

THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our website: www.sttimothygrandisland.com

Our emails: communications@sttimothygrandisland.com

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Our phone number: 716-773-4400

Our fax number: 716-773-4413

Our Child Care Center: 716-773-9249

Our Why:

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



February, 2022

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

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Message from the Pastor

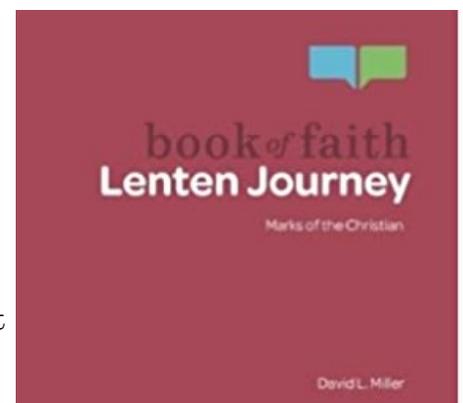
The effort spent searching for a new pastor, and the disciplined self-examination that is part of that process, is an undertaking at once sober and joyful, challenging and exciting. It's a time in which a congregation reclaims, reaffirms, and reasserts its voice as part of the body of Christ in the world. "The first key to finding our Lutheran voice," David Daubert, director for renewal of congregations for the ELCA's Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, writes in his book *Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation*, "is the practice of reading scripture [which] shapes our faith and helps our eyes to see and our ears to hear what God continues to say and do in our world today."

Learning to see and hear what God is up to in our world, particularly through all of us in this time of transition at St. Timothy, will be our focus as a congregation during Lent, the season of growth and renewal which begins this year on March 2, Ash Wednesday, and culminates with Easter Sunday, April 17. To give shape to our focus, I invite all of you to join me in reading *Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Marks of the Christian*, by David L. Miller. The publisher, Augsburg/Fortress, describes the book this way: "You are invited to a 40-day journey exploring Romans 12. In this chapter, the apostle Paul calls us to new life in Christ and identifies marks of the Christian life. The deep reflections and insightful questions in this book will help you explore how your life is 'marked' by Christ and consider how you live the marked life for the sake of the world. You can take this journey on your own or with others. Consider getting together with a family member, friend, or small group to discuss the questions."

Martin Luther, in his preface to Romans, described the letter as "truly the most important piece in the New Testament." And *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* refers to Romans as "the most commanding exposition of the gospel of salvation by grace through faith ever written. Throughout two millennia of history, Romans has repeatedly proved to be a catalyst for reform and renewal of Christian faith and life."

Throughout Lent, we'll use *Marks of the Christian* as the basis for our personal devotional reading, our midweek Lenten worship and study gatherings (on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6), and our Sunday morning services of Word and Table.

Paul begins chapter 12 this way, according to Eugene Peterson's paraphrase *The Message*: "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."



I hope you'll join us on this Lenten journey of renewal and growth as God works to bring out the best in us. Order your copy by calling or emailing the church office. Cost is \$11 per copy, or \$9 if we have enough orders for 20 or more copies. We will also be putting in an order for used copies at \$5.50 each if anyone would prefer that option. I look forward to growing with you.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Rich

Interim Pastor

Altar Guild Notes: February, 2022

Enter February. The lush green valley of Time after Epiphany greets you in church. The familiar green paraments remain for the first three Sundays. We are using our vintage (old) set of green frontals. Notice the Christ image on main frontal. Christ is holding a staff as a shepherd guarding His sheep. Look further. His arms are stretched out against the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for our saving redemption.



The left side lectern frontal illustrates the open hand of God reaching from the heavens, revealing, creating. The pulpit frontal on the right shows Gods hand raised in benediction, the cross of Christ, the flames of the Holy Spirit overlapping the world.

We continue to hear ways God's glory is revealed through Jesus in scripture during this short liturgical season.



The last Sunday in February is the last Sunday in Time after Epiphany. Everything is changed. It is the festival of Transfiguration of Our Lord. The sanctuary is dressed in white. The Christ image is much larger on the altar frontal. Rays of light stream around His head. Jesus is transfigured! He is so transformed that He reflects God's glory to witnesses with Him and to the world!

Images made with needle and thread on fabric, inspired by scripture, crafted with prayer. May they serve as a focal point and a meditation while you are in church and beyond it's doors.

May we leave worship so transformed that Christ is revealed to others through us. Amen.

Your sister in Christ,

Deborah

A Note From the President

Welcome, February! Brrrr. Hope this finds everyone staying warm indoors if you can and enjoying the snow outside if you want. For me personally.....bring on the spring weather.

Last month we had a group of youth and adults brave the sub-zero weather to give clothes, food, and toiletries to the shelterless with Kenmore Alliance Church. It was bitter cold outside, but nothing warmed our hearts more than seeing smiles on the faces of the men and women we served. We would like these volunteer opportunities to include church members, youth, and their parents, so please consider joining us next time. The more we volunteer together, the closer we become, and the stronger St. Timothy's love for God is shown to others.



Looking forward to this month, we have our Congregational meeting immediately following our 9:30am church service this Sunday, February 6, 2022. We will review our audit and reports from Pastor Rich, finance team, property, childcare center, and church council. Please join us in person or online if you're able. All voting must be done in person.



As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us not forget our childcare staff and children of our center. They are the future of St. Timothy's, so please consider showing them how much we love them during this extra special month.

On a bittersweet note, and on behalf of the church council, we would personally like to thank Tina Cutini for her six years as council secretary. Tina has fulfilled her council commitment and will be stepping down after the congregational meeting. Thank you, Tina! You've been such a blessing to our church in so many ways and we wish you all the best in whatever it is you choose to do. On a happy note, we would like to welcome Shari Miller to the church council. Shari has accepted our invitation and will be voted in at the meeting on Sunday. Thank you, Shari. We look forward to working with you soon.

In closing, thank you to everyone who helps in big and small ways. St. Timothy's is what it is because of all of you. Let us make 2022 our best year yet.

In peace,
Karen Rose



News and updates from the Child Care Center

Hello, Everyone!

The child care center enjoyed the first month of January by playing in the snow and watching it fall through the windows. If you haven't already, please 'like' our Facebook page so you can see what we are up to! We have increased our advertisements by sharing an ad on Facebook and would love to have you also share it on your personal Facebook page or groups you belong to.



We are excited to announce that we received a grant that will allow us to install cameras in the childcare center! This will be a great increase in safety and security for our building.

Keep an eye out for our March news where you will find out who won the Mike Andres award!

Have a Fabulous February!

Amanda Weir

Center Director

From the Congregation

Communion. The Eucharist. The body and blood of Christ.

We come to St. Timothy to worship God, to hear the Word, to sing hymns, to pray, and to be fed. A pandemic virus has changed so much in our lives, including Sunday church.

But we are resilient children of God! We learned how to “Zoom”!

We hurried back when the red doors reopened. Coats were kept on as windows were opened for fresh, clean air. We sat every other pew and passed the peace with a nod and a hand raised in peace. We listened and hummed to hymns instead of singing.

Perhaps communion has changed the most. Small sealed individual containers delivered to our homes. Still used when we returned to our church as we sat distanced from each other. Picked up from a newly fabricated tray instead of distributed by Pastor and Deacon.



What never changes is the content. It is the consecrated body and blood of Christ.
Given for you and for me and for all.

Take part where, when, however you can. Attend church, livestream on a device from another location, request a home visit if needed. Pray and sing and worship. Be filled, body and soul. Don't let the method keep Christ at a distance!

Peace be with you,

Deborah

Worship Information

Please join us at 9:30 AM for worship each Sunday! With current covid numbers we do ask for you to continue wearing your masks. 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.

Looking Toward Lent

Please consider joining us for Ash Wednesday on March 2nd at 7 PM in our sanctuary and on livestream. More details will follow as we get closer.



For each Wednesday evening through the rest of the season, March 9th through April 6th, we will also hold 7 PM services 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, or \$5.50 for a used copy. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services (April 14 and 15) will also be held at 7 PM in our sanctuary.

News and Upcoming Events

Please join us for our Congregational Meeting on February 6th after the 9:30 AM service. For those who prefer to attend online, we will have a separate livestream link on our website; you are welcome to listen, however all voting must be done in person. The meeting will cover our audit report, various updates, and the election of a new Council member. Thank you.

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

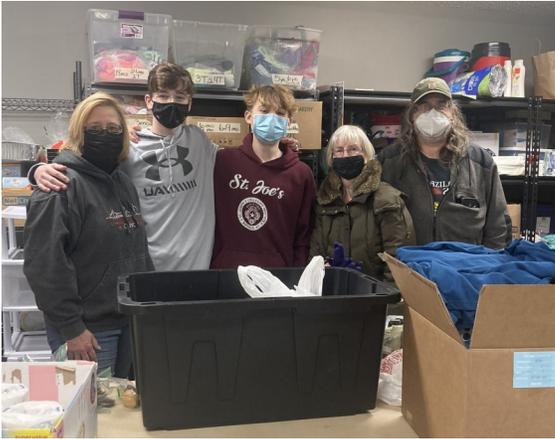
While St. Timothy's will not be holding the AARP driving class anytime soon, the Grand Island Senior Center will be on February 7th and 14th from 1-4 PM. Please contact them to register.

Join Lutheran Charities of WNY in their W-I-N-E-O virtual wine tasting and bingo event! It will be held on February 17th at 7:30 PM for a cost of \$60 per person, and includes four wines and a presentation by Addy's Fine Wine & Spirits. You can register by calling 716-632-2623 or online at wnylutherancharities.org.



Youth

Our youth and a few congregation members engaged in meaningful interactions with the shelterless this month. The freezing temperatures were made up for in the smiles of the recipients, and as always, both groups were touched by the encounter. Thank you to all who generously gave to keep our neighbors warm this season. We hope you will consider joining us on the third Saturday of future months as we support this important mission and serve our brothers and sisters together.



Missions



Please join us in gathering underwear and socks for Undie Sunday again this year! In partnership with the Rotary Club of Grand Island, the collected essentials will go to both the Niagara County Mission and Afghan refugees who now call Buffalo “home.” The drive will start February 20th and will run until the 27th. Thank you.

Missions Spotlight

Building Bridges

Meet Murad, a Muslim, and Marwan, a Christian, two classmates at a school run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Despite their religious and cultural differences, they are learning about respect and love. They and the other students have come to know things they couldn't have imagined about each other. They are surprised to find similar values and ethical matters in both the Quran and Bible. They are taught by both Christian priests and Muslim sheiks who highlight each religions' unique aspects and their similarities.

This program started a decade ago and is hoping to expand to allow for a wider staff of theologians and scholars, and to provide trips to religious holy sites. The benefits to the students are tremendous, and the knowledge gained spreads to the community as well. Through your gifts to the ELCA, you are walking alongside the ELCJHL as it preserves and strengthens the Christian presence in the Holy Land and offers a voice of compassion in a volatile environment. “By equipping the students with tools for tolerance, understanding and bridge-building, we seek to avoid ignorance that only furthers conflict.” *Thank you!*

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

Marcia Brown

ELCA Missions Interpreter



Fellowship

It has been nearly a year since our livestream folks have been able to have fellowship with those who worship in-person. We would love to have everyone come together for a Zoom fellowship hour on Wednesday, February 23rd at 7 PM! You can find the link to join on the fellowship page of our website or by calling 1-929-205-6099 and using Meeting ID 811 2112 2251 and passcode 568772. We hope to see you there!

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 email us at sttimothygrandisland@gmail.com, call us at 773-4400, or fill out the prayer chain request sheet in the Narthex at the table next to the Sanctuary entrance. Please also include an address where we can send cards to those in our prayers.

Here are the people in need of our prayers at this time: 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 Herb and Esther's anniversary on February 4th and Mark N. Steck's birthday on February 22nd.

Please let us know if you'd like to add your birthday or 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.

February 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship, 9:30 AM Congregation Meeting, 10:30 AM	7	8	9 Finance Meeting, 5:30 PM	10	11	12
13 Worship, 9:30 AM	14  Valentine's Day	15	16 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	17	18	19
20 Worship, 9:30 AM	21	22	23 Zoom Fellowship, 7 PM	24 Worship and Music Meeting, 6:30 PM	25	26
27 Worship, 9:30 AM Transfigura- tion Sunday	28				 <p>The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.</p> <p><small>Psalm 19:9, NIV</small></p>	