a parade, visits with the Easter Bunny, and goodies for the children to take home. Thank you, Karen! Your excitement is contagious!!



I am also excited to announce that we have been working with our childcare director to bring Christian education daily to our childcare center. Therefore, Amanda has created a new position in our childcare program which will be added to our website. Please welcome Ms. Amanda Sreniawski as our Christian Education Coordinator. Ms. Amanda will support and guide our lead teachers in preparing and providing Christian lessons in the classrooms and will meet with the Pastor and Amanda regularly to develop goals and communicate progress. As always, thank you to Amanda Weir and Tracy Marrs for their hard work and unwavering dedication to our center.

This coming month we will continue our Lenten book study Wednesday evenings on Zoom with Pastor Rich. Don't worry if you don't have a book, come join us anyway and listen in. We would love to have you. Please see our calendar for Holy Week services, bring friends, and join us if you're able. As always, livestream is available for those unable to be with us in person.

In closing, please continue to pray for direction for our church. We could not do what we do without your patience, understanding, prayers, offerings, and donations of time, talents, and teamwork. Let's continue to work together as we aim to become the best version of St. Timothy's this island has ever seen.

In peace,

Karen Rose

Worship Information and Special Services

Sunday Worship Services

Services will continue to be held each Sunday at 9:30 AM until further notice, and a livestream option is 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.

Mid-Week Lenten Meditation Series

Our Wednesday evening worship and study sessions will continue on April 6th. At that time, we will determine if we will finish our discussions after Easter, or trust that the discussions we have had have been fruitful and we can finish the rest on our own. 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 (April 14th) and Good Friday (April 15th) services 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.



The Lord is Risen!

News and Upcoming Events



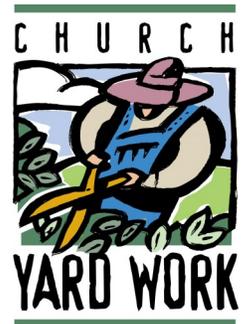
The Easter bunny is coming to visit our childcare kids at St. Timothy! The coat room has been transformed into a spring-themed wonderland thanks to Karen Sturniolo, and the kids just can't wait! Church families are welcome to join in our Easter parade, hunt for eggs, and visit with the Easter bunny on April 13th at 10 AM. If you plan to come, please RSVP to our Director Amanda by either calling 716-773-9249 or texting 716-220-1850.

If you'd like to donate plastic eggs or items to fill them with for our St. Tim's families, we'd appreciate it!

Are you interested in becoming a member of St. Timothy or know someone who does? Please let us know as we schedule a new member class and plan a welcoming during the service, most likely on May 1st.

Calling all gardeners! If you wouldn't mind stopping by once every few weeks to water our flowers, pull a few weeds, and trim bushes when needed throughout the spring and summer to keep our property welcoming, please let us know! We'll post a sign-up sheet for volunteers soon and will create a schedule with Sunday waterings and mid-week garden maintenance; let us know if you prefer one over the other or wouldn't mind either job. Thank you!

Please consider joining us for a Spring Clean-Up Day on the morning of May 14th, with a rain date of May 21st. From cleaning up the playground, picnic area, and sandbox, to planting flowers, pulling weeds, and trimming bushes, we have quite a few outdoor projects to take care of and would appreciate your help. Many hands make light work! More information will come as we get closer.



Thank you to everyone who directed their Amazon Smile donations to us; they have amounted to \$48.25 this quarter. We are so grateful for 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), please contact the office. 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

We are so grateful for the support you have given to young Grand Island Neighbor's Foundation families with diaper need. They are so appreciative of your donations of these essentials so they can give their children the best chance at health and wellbeing.

Thank you also for your generous support for the people of Ukraine in their time of need. Donations will continue to be accepted through April 10th.



Missions Spotlight

Red Hot Chili Peppers

Yaatulo and Mariata grow bananas on a half-acre in Indonesia. With only one harvest per year, their income is very limited, and cannot support their family. Then Yaatulo heard about a community program supported by ELCA World Hunger that allowed him to borrow enough money to buy chili seeds. Over the next two months, Yaatulo and Mariata cleared the land and planted 1000 chili bushes.

Chilis are harvested multiple times a year, and grow quickly, giving farmers more opportunity to sell at the market. Yaatulo and Mariata have doubled their income! He is paying back the loan, and looking forward to being able to afford good education for the two children. He is an inspiration for others in the community, and has offered his experience to those looking to start their own farms.

The ELCA accompanies our neighbors like Yaatulo and Mariata around the world as they work to end hunger and poverty. Thanks to gifts to ELCA World Hunger, farmers have improved access to the tools, training, livestock, seeds, and more that will help their families increase farm production and have more to eat and to sell on the market. Your congregation's mission support helps finance these goals. Thank you!

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 Rich. Please also include an address where we can send cards.



We hold the following people in our prayers: Cadence; Ted Korkuc; Chantelle and Erica Aceti; Barbara Dow; Dan, Lucy, and child; 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 Bengelio 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 Thomas Steck's birthday on April 2nd and Paul and Donna Yaeger's anniversary on April 4th. 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!

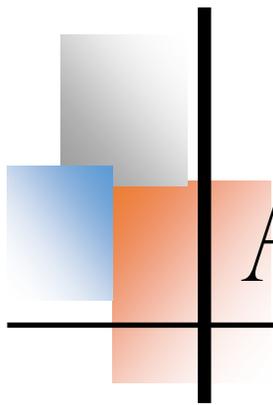


Pastoral Care

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.



APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship, 9:30 AM	4	5	6 Worship and Study, 7 PM Zoom	7	8	9 
10 Worship, 9:30 AM Palm Sunday	11 Finance Meeting, 6:30 PM	12	13 Easter Bunny Visit! 10 AM	14 Maundy Thursday, 7 PM	15 Good Friday, 7 PM	16
17 Worship, 9:30 AM Easter Sunday!	18 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	19	20	21	22  Earth Day: GO GREEN	23
24 Worship, 9:30 AM	25 	26	27	28	29	30