THE TIMOTHIAN

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

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Meeting Needs with God's Gifts

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, ELCA
OF GRAND ISLAND, NY

November 2026

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

For those of us in mainline Protestant denominations who follow the cycle of religious seasons AND live in the United States, November brings us an interesting pair of days at the beginning and end of the month.

These pairings at first seem like they won't hold together very well, like eating apples with a slice of sharp cheddar. Yet once we take the time to consider them together, we find a fitting compliment to this month when the weather turns colder and we celebrate the harvest.

We begin the month with All Saints day, when we honor and remember those saints in our families and in our community that have died and entered into God's eternal care, especially in the past year. On this day we light a candle, we read the names, we pray for each of them. This can be an important and memorable day to mourn again, and at the same time, with hope and faith we celebrate that because of what God has done in Christ, this is not the end of the story. We take courage from the lives of the saints who have shared the good news of Christ with us, and yet we mourn as we realize the empty seat at the table this year.

At the end of the month, our nation celebrates Thanksgiving. These days the day of Thanksgiving is marked with eating too much food until we are stuffed more than the turkey was, lots of football on tv (Go Bills), and even "Black Friday deals" and shopping! We gather with family and friends and are happy in their company. For me, at least, it's a day to relax and be glad for an opportunity to be thankful for food and family. We have lost a bit of its original meaning early in our country's history, in that we don't usually think about celebrating the harvest of the fall that came in so that we could have a feast. Though we know the cold is coming, we celebrate and give thanks for all we have together.

All Saints, when we mourn, and Thanksgiving, when we indulge, seem like they don't go together. And yet, we know that even as we mourn an empty seat, we give thanks for the love, the wisdom, and the faith that the Saints have shared with us. We give thanks that for all of us who follow Jesus, we know that we live in the hope of new life.

This year, let's give thanks for all the Saints, for our God in Christ, and even in the midst of shorter days, for the light that is to come.

Happy Thanksgiving to all you saints!

Pastor Adam

We know that even as we mourn an empty seat, we give thanks for the love, the wisdom, and the faith that the Saints have shared with us.



Altar Guild Notes, November 2026



We're running out of time! Time after Pentecost, that is……
It is a month of beginnings and endings. Let's begin.

All Saints Sunday begins the month robed in white paraments and accents. Christ's outstretched arms greet us from the altar parament as we enter the sanctuary. In particular, we honor the saints that have gone before us. Our tradition includes reading names and remembering those that have reached those embracing arms of Jesus during the past year.



The next two Sundays the white paraments will remain in place. Green panels will be added on each side of the center altar parament. More harvest decorations are added as well. These accents remind us that we are still in the liturgical season of Time after Pentecost and the calendar season of Autumn!

More changes for the fourth Sunday. All evidence of green is gone.



A white and gold draped stand near the altar holds a crown of gold as well as a crown of thorns. This tells the story of our divine, once human Lord and King. We celebrate Christ the King Sunday!
This Sunday marks the end of our liturgical year.

However, we have the secular, Autumn holiday to recognize. Our doors will welcome the community to an evening Thanksgiving service. The crowns are removed, highlighting the harvest decorations. Grand Island Community Choir enriches the service. Then our famous dessert smorgasbord enriches the fellowship that follows!

Let's begin again! There is a fifth Sunday. Advent begins! Really!
The start of a new liturgical year, Year B of the lectionary schedule.



All will be familiar as you enter the sanctuary to find the blue paraments. The Advent wreath stands ready with four candles in the evergreen wreath to mark the weeks. One blue candle will be lit to begin.

And so November ends! A new season, a new liturgical year begins.

Keep Jesus in your heart.
Your sister in Christ,
Deborah

Messages from the Co-Presidents

The busyness of the life of our congregation and the Child Care Center continues. We all work to take care of our congregational and community life.

We had a successful Chiavetta's BBQ and bake sale. Our Chiavetta's guy told Kim we had more than the usual "off the street foot traffic" along with our pre-sale dinners… location, location!! We also had a brisk sale of bake goods. Alas, we did not sell out… so with that, we made "lemonade." We will use the left over chickens for soup, which we will assemble, cook, and make available for sale following worship on November 1st. Pretty perfect timing, as soup season is upon us! We realized a net profit of over $2,100, which is to be used for the church boiler. Obviously there were many ways to contribute to this effort. We had planners, workers before and after the event, and bakers! The baked goods portion alone earned an estimated $350, so everyone had a part. Thanks to all who were able to participate, the young and all the less young!

The last Bible Study I attended was smashing!! Based on the reading for Sunday, October 25th, it involved a deep dig into the language of Scripture, and with Pastor's guidance followed by spirited conversation, we all agreed. We are Saved by Jesus. Because we believe this, we are justified by faith, and sanctified because the Holy Spirit sends us out to share the love of Jesus. (Did I get that right, Phyllis?) I would strongly encourage any and all to join us! We have some real Bible scholars among us, but trust me, you don't have to be one. I should know, because I am not one, but feel so rewarded by what is made more clear for me!!

And as Halloween approaches, we had a wonderful Trunk or Treat! The weather was perfect, and I am told, there were 15 to 20 "decked out" trunks and 150 kiddos who were able to celebrate safely.

I will close with updated information about Bridge of Grace Community Outreach Center. We have been talking about this, but have been in the beginning, organizing phase for a bit. We now have an Operating Agreement between St. Timothy's, St. Martin in the Field, and Trinity Churches to work together to establish and operate a community outreach center to collect and distribute used clothing, some cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene products to persons in need, and to provide referrals for spiritual and support services as available. We have agreed on a trial period for one year, and it will be housed in the former Family Justice Center on Whitehaven Road. The Lay Board and the Pastoral Board are in place. We have a bit of cleaning to be done, then some heavy organizing of donated goods… yes, we are already collecting. As you change your closets over (if you do that), please save nice, clean usable clothing items for all ages, and any hygiene products (tooth brushes and toothpaste from the dentist), purchased cleaning products and the like. I'm happy to collect them and store them. (I guess our goal is to be like Karen and Dorine of Harvest House!!!). Pastor Adam, Pastor Kevin, and Father Nick have worked together to form this ecumenical bond which is good for all of God's people!

With that, I will close with love and hugs from Shari.

We are justified by faith, and sanctified because the Holy Spirit sends us out to share the love of Jesus.

Hi.

Fall has arrived and our grass cutting is over. Thanks to everyone who helped cut grass this year. This saves our organization a lot of money vs hiring a service.

The Chiavetta's BBQ was a success. We ordered the minimum number of chickens allowed but only sold 3/4 of the chicken dinners. That left us about a hundred dinners. We froze the chicken and refrigerated the sides while we worked hard to sell as much as we could at a discount. We had great help the day of and we had enough desserts to have just a few left for the following Sunday after they were a hit once again the day of. We are turning the chickens that we did not sell into soup. We will be selling soup with bread for All Saints Day on November 1st and will have limited quarts and pints available for sale. While our sales were not as good as we had hoped, we did turn a good profit that is earmarked for the boilers. I want to thank everybody who worked hard in organizing, baking, setting up, working the day of, cleaning up, selling afterwards, and delivering dinners, as well as those who are now making soup. And of course those who purchased the food and encouraged friends and relatives to come. Without all the help this would not have been possible. I would like to make a special call out to our youth who helped work this event - thank you.

There is always something that needs to be fixed, maintained, or upgraded. Many of these are done by our volunteers, thank you all very much. Some things are much larger and we need professional help. Our playground will be getting an uplift over the next 6 or so months. Our largest tree on the property that shades the playground will be removed with the roots becoming a tripping hazard and in anticipation of a new playground mat being installed next year. Keep an eye on this upgrade as it will be great for the kids for many years to come.

St Timothy's participated in Trunk-or-Treat on Grand Island. The church and child care made this another fun event for our community. The kids, many of which attend our child care center, are always a joy to see especially in their Halloween costumes. I think in our two hours we had about 150 trick-or-treaters. The next event with many of our child care center kids will be Breakfast with Santa on December 19th. More information to come on that next month.

This month we have the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service that we host at St Timothy's with two other churches. The community chorus always makes the service special. Last year we had some of the other church members and members of the choir help out by preparing desserts and helping with some of the cleanup of the tables and chairs. We are looking for volunteers again this year as we host this annual event every November. We will be looking for people to bake those wonderful desserts we are noted for, servers, and people to set up and clean up. Please see Dorine for more information and sign up in the Narthex to volunteer.

Regards,
Paul



Child Care Center News for November 2026!

Hello Church Family!

October was filled with fun, learning, and plenty of fall festivities here at STLCCC! We explored fire safety and learned about the first responders who help keep our community safe. We also enjoyed all things Halloween as we welcomed the fall season by learning about changing weather, colorful leaves, and the animals that thrive during this time of year. The children had a wonderful time participating in hands-on activities and discovering all the changes that come with the season!

As we head into November, our classroom themes will focus on thankfulness and gratitude. We'll talk about the people who make a difference in our community, including our community helpers and veterans, as we recognize Veterans Day. We'll also explore what it means to be thankful for the people, experiences, and everyday blessings in our lives. With Thanksgiving approaching, we'll incorporate plenty of opportunities for the children to share what they are thankful for and practice showing appreciation toward others.

November will continue to be a busy month around STLCCC as we begin preparing for our Breakfast with Santa Fundraiser on Saturday, December 19th! We will be looking for donations of supplies such as pancake mix and juice, or monetary donations. Once again, our Preschool and UPK/Pre-K students will take the stage to perform a holiday-themed sing-along, a heartwarming performance you won't want to miss! Tickets will go on sale Monday, December 1st, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Payments may be made by cash, check (payable to STLCCC), or credit card via Square (please note: an additional service fee applies for credit transactions).

I hope everybody has a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving!

Athena Torain
Center Director







Worship Information



Worship continues at 9:30 AM each Sunday. 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 meets during the service. Christmas Eve Worship will be at 4 PM.

News and Upcoming Events

Chiavetta's BBQ & Bake Sale Thank You
Thank you once again to everyone who pitched in in ways big and small for our fundraiser! Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

Bible Study
Pastor Adam continues to lead a Bible Study on Tuesdays at 1:30 PM. The final session will be 10/24.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service & Dessert Smorgasbord
The Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service is coming up on Sunday, November 22nd at 7 PM. Join us as you're able for a beautiful worship service in partnership with Trinity, St. Martin's, and the Grand Island Community Chorus. Following the service, we'll host our famous dessert smorgasbord again. Your help would be appreciated making goodies, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Please find a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you're able to volunteer.

Poinsettia Orders & Christmas Eve Service
Our Christmas Eve service will be held on 12/24 at 4:00 PM. If you'd like to order a poinsettia to grace our sanctuary on Christmas Eve and then take it home to enjoy, please fill out an upcoming bulletin insert or contact the office. Poinsettias are $11 each with choices of red, white, and pink. Each plant can be designated in memory or honor of someone, or the commemoration can be made for a donation to ELCA World Hunger in lieu of poinsettias. Preliminary orders are due November 24th and final orders by December 8th, although as their stock allows, we can add more up until December 21st.

Missions

Thanksgiving Collection
Each year, we invite the community who joins us at the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service to express their gratitude for blessings received and everyday sustenance by giving to an organization who helps provide for the basic needs and well-being of those in our community. Once that organization is decided on, we will let you know. Those who are unable to attend the service but would like to donate can make a designated "Thanksgiving collection" offering.

Thankofferings: Giving Thanks to God, All Day, Every Day
The daily practice of giving thanks to God for blessings received is at the heart of our lives as people of faith. Even the ordinary blessings of daily life call us to gratitude. One way we do this is through our Thankoffering collection, which will take place on Sunday, November 22nd. At St. Timothy, all are encouraged "to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ" by participating in this special collection.

Thankoffering was started by women in Lutheran churches more than one hundred years ago. Through the organization they established, they were able to do collectively what they could not do alone. By adding all their pennies and nickels together that they had gathered in thanks throughout the year, they were able to support a missionary or maybe build an orphanage.

Today, Thankofferings support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA such as justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders, grants and scholarships that help women “to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ,” and the many communications channels that support, encourage, and inform people to help them grow in their discipleship, among others. Through our Thankofferings, we show gratitude for God’s blessings and support our partnership with God in making Christ known to all the world. We are called to offer with joy and gratitude what God has first given us.

On Sunday, November 22nd, please use the blue envelope given to you by one of the women of St. Timothy or write “Thankoffering” on your check or envelope and place it in the basket provided. Thank you for acting boldly on your faith.

Last Month’s Memories







From the joy of St. Tim’s children to our awesome BBQ volunteers, we had some great times together last month!













Trunk-or-Treat was a blast! Thanks to all who came out to make this a safe, fun experience for Grand Island families!









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: Joyce Cowan; Stacey Lenhard; Shirley Yaeger; Sarah Domster; Pr. Dan Hoffman; Tatum Michael Hill & family; Chris Toponak; Phyllis Hall; Jack Webb; Terry Gamble; Matt Sztaba; Jim Moll and family; Haley; Ruby; Tommy Harrison; Bradley Mangine; Fred Ertel; Louise Pratt; Rob Fraser; Sister Terri; Erik LaVassuer; Kalene Best; Marge Skinner; Charris Kiener; Paul Schwandt; Terri; Michael Briggs; 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 Caroll; 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 Paul Yaeger's birthday on November 10th and Kathy Freer's birthday on November 20th.

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.

November 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Worship, 9:30 AM	2 	3 Bible study, 1 PM	4	5	6	7
8 Worship, 9:30 AM	9	10 Bible study, 1 PM	11	12 Finance meeting, 6 PM	13	14 
15 Worship, 9:30 AM	16	17 Bible study, 1 PM	18	19 Council, 5:30 PM	20	21
22 Worship, 9:30 AM Thanksgiving Service, 7 PM	23	24 Bible study, 1 PM	25	26 	27	28
29 Worship, 9:30 AM	30					