

THE TIMOTHIAN

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

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Meeting Needs with
**God's
Gifts** 



September 2026

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

This past month, as a community we celebrated 35 years of St. Timothy Lutheran Child Care Center! How wonderful to celebrate 35 years of ministry to the Grand Island community by creating a place where children are cared for, and are shown the love of God, unconditionally.

I am personally grateful to be able to serve in a capacity that allows for children to know they are loved every day.

As we enter into the Fall months, as the school year starts and local sports get started again, as we return from vacations and get back to our routines, I have a hope for St. Timothy. I hope and pray that in the middle of renewed routines and distractions that ask for our attention, that we keep focused on the reasons St. Timothy began the Child Care Center. Yes, as a local way to serve the parents of our community. And also because Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

We have a call to continue to welcome children, families, and all those who seek the Spirit. May our worship, our service, and our outlook for the coming year be one of radical, Spirit-filled welcome!

In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Adam



Altar Guild Notes, September 2026

As the Great philosopher, Kermit the frog, once said;

It's not easy being green.

Time after Pentecost. Still green. Nature still providing so many shades of green bouncing off our blue skies.

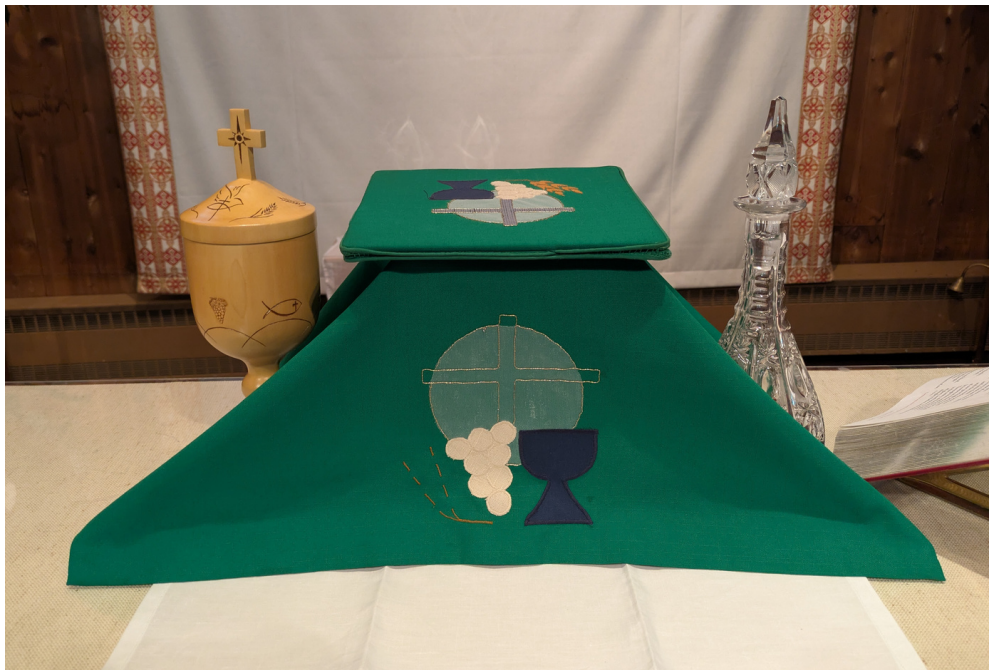
The church sanctuary also still providing rich green environment.

Human nature can make us complacent when our surroundings are unchanging and familiar.

Let's continue to embrace green!

Take a moment to notice the altar. The communion vessels and elements have been brought forward from the credence table. They are on the altar, veiled in green until needed. We can contemplate the appliqué symbols as we wait till it's time for communion. They tell a simple yet divine story.

Grapes made into wine for the chalice. A disc of bread. Look closer to see the outline of a cross over and within them both. The mystery of faith. Bread and wine, body and blood of Christ over, under, within.



We gather, sing, pray, confess & repent, hear the gospel & sermon, profess our faith. We are soaked in the green familiarity of the service. Ready to join together at the rail, a community of believers in communion with Christ.

Green still works.

Seasons, secular and liturgical, will be changing. But not yet.

Until then, stay green. Green means go. Go with God.

Keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,

Deborah

Messages from the Co-Presidents

It has happened again. Summer is leaving us, Fall is upon us! I know this because I started work again, just today, with the GI Central School District Superintendent's "welcome convocation." 270 teachers added together with all associated support staff, preparing to welcome 3000 students back to school on Thursday. As sure as there will be snow in Buffalo, leaves will fall and kiddos will again create the rhythm of another academic year. There is a predicability to this, and year in and year out, our kids regularly attend, build on what they have already studied, and forgotten only a bit of, learn more, fail, and then succeed. There is a certain regularity and faithfulness to this.

Do you remember the Sunday Pastor preached about Peter, the rock of Christ's church, "getting it right." In Scripture, Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say I am?" Pastor said Peter, who often made mistakes and did not get it all right, nailed it, telling Jesus, "You are the Christ," the promised Messiah. Pastor then asked us to think about what word would be used if someone was responding to this question about us... "who do you say I am?" Who would someone say I am, or you are? Clearly it is difficult to capture anyone in one word, except Jesus Christ as Messiah, because Messiah does kind of cover everything! That Sunday, it was easy for me to assign descriptors to all of you, sitting in the pews. One word kept popping into my head as I looked around that day... "faithful".

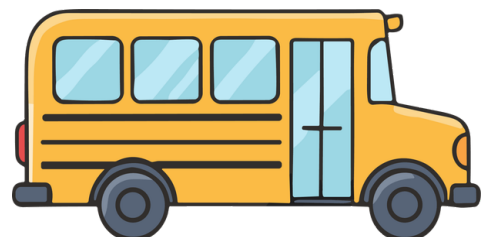
We have had a great summer of a little less busyness... fewer meetings, fewer big parties, and casual outdoor church. Yes, the CCC did host the big "35 year" party, and there was the combined service with area churches at the outdoor pavillon, but I think you get what I'm saying... the pace was a little slower. And yet, the work of our congregation continued, faithfully.

And now all begins, again, faithfully. Rally Day, with our Sunday School Teachers again, helping our children succeed in their journey of developing faith. Our CCC and Children's Church, again providing children with models of love, compassion and kind behavior, and helping them nurture the joy of singing!! Our collection of foodstuff for the Neighbor's Foundation, and necessities for Harvest House, again approaching gold medal status in our mission of caring for others. Our committees, Finance, Church Council, Altar Guild, Worship and Music, and Property, again meeting regularly. Our choir working together, again for that "one beautiful noise." Our Pastor, again providing Confirmation Classes and Bible Study. And the quiet voices of our Prayer Chain, again storming heaven with prayers for those hurting, and those in need. And again and always, our beloved Kim, organizing everything, keeping us all connected, and being the hub around which all of us function!

We continue to live in an uncertain world with it's "stuff". Divisiveness and disagreement are available in abundance. But, again and again, we will listen and learn, pray, and discuss events with civility. And AGAIN, we will gather together to worship as a beloved family, faithfully living out God's command... Love God, Love our neighbors.

Faithfully with Joy,
Shari

Another faithful season ahead ...





Hi

I hope everybody is enjoying this wonderful summer we've had as things are starting to wind down and others starting up. We also had some endings and some beginnings. Child Care ended their summer session and began preparing for the new school year. We celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Child Care Center with a picnic and saw some old faces from years ago. We had a bounce house and a petting zoo for the kids. The weather was great, the kids had fun, and the food was delicious. Thanks to everybody who helped make this possible with set up, take down, grilling, clean up, organizing, baking, etc.

Our last service of the fiscal year was outdoors at Veteran's Park in Tonawanda with three other Lutheran Churches: Augustana, Good Shepherd, and Trinity Old Lutheran. The weather wasn't perfect, but we still had the message of God that we shared with our Lutheran friends. Pastor blessed the kids going back to school and their backpacks. At the end of the service, we enjoyed another picnic. Thanks to everyone who helped make that a success and to Pastor for inviting us to join this year.

As summer is winding down, we will also be ending our Sunday morning outdoor service on the 6th of September. A fair number of us came to the morning service and enjoyed being outside and hearing the word of God in a natural setting. We also got to hear Tim play his accordion for our outdoor music. We will now be joined back together for a single service until next summer. While I enjoy attending the outdoor service, I like to see us all together so we can support each other and share each other's camaraderie the rest of the year.

As we head into fall, our courtyard will get a makeover so come spring we'll have a cleaner look. Thanks to Christa Glassman for making this possible.

The Erie County Fair has ended, and we donated a number of hand carved and painted Christmas ornaments to Make-A-Wish. Between the woodcarvers, wood turners, and the scroll saw clubs they raised over \$60,000 for Make-A-Wish, a new record.

A few dates to keep in mind. Outdoor service ends on Sept 6th, our fiscal year started on September 1st and we will have our congregational meeting on September 13th to approve the budget. On September 20th we will have Rally Day and the start of Sunday School.

Regards,
Paul



Child Care Center News for September 2026!

Hello Church Family!

The new school year is here, and we are so excited for another year of learning, growing, and making memories together! September is a month of new beginnings as we welcome new friends, meet new teachers, and settle into our classroom routines.

We appreciate everyone who has participated in the Back-to-School Supply Drive throughout September! Our teachers go through a lot of supplies throughout the year, and donations from our church families help make sure our classrooms have the materials they need to provide fun, engaging learning experiences for our children. If you would like to participate, please consider donating items such as construction paper, colored pencils, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, notebooks, folders, binders, disinfecting wipes, and gloves. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference

We are excited to host our annual Open House on September 10th at 6:30pm-7:30pm! Everyone will have the opportunity to visit the classrooms, meet our teachers, see the learning environments, and learn more about the year ahead.

We are also excited to kick off our Book Blast fundraiser on September 14th! Reading is such an important part of early childhood development, and we want to encourage a lifelong love of books and learning in our children. This fundraiser gives every child in our care a free book, and if families, friends, or the community donate to the fundraiser it can cover up to 10 books per child.

Thank you!

Athena Torain
Center Director

A look into the childcare
center this month:



Worship Information



Worship continues at 9:30 AM each Sunday. Our final 8 AM outdoor service for the year will be on September 6th. 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 will resume on September 20th.

News and Upcoming Events

Congregational Meeting & Potluck Brunch

Our congregational meeting to approve the budget will be held on Sunday, September 13th after the 9:30 AM service. We will also review and vote on adopting changes to the model constitution. Please plan on joining us and bringing a dish to pass as you're able for fellowship and a potluck brunch.

Rally Day

Rally Day will be held on September 20th! Join us during worship as we kick off the school year and install our Child Care and Sunday School teachers. Our Harvest House and GI Neighbors Foundation collections will also wrap up that day, and Joe Somma from Harvest House will once again come and speak.

Bible Study

Pastor Adam will hold Bible Study on Thursdays at 3 PM in the narthex starting September 24th.

Youth Fun Night & ELCA Youth Gathering Info Session

Youth grades 8-12 are invited to come to the Island Fun Center for a night of mini golf, go karts, and laser tag on Thursday, September 3rd from 6-8 PM! This is in conjunction with Messiah Lutheran Church in Lewiston. On September 27th after worship, Pastor Adam will hold an info session for the ELCA Youth Gathering that we encourage families to attend!

Chiavetta's BBQ Fundraiser

Our Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ fundraiser will be held on Monday, October 12th to help us set aside money for a new boiler. Tickets will be \$16 presale and \$17 at the door. Please help us spread the word!

St. Timothy History Record

We would like to compile a history record for St. Timothy, including especially what was made by whom or donated in memory of whom, and contributions are welcome. If you have something to add, please let Kim know, and we would also welcome your involvement in a committee.

Women of the ELCA Retreat

The Niagara Fronteir and Southwestern Conferences of WELCA are holding a joint event on Saturday, September 26th from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellicottville. The theme will be "Being Open to God's Presence in Our Lives." Registration is \$10 and includes lunch and materials, with a deadline of 9/15. Please see the office for a copy of the form to mail with the check if you plan to attend.

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 at 9:30 AM. Information to register will be shared as we get closer.

**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!

St. Timothy Sunday School Enrollment Form, 2026-2027

Please fill out one form per family and include children from birth to grade 12. Here at St. Timothy, we capture the imagination of kids of all ages by bringing the Bible to life! Come join us this year!

Full Name of Child(ren)	Age and Grade. Any medical concerns (such as allergies)?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Parent / Guardian Name:
Relationship to Child:
Phone Number:
Email Address:
Youth phone number and email address:

Select the class(es) that your child(ren) will be attending:

- ☐ Faith Beginnings: Infant to Toddler
- ☐ Faith Basics I: Age 3 to Grade 1
- ☐ Faith Basics II: Grade 2 to Grade 4
- ☐ Communion Track: Grade 5
- ☐ Faith Foundations: Grade 6 to Grade 8
- ☐ Faith Maturity: Grade 9 to Grade 12

Thank you! We're looking forward to an awesome year of Sunday School!

Missions

Thank you from the CCC!

Thank you for all your help with our Child Care Center's 35th anniversary celebration and school supply collection! All is appreciated.

Grand Island Neighbors Foundation

St. Timothy will continue our collection for the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation through Rally Day, September 20th. The items that are especially in demand are pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jelly (plastic jars), pasta, pasta sauce (plastic jars), boxed mac and cheese, canned meat, canned beans and stews, instant rice and potatoes, instant oatmeal, canned low sugar fruits, canned low sodium vegetables, and shelf stable milk, as well as personal care items like bar soap, dish soap, shampoo, hand soap, deodorant, toothpaste, and tooth brushes. Thank you for helping those in need in our community and supporting the work of this essential organization!



Harvest House Collection

Our collection for Harvest House has started! Harvest House serves families living at or below the federal poverty level on the East Side of Buffalo. They are most in need of diapers sizes 2-5, socks for children age 3+; clothing newborn to 5T; bottles and feeding supplies; baby hygiene products (wipes, creams, etc); safe, portable cribs, car seats, and strollers (new or gently used, manufactured within the last 5 years), and books and toys. Thank you for helping secure the health and welfare of children and their families through these essential items! This will also run through Rally Day, Sunday, 9/20.

Last Month's Memories



Volunteers spent a morning digging a drainage ditch from the septic system to the drop-off in the back woods to help our lawn dry out more effectively, laying pipe and stone. Thanks to all who were able to come and help and to Paul Glassman for directing the project!

Summer session at the Child Care Center has been a blast! From lots of summer play to visits from the Bookmobile and community helpers like the Grand Island Highway Department, Casella, and the Postal Service, to themed weeks like art week and cooking week, our kids have been busy with fun learning! The summer wrapped up with a wonderful celebration of our Child Care Center's 35th anniversary with a bounce house and petting zoo.





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: Pr. Dan Hoffman; Tatum Michael Hill & family; Chris Toponak; Rich and Charlotte Craig & family; the family of Richard Domster; the family of Victor McKibbin; the family of Don Hamman; Phyllis Hall; Jack Webb; Terry Gamble; Matt Sztaba; Sarah Domster; Jim Moll and family; Jerry Peete; 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 Carroll; 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 Merle Wilson's birthday on September 19th. If you'd like to share the celebration of your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office.



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.

September, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship, 8 & 9:30 AM	7 Happy Labor Day	8 Finance meeting, 6 PM	9	10	11	12
13 Worship, 9:30 AM Congregational meeting	14	15	16	17 Council, 5:30 PM	18	19
20 Worship, 9:30 AM Rally Day!	21	22	23 Bible study, 3 PM	24	25	26
27 Worship, 9:30 AM Youth Gathering Info Session, 10:30	28	29	30 Bible study, 3 PM			

