

# THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our Pastor: The Rev. Adam Arends

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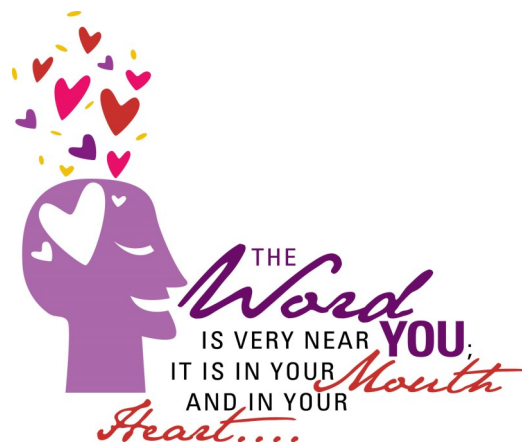
Our Child Care Center:  
716-773-9249



## March, 2025

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

- ◇ From the Pastor's Desk
- ◇ Altar Guild Notes
- ◇ Messages from the Co-Presidents
- ◇ Child Care Center News
- ◇ Worship Information
- ◇ Lenten Schedule
- ◇ News and Upcoming Events
- ◇ Missions
- ◇ Prayer Chain & Pastoral Care
- ◇ Calendar



DEUTERONOMY 30:14, NIV

## From the Pastor's Desk

Oh when the Saints!

As Mardi Gras kicks off this month as the big celebration before the fasts during Lent, it's got me thinking of that wonderful Spiritual, "Oh, when the Saints go Marching In!" I love the music and food of New Orleans and would love to go there for Mardi Gras someday! The celebratory feel and joyous atmosphere in many neighborhoods of the city (the ones that don't devolve into excess) give us a glimpse of the Saints marching into heaven.

As Lutherans we have an interesting relationship with the Saints. We sometimes talk about saints as if that's a "Catholic thing." Yet in our hymnals and in our liturgical calendars, the names of many saints can be found there to be remembered. What's going on there?

Well to start, Luther wrote this as part of the Augsburg Confessions: that the invocation of saints is "neither commanded nor counseled, nor has it any warrant in Scripture." So basically he is saying that it is not required. And most Lutherans today would say that the practice of invoking the Saints to pray on our behalf to God isn't really necessary because we have a God who hears us directly through the Spirit.

The other difference is that in our Lutheran tradition we do not usually canonize anyone as a "Saint" set apart from the rest of humanity. What we do is recognize, as Luther did, that all Christians are simultaneously saints and sinners. In Christ and through the cross we have been set free from sin (we're Saints!), yet as humans we continue to fall short of what God hopes for us (we're sinners). So congrats on your sainthood! In this way, when we honor saints we are remembering people who are models of living their faith in a world full of injustice. We remember saints whose words and actions remind us to trust in God and work for God's justice.



This month during Bible Study on Thursdays at 1pm we'll be taking a look at some of the saints who are honored on our ELCA liturgical calendars. I hope you can join us as we learn more about them, but if you can't, here are the names of those Christians we'll learn a bit more about as we take the spiritual journey through Lent: Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, St. Patrick, Oscar Romero, John Donne, Albrecht Durer, Matthias Grunewald, Lucas Cranach, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Look them up on your own if you can't join us! These coming forty days we'll look to models of the faith as we walk from remembering our mortality on Ash Wednesday to remembering the promise of eternal life in Christ on Easter morning.

In God's amazing grace,

*Pastor Adam*

# Altar Guild Notes: March, 2025

It's not Spring yet. But wait.....It's Lent!!

We are still firmly in the grip of the climate season of Winter.

However, our liturgical season makes a dramatic change on March 5th.

Lent begins. It is Ash Wednesday. Church calls us to worship.

We enter to find the sanctuary draped in penitential purple.

Bare branches stand in the brass vases. But the shiny brass is swathed in purple. The standing brass and wood crosses are covered in purple as well. Even the dorsal curtain cross has a drape of purple.

Our focus has changed from the winter season of snow shoveling to liturgical season of Lent when we enter for worship service.

These sanctuary changes help us shift our thoughts to reflection and repentance.

This stays with us when as we return into the wintertime world.

We'll walk with Jesus on His wilderness journey for the 40 days of Lent.

The "alleluias" are gone from our banners and worship songs.

The purple paraments reveal what awaits Jesus at the journey's end.

Our hope lies in the gold cross on the center panel.

See the halo. A hint of Easter?

A cruel cross built for human destruction is made holy by its divine use for our redemption.

Look closer at those bare branches. They are not bare after all.

There are buds that promise new life to come.

Keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,

Deborah



## Messages From the Co-Presidents

Everyday is cold, windy, snowy...too little sun. Eggs are still \$5-6 a dozen. There have been several plane crashes. Reports from Washington are confusing and, frankly, scary. Some in positions of power in our government have asked us to believe, that Ukraine started the war with Russia...and Mexico and Canada are not really worth much, and are certainly not our friends. We are asked to think forcing 2 million Palestinians out of their homes in Gaza and settling them somewhere else is a good idea! I, like many, sometimes feel we are collectively "out of sorts". How do we find our footing again? I am one, only one, and the problems to solve seem overwhelming. What is mine to do? What is the most important thing in front of me?

Our St. Timothy family does not have the answer for everyone, but I believe we know where to start. We "lean into" our faith. Thankfully, Pastor Adam has been preparing us to do just that with compelling preaching, speaking clearly about the Prophets, "speaking the truth to power, and the responsibility we have to extend the Grace we receive from God to ALL others. Timely Bible and book study have added clarity as to what is ours to do, and all of us bring to this a story of our personal faith. Collectively we continue to try to make a difference. I know I begin with prayer: Contemplative Prayer, praise, and supplication inviting God into all the hopeful parts of my heart, mind and Spirit.

You may have heard of the The Butterfly Phenomenon, the theory that tiny actions can have non-linear impacts on a global scale....the flap of a butterfly's wings can perchance, change an air current, which can change air flow enough to cause a typhoon in another part of the world. Or the Starfish Story about a little boy who sees hundreds of starfish marooned on a beach and begins to throw them back into the ocean one at a time. When admonished by an adult telling him he will not make a difference because he cannot save all of them, the boy throws one starfish into the water, saying, "I made a difference for that one."

Our St Tim's family will make a difference, when I have the pleasure of delivering baby quilts to Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery, for the tiniest and most vulnerable of God's new creations. We all know these have been made by our faithful friends here at St. Tim's. Perhaps a parent wraps his/her child in warmth with all the prayers of this congregation, and finds hope after the difficult time in the ICN. Perhaps someone feels a sense of community at the upcoming Chili Cook-off, and a piece of a lonely heart softens. Is this our version of The Butterfly Phenomenon?

Most assuredly, our Lenten Journey will offer us support and direction. We will eat together, worship together, hear God's Word, and pray together. We will not forget all God has done for God's creation. We will, again, walk with God's Son on the journey as Jesus Christ did the ONE thing that has changed all of the world forever, for everyone. We will remember Who we are and Whose we are. Inspiration is all around us.....

Be good. Do good. God Bless. Go Bills. I choose hope and joy. Love and hugs.

*Shari Miller*

Hi.

This month we saw a lot of cold weather and some frequent snows. I hope everyone stayed safe. We ended up making the decision to do one of the Sundays via online only for everyone's safety. Unfortunately we did have some technical issues and confusion but we ended up creating a new streaming session that people were able to watch after the fact. You can find this on our YouTube channel or in your email if you missed it. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

We are excited about the Second Annual Chili Cook-off on March 8th. I hope there are some award-winning chilis in the works and some tasters ready to vote on their favorites.

We are participating in the Lenton Luncheons through our ecumenical partnership again this year, and St. Timothy's date to 'host' the luncheon at Trinity is March 26th. We will be looking for volunteers soon. We will also be having fellowship around a meal of soup and bread on March 18th before one of our mid-week services. Other offerings for the month are below. I hope you can join us for some or all of these events.

Regards,

*Paul Yaeger*



### **Clarification on Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs**

At the January congregational meeting, Paul mentioned that there's a way to get a tax break on your IRA's required minimum distributions through giving directly from your IRA to the church. Below are additional details.

For those who have to take a required minimum distribution, giving directly from your IRA to the church or other charitable organization through a Qualified Charitable Distribution can reduce your income tax at the end of the year. This number is then reported on line 4a of Form 1040. When the receipt of annual giving is received from St. Timothy, this is backup for your Qualified Charitable Distribution. It cannot be reported again in Schedule A as a deductible charitable contribution.

For more information, please visit <https://www.schwab.com/learn/story/reducing-rmds-with-qcds> and <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/qualified-charitable-distributions-allow-eligible-ira-owners-up-to-100000-in-tax-free-gifts-to-charity>.

Thank you for your continued financial support!

# Child Care Center News for March 2025!

Hello, Church Family!

As we reflect on February, we had an amazing month filled with creativity, kindness, and learning. The children explored the theme of love and kindness discussing what they love, ways to show love and kindness, and showing empathy and appreciation for the people in their lives. We want to say thank you for showing love and kindness for our center, the children, and their families, especially the ones going through difficult times.

This month we are looking forward to celebrating the start of Spring! We look forward to the fun learning activities following the theme of growth, renewal, and exploration. We will attempt to start a garden this spring and have the children participate in all aspects of the process. We will also be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with Dr. Seuss' Read Across America the week of March 3rd to 7th. We will be fostering a love for reading through fun and engaging stories and activities.

We are always in need of paper towels, plastic bags, and cleaning supplies. If you'd like to donate, please drop them off at the center or contact us for more information. Please keep our children, families, and staff in your prayers.

Thank you!  
*Athena Torain*  
*Center Director*

A look into the  
Child Care Center  
last month:



# Worship Information

Worship continues at 9:30 AM each Sunday. All are welcome! You can also watch us on our livestream at [www.sttimothygrandisland.com](http://www.sttimothygrandisland.com). Sunday School for ages 3 through 4th grade is held during the service, and care for younger children can be arranged ahead of time by contacting the office. We hope you can join us!



For those who are homebound or don't drive during the winter, we would be happy to give communion at home. Please contact Pastor Adam or the office to make arrangements.

## Lenten Schedule

### **Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Ash Wednesday—St. Timothy, 7 PM

### **Thursdays at 1 PM starting March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Lenten Bible Study—St. Timothy

### **Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

Holden Evening Prayer—St. Timothy, 7 PM

### **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Soup & Bread Fellowship—St. Timothy, 6 PM

Holden Evening Prayer—St. Timothy, 7 PM

### **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Lenten Luncheon—Trinity, 11:30 AM, \$10 per person

*Hosted by Trinity*

### **Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Holden Evening Prayer—St. Timothy, 7 PM

### **Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Lenten Luncheon—Trinity, 11:30 AM, \$10 per person

*Hosted by St. Timothy*

### **Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Holden Evening Prayer—St. Timothy, 7 PM

### **Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Lenten Luncheon—Trinity, 11:30 AM, \$10 per person

*Hosted by St. Martin-in-the-Fields*

### **Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Final Lenten Bible Study—St. Timothy, 1 PM

Holden Evening Prayer—St. Timothy, 7 PM

### **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Palm / Passion Sunday—St. Timothy, 9:30 AM

### **Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Maundy Thursday—St. Timothy, 7 PM

### **Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

Good Friday Ecumenical Service—St. Martin's, 12 PM

Good Friday—St. Timothy, 7 PM

## **News and Upcoming Events**

### **Second Annual Chili Cook-off!**

St. Timothy is excited to host our Community-Wide Chili Cook-off on March 8th from 4-6 PM! Tickets will be \$7 at the door. Those who won't taste chili can turn their ticket in for a hot dog meal instead. Please continue to share around the community! The more people, the merrier.

Volunteers are appreciated to help out during the event, arriving at 3:30 PM, and we welcome baked goods to sell as well. Bakers, please package goodies in portions of \$1 each. Preheated chilis can be delivered in a crockpot between 2:30 and 3 PM. Please take a seat in the narthex or parlor if you'd prefer not to head home in between so we can keep chili numbers confidential.

A collection for the GI Neighbors Foundation will accompany the chili cook-off again this year to help in their toughest season and to give the community a way to support their essential work.

Thank you for joining us in connecting with our community!

### **Lenten Bible Study and Holden Evening Prayer**

Pastor Adam will lead us in a Lenten Study on Thursdays at 1 PM in the parlor. He will also offer Holden Evening Prayer services at 7 PM weekly, which will vary between Tuesdays and Thursdays. These will be held on March 13, March 18, March 25, April 1, and April 10.

### **Soup Fellowship**

Before the Holden Evening Prayer service on Tuesday, March 18th, we invite you to join us at 6 PM around a meal of soup and bread.

### **Lenten Luncheons**

St. Timothy will be serving the food for the Lenten Luncheon at Trinity on Wednesday, March 25th at 11:30 AM. As we get closer, a plan and details for volunteers will be shared. Other luncheons served by Trinity and St. Martins will be held on March 19th and April 2nd.



## Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those of you who have Thrivent Choice Dollars, please designate them before the end of the month. Thank you for this additional support—it is appreciated!

## Easter Flower Orders



Easter bulbs have sprouted at Rudolf Galley & Sons, the greenhouse we've been working with for the last few years whose spectacular blooms have made our Easter especially joyful! If you would like to help us decorate our sanctuary for the season again and grab a few flowers to enjoy in your homes and gardens, please fill out the upcoming bulletin insert or contact the office. Preliminary orders are due by March 16th and final orders by April 6th.

Each can be dedicated in memory or honor of someone, and in lieu of flowers, offerings for our Lenten collection to the Refugee Alliance of Buffalo can be dedicated instead.

Flowers are \$13 each this year. Choices are: Easter lilies, daffodils, hyacinths (pink, blue, or white), and tulips (pink, red, yellow, white, or purple). Thank you!

## Missions

### Lenten Missions Project

This Lent, we'll be collecting for The Refugee Partnership, "a collaborative project envisioned by the Buffalo agencies that resettle refugees and support refugees—Catholic Charities of Buffalo, International Institute of Buffalo, Jericho Road Community Health Center, Jewish Family Services of WNY, and Journey's End Refugee Services." Our government has vetted, approved, and promised resettlement aid for 90 days to 731 refugees in Buffalo, however with the stop-work order freezing the distribution of funds, these agencies cannot "provide basic needs like housing and food to refugee arrivals" and are lacking the funds for their agencies to run, which "ensure that refugees are enrolled in schools, placed in jobs, and have access to health care and other social support programs." Thank you for helping provide for the essential needs of those who are fleeing humanitarian crises abroad and are on their way to making America and Western New York their new home.



## 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](mailto: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: Stephen; Dan; Joanne Marino; Michelle Ramsey; Gretchen Boyd; Mike Cutini; Diane and Brian Lind; April Vines; Bill and Nancy; Aiden Haynes; Vanessa; Barbara Dow; Tina Cutini; Logan McKenzie; Karen Wiswall; Ronald Olson; Janet Upham; Deborah Piotrowski; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Myles; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Nancy Gorrell; Brenda; Margaret Miller; Marlene; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengaglio Richard; Joanne M.; Sylvia and 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](mailto:communications@sttimothygrandisland.com), 716-773-4400). Thank you.

## 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.




## 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](mailto: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.

# March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship, 9:30 AM	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday, 7 PM	6 Lent Study, 1 PM	7	8 Chili Cook-off! 4-6 PM
9 Worship, 9:30 AM Confirma- tion, 10:30	10	11	12	13 Lent Study, 1 PM Mid-week service, 7 PM	14	15
16 Worship, 9:30 AM	17	18 Soup, 6 PM Mid-week service, 7 PM	19 Lenten Luncheon, 11:30, Trinity Confirmation 7 PM	20 Lent Study, 1 PM Finance, 6 PM	21	22
23 Worship, 9:30 AM	24	25 Mid-week service, 7 PM	26 Lenten Luncheon, 11:30 at Trinity, St. Tim hosting	27 Lent Study, 1 PM Council, 5:30 PM	28	29
30 Worship, 9:30 AM	31					