

THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTTER 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.*



January, 2022

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

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From the Pastor's Study

As certain as every morning's sunrise, change continues. The solstice, prelude of another winter, portends more cold and snow for nature's deep sleep, which also draws our attention to the promise of spring and another season of greening and growth as nature swells toward the fullness of one more harvest. People sometimes ask what's my favorite season. I'd be hard pressed to do without any of them.



"To be interested in the changing seasons," George Santayana observed, "is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring." So much of life's richness lies in its continuing change – the changing seasons of nature and of life, of moods, of the quality of light, of the ebb and flow of health and energy, of growth in wisdom, of the broadening perspective that the variety of experiences beings.

People don't resist change, it's been said; people resist being changed. When change arises from within and when we participate in shaping change, even when change is precipitated by something beyond our control which we would never consciously choose, change is transformed from something that happens to us, and it becomes something we do, an opportunity to participate with God in the creation of something entirely new and life-giving.

That kind of change is what Christmas and our celebration of a new year is about. An apparently insignificant infant is born in an obscure part of the ancient world, and the genesis of a new creation explodes upon the scene to shake foundations and alter the course of history. We go to bed on New Year's Eve (or any evening) and wake up at the beginning of a brand new year (or any morning), and overnight the seed of a new life begins to germinate.

What is happening in you in this season of your life, dark and obscure though it may seem? What new God-thing shifts slowly, perhaps, but surely toward its new expression in your life? In the life of your family and friends? In the life of the St. Timothy congregation? Suddenly what has been growing will become visible. Stay watchful and ready to freely respond.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Rich Neal
Transition Pastor



Altar Guild Notes: January, 2021

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



Merry Christmas!! We enter January at the end of the short Christmas season. The light of the infant Christ has overcome the dark waiting of Advent. Light from light, True God from True God, quotes our Nicene creed.

Less than a week later that light grows brighter and goes farther!

January 6 we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord! Christ is revealed to the nations. Magi have followed a bright star (more light!). They recognize our true King and disperse to bring the light of Christ to all nations.

Now it's only the second Sunday in January and the season of Time after Epiphany begins with a Festival! The Baptism of our Lord is celebrated. We see the adult Jesus as He meets the prophet, John the Baptist, at the Jordan River.

Jesus is named and revealed again. This time we hear the voice of God; "You are my son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The sanctuary is dressed to turn our attention to baptism. White is still the color for this festival. The tall Christ candle is in position near the baptismal font. It is lit for the Sundays of this season and always lit for baptisms. The newly baptized is presented with a candle lit from that flame. There's that light imagery again! Life giving water is in the bowl and in a glass pitcher nearby. A shell-shaped vessel is used to wet the head. The white cloth in place, to clothe the baptized in Christ's righteousness (& dry the head!). A small container with oil-soaked cotton is ready for Pastor to mark the cross on the forehead. These vessels and elements used with the Word of God make baptism a holy sacrament. We are named child of God (just like Jesus...) and now bring the light of God wherever we go!



The last three Sundays continue the season of Time after Epiphany. The green paraments are in place. Green plants replace the festive flowers. The Christ candle remains in place by the font and will be lit each Sunday during this season.

May the light of the Christ candle kindle Christ's light in your heart for all the world to see and feel the flame. Amen

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah

A Note From the President

Have you thought about how blessed we are at St. Timothy's lately? This past year, we have had our ups and downs, challenges and triumphs, yet we still stand strong.....together. We have been blessed with two interim/transition pastors (Pastor Tom and now Pastor Rich), two accountants



(Karen Sturniolo and Debbie Bastian) and two Childcare Directors (Jenn Minet and now Amanda Weir). Many thanks to our church staff, church council, finance team, altar guild, call committee, and many others who volunteer endless hours behind the scenes to keep our church and childcare center running smoothly. Each one of us holds a special part on God's St. Timothy's team, so thank you for your part.

This past month it was great to see the middle and high school youth perform skits each week in Advent. I hope you enjoyed it as much as they love being together. They are already planning their next adventures.....soup kitchen, sleepover, and maybe midnight bowling! I wish I had their energy, but do my best to keep up with them!! On January 15th, the youth will be volunteering with Kenmore Alliance Church handing out winter clothes to the shelterless from 10am-2pm. Thank you for your donations. Please feel free to join us if you're able.

Thank you, too, for those who came, donated items, or volunteered their time for our childcare's "Breakfast with Santa" in December. Despite many parents/children quarantining due to covid, it was a big success. Through the help of Amanda, her staff, pastor Rich, and all of us, may we continue to bring Christ to our childcare children and their families. Only then will we fulfill our purpose that God has planned for us.

Looking forward into 2022, we will have our Congregational meeting on February 6th after the 9:30am service. We will be reviewing our audit report and will be looking for someone to fill a seat on the council. More details to follow.

In closing, as we enter into 2022, please keep up with your pledges. Give more if you are able. Reach out to those who we haven't seen in awhile and let them know they are missed. Thank those who come and help when and wherever they can. From me to all of you, thank you for allowing me to be part of your team.

Happy New Year!

In peace,



News and Updates from the Child Care Center

Hello, Everyone!

We've had a great month celebrating the Christmas season and hosting two fundraising opportunities, both of which were a great success. Thank you to all who donated, decorated, volunteered, and came to our Breakfast with Santa! We appreciate your support and all your help making it run smoothly.

Our Parent's Night Out also went very well, and our kids had a blast watching a movie, decorating cookies, and doing some crafts while their parents wrapped presents or had a date night. We look forward to doing more of these in the future!

Happy New Year!

Thank you,
Amanda Weir
Center Director



Call Committee Update

The Call Committee was prepared to recommend a pastoral candidate to the Council, however after weighing another offer, the candidate decided to take that call instead. Please pray for them as they begin this exciting opportunity abroad, and continue to hold St. Timothy and other potential candidates in your prayers as we wait for more names from the Synod. Thank you.

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.

News and Upcoming Events



We're excited to celebrate the baptism of Madeline Rae Black with parents John and Kate Black, grandmother Terry Endres, and sponsors Ashley Ackendorf and Robert Black this month. Please help us welcome her into our family!

For anyone that ordered poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas, please take them home to enjoy!

Our next Congregational Meeting will be held on February 6th after the 9:30 AM service. It will cover our audit report, and we'll be electing a new Council member as well. Please note that, while we will stream the meeting, voting must be done in person. Thank you.



Youth

Our youth have had a busy month! Their weekly skits culminated in an awesome Christmas pageant, they worked the Childcare Center's Breakfast with Santa, and they had some fun opportunities to hang out with each other. Thank you to Karen Rose and Terri Glassman for all they have done for and with our youth this year!



Missions

This month, our youth will be delivering the winter clothing we collected to the shelterless in Buffalo after their November trip was postponed. We've also been in contact with the Grand Island Neighbor's Foundation, who will be evaluating how long the Thanksgiving and Christmas donations they received will last and will let us know at what point they could use more support. We will keep you updated as we know more.

Missions Spotlight

...And the pandemic rolls on...

Just when we think we might be getting out of the woods, a new forest appears. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the livelihoods of people around the world. As businesses paused their work and travel halted, many people—especially those in low-wage jobs—lost their employment immediately. Undoubtedly, everyone reading this knows of someone who is unemployed because of the pandemic.

In India, Sukanti Majhi belongs to the “outcast” caste, so had very little social or economic opportunity to start with. She, her husband, and two children moved 650 miles away to find work as bonded laborers, basically slaves. They worked in a brick kiln for five years till the pandemic hit, then lost their jobs. They returned, penniless, to their village. They did receive government assistance, but it was not enough for a family of four. Then she connected with Lutheran World Service India Trust, a partner of ELCA World Hunger that was helping with migrants' needs. Sukanti received training and material assistance to start her own small grocery shop in her village, the first of its kind. Now, she has an income, and the community has access to goods that were previously unavailable.

“I pray to Almighty God to bless the LWSIT as they helped me for my survival and protected my family during the coronavirus crisis,” Sukanti said. Thanks to your gifts, programs like this one are responding to issues that uproot people from their homes and force them to migrate. Thank you!

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

Marcia Brown
ELCA Missions 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 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: Isla and Eleanor, Edna, Gloria, Ron's brother, Jeannette Tate, Brian Volo, Margaret Miller, Jack Skinner, Marianne Caroll, Linda Piechowiak, Danny Penque, Robin Bengalio 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 Shari Miller's birthday on January 15th and Joan Buchanan's birthday on January 16th.



Please also join us in congratulating Alyssa Yaeger in achieving her PhD!

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.

January 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 
2 Worship, 9:30 AM	3	4	5	6 	7	8
9 Worship, 9:30 AM Baptism of our Lord	10	11	12 Finance Meeting, 5:30 PM	13	14	15 Youth delivery Kenmore Alliance
16 Worship, 9:30 AM	17 	18	19 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	20	21	22
23 Worship, 9:30 AM	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship, 9:30 AM	31					

