

THE TIMOTHIAN

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

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Meeting Needs with
**God's
Gifts** 



February, 2026

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

I grew up in a small town in Minnesota. My graduating class was a total of 45. The year ahead of me was 22. It was a small town. When I tell you I used to ride my bike around town, I mean I rode it around the whole town. I attended a small college in Iowa. The total student body was about 1600. In both of these places I could name or recognize most of the people that I ran into on a daily basis.

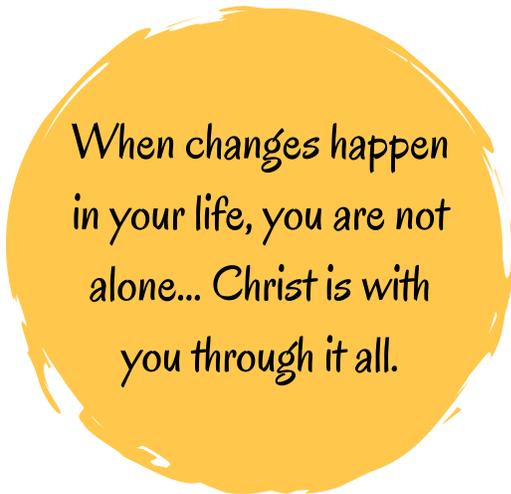
After college, I decided to join the Lutheran Volunteer Corps for a year, where I lived with other volunteers and worked for a stipend at a non-profit in Washington, DC. If you didn't know, Washington, DC, which is an area less than ten miles by ten miles, has a larger population than the state of Wyoming. This was a transition for me. It was exciting, and energizing, but also at times incredibly overwhelming and daunting. With my fellow volunteers we learned to navigate the city, figure out the best way to live on our own, figure out the best way to live in relative peace together, and figure out how to do non-profit work – a seemingly impossible line of work which never ends.

Transitions can be tough. When things change it disorients you, it challenges your way of living, and sometimes even your values. It can make you question who you are. This February, the church calendar puts us through a big transition. At the start of this month we are still in the season after Epiphany where we recognize the divinity of Christ and the ways that Jesus brought light, hope, and compassion to weary people. On February 15th we celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ when Jesus' divinity was fully revealed to Peter, James, and John. And in that radiant light Peter wanted to stay forever. But then Jesus and the disciples came back down the mountain, and got to the weighty work of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.

Then on the 18th we gather together for Ash Wednesday, acknowledging our own mortality, and examining for 40 days with Christ, our need for repentance, and mercy, and grace.

As we go through this transitional time, still in the middle of a Buffalo winter, remember that you do not walk this time alone. When changes happen in your life, you are not alone. Christ walks with you, as he did with the disciples. Your church community walks with you. Not just at Christmas, not just when we see Christ's radiant light, not just on Easter, but through the valleys, through Ash Wednesday, even through Good Friday. Christ is with you through it all. Amen.

In Christ's radiant light,
Pastor Adam



*When changes happen
in your life, you are not
alone... Christ is with
you through it all.*

A Message from the Co-President

Hi.

It looks like Grand Island is actually getting winter this year. Please be careful in the parking lot and on the floors when you walk in because they could be slippery. The days are definitely getting longer and spring is around the corner even though this last two weeks surely didn't feel like it.

January was a quiet month. It was a good time to reflect on where we are and where we're going as we are quickly approaching the Lenten season.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our congregational meeting after church on Sunday, February 1. Remember this is a potluck brunch so please bring a dish to pass and enjoy all the great food. Our auditors will be presenting our yearly financial results for the organization. Our other committees will also be presenting the work and accomplishments that they have done over the year.

The Chili Cook-Off is in March and I look forward to tasting all the different recipes. It is amazing that chili can taste so much different with each little tweak. Please bring a chili or at least come and taste and enjoy the fellowship. This is a community event so think about bringing a friend and inviting neighbors.

Regards,
Paul

Sanctuary Candle Sponsorships

Let the light continue to shine! Our sanctuary candle sponsorship helps fund the continuously burning flame while adding a deeper meaning to the special occasions and milestones in our lives. We recognize and celebrate the perpetual light of Christ in new births, birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, and graduations, among other celebrations of life, and it helps us remember to honor that light in our daily lives and to see it in the lives of others. Announcements in the bulletin help us to celebrate this in community with each other as well.

Sponsorship forms can be found in the announcements sections of many of our bulletins, and requests can also be submitted to the office via phone or email with the date of sponsorship, who it is in memory or honor of, and who it is sponsored by. We ask for a \$10 donation for each week of sponsorship to help keep this flame continuously burning as a symbol of the true Light.



Altar Guild Notes, February 2026

We begin February in the midst of Time after Epiphany. We meet Jesus in this green season during His public ministry. The green paraments and vestments provide a visual warmth during our cold winter season.

The third Sunday we are startled to see the dramatic white panels draping the altar, pulpit, lectern, and communion vessels. This is the last Sunday after Epiphany, the last Sunday of the Christmas cycle.



It is Transfiguration Sunday. Jesus is on a mountaintop for another Father / Son moment! Brightness hides His face as God's voice once again declares Jesus "His beloved Son." See the radiant gold beams around Jesus' head on the center parament? Glory magnified!

Let your hearts and voices ring with Alleluia today. It is "put away" at the end of this service. Why???

Because we will meet again at church in few days.... Ash Wednesday!
More drama in the building. Everything is covered in penitential purple.
Lent begins with an evening service of communion and ashes.
We are reminded that from dust we came and to dust we shall return.
The imposition of ashes is also an invitation to look inward at our relationship with God and with others.

The last Sunday in February is the first Sunday of Lent. The purple paraments bring familiar comfort on our Lenten journey together during these next five Sundays. Spend some quiet time in the sanctuary during this season of reflection and contemplation.

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



Child Care Center News for February 2026!

Hello Church Family!

February brings many exciting moments to our classrooms! We will be honoring Black History Month, celebrating Valentine's Day, and counting our way to the 100th day of school. These special occasions are woven into hands-on learning experiences that support each child's growth and development. Our days are filled with curiosity, creativity, and joyful learning.

We are deeply thankful for everyone who supports the Child Care Center through prayers, volunteering, and donations. As we continue our work of nurturing young hearts and minds, there are several ways you can help this month. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with activities or spend time with the children, please feel free to reach out to Tracy or me in the Child Care Office if you're interested. We also gratefully accept donations of gently used books, educational resources, and cleaning supplies. Items may be dropped off at the center, or you may contact us for additional details. Above all, we ask that you continue to keep our children, families, and staff in your prayers. We rely on God's guidance each day as we work together to provide a loving, safe, and nurturing place for every child entrusted to our care.

Thank you!

Athena Torain
Center Director

A look into the childcare center
this 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. Sunday School for age 3 through grade 4 is held during the 9:30 AM service. Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 18th at 7 PM. Please see our Lenten Schedule page for additional upcoming special services.

News and Upcoming Events

Liturgy and Resources for Lent - Tell Me Something Good

This year, we'll be using the liturgy and resources from A Sanctified Art for Lent with the theme "Tell Me Something Good." Here's what the creators have to say about it:

Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this series, we studied what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.



Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news? This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, let the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

As we developed the logo and branding for this theme, we wanted the visuals to feel earthy, like roots firmly planted in rich soil. We imagined the ways Jesus' teachings can ground and root us in the good news, but also push us to grow and expand like branches reaching to the sky. As we discussed the scriptures in the series more and more, we realized that at the core of Jesus' teachings are not esoteric ideas, but people. Time and again, Jesus refocuses our attention on people—often those who are harmed, judged, oppressed, or hungry. And so, in the tree icon, the branches are also abstract people with arms outstretched. Their interwoven connection produces good fruit. The roots of the tree icon frame the typography above and below, which is meant to resemble a book or the Bible. In the typography, the word "good" is emphasized with circular letter shapes; the two "O's" form the symbol for infinity. When we are grounded in the good news, the goodness of God can infinitely flourish and grow.

Devotional booklets and daily devotional cards will be available soon to pick up in the Narthex.

Bible Study

Bible study continues in the parlor on Thursdays at 1 PM.

Third Annual Chili Cook-off!

Join us for our Third Annual Community-Wide Chili Cook-off on Saturday, March 28th from 4-6:30 PM! Invite friends, family, and neighbors to come for an enjoyable evening of fellowship and fun around bowls of hot chili as we vote on the best!

Want to register your favorite chili recipe for tasting? Sign up through the church office or with the form on our website at www.sttimothygrandisland.com/chili-cook-off. Both red and white chilis are being accepted this year.

Not into chili but want to come for the fun anyway? Your entry ticket can either be turned in for tasting or for a meal of a hot dog, chips, and drink, which will also be available for purchase. A bake sale will be held during the event, and we welcome baked good donations!

Entry tickets are \$5 presale and \$7 at the door. These are now available for purchase before and after worship on Sundays and through our child care center office during the week.

We hope you can come for this fun community event!

Help us get the word out by hanging fliers around the community and inviting friends, family, and neighbors. The more, the merrier. Thank you!



Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those who have Thrivent Choice Dollars, please designate them before the end of March. The additional support is appreciated!

Lutheran Youth Events

Lutheran Youth of WNY is hosting a game night for grades 6-12 on Friday, February 6th at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and a The Great Lenten Breakout program on March 21st at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Contact the office or check the Lutheran Charities Facebook page for more information.

Center of Renewal Programs

The Center of Renewal at Stella Niagara has several upcoming programs, including an Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection from 10AM-3PM on February 18th, a lunch program on Your Garden of Life on March 19th, a book club program on *Jesus: From Heartache to Hope* on Tuesday afternoons in the month of March, and an overnight retreat, The Garden of Eden to the Garden of Paradise from March 23-24th. For more information, visit www.stellaniagararetreats.org.

Missions Opportunities

Undie Sunday

St. Timothy will continue to collect new socks, underwear, and leggings for shelterless men, women, and children served by local ministries through February 8th. Thank you!

Lenten Luncheon Donation

All Lenten Luncheon profits after covering food costs will benefit a local ministry as in previous years.

Lenten Schedule



Ash Wednesday

February 18th at 7 PM, St. Timothy

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesday, February 25th at 7 PM, St. Timothy

Soup Supper & Worship

Wednesday, February 25th from 6-7 PM, Abiding Savior, (1534 Ruie Road, North Tonawanda)

Lenten Lunch

Wednesday, March 4th from 11 AM - 12:30 PM, Trinity, hosted by Trinity, \$10

Soup Supper & Worship

Wednesday, March 4th from 6-7 PM, Good Shepherd (2669 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda)
(Pastor Adam leading worship)

Lenten Lunch

Wednesday, March 11th from 11 AM - 12:30 PM, Trinity, hosted by St. Martin-in-the-Fields, \$10

Soup Supper & Worship

Wednesday, March 11th from 6-7 PM, Augustana (3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda)

Holden Evening Prayer

Tuesday, March 17th at 7 PM, St. Timothy

Lenten Lunch

Wednesday, March 18th from 11 AM - 12:30 PM, Trinity, hosted by St. Timothy, \$10

Soup Supper & Worship

Wednesday, March 18th from 6-7 PM, St. Martin (322 Old Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda)

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesday, March 25th at 7 PM, St. Timothy

Soup Supper & Worship

Wednesday, March 25th from 6-7 PM, Trinity Old Lutheran (3445 Sheridan Drive, Amherst)

Palm Sunday

March 29th at 9:30 AM, St. Timothy

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd at 6 PM, St. Timothy; meal of soup and bread will become the beginning of the service

Good Friday

April 3rd at 11 AM, Augustana (Pastor Adam preaching)

April 3rd at 12 PM, St. Martin-in-the-Fields

April 3rd at 7 PM, St. Timothy

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: The family of Margaret Miller; the family of Geri Potter; Dr. Paul Paterson; Sister Terri; Erik LaVassuer; Kalene Best; Marge Skinner; Charris Kiener; Paul Schwandt; Terri; Michael Briggs; Rob Cornelius; Phyllis Hall; Rick Burns; Mike Seguin; Matt Rowe; Esmaeil & Fariba; 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; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Myles; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Brenda; Marlene; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengaglio 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 Herb and Esther Westfall's 65th anniversary on February 4th and Mark N. Steck's birthday on February 22nd. If you'd like to add your birthday or anniversary to our celebration list, please let the office know.



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.

February 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Worship, 9:30 AM Congregational Meeting, 10:30	2	3	4	5 Bible Study, 1 PM	6	7
8 Worship, 9:30 AM	9	10	11	12 Bible Study, 1 PM Chili cook- off meeting, 6 PM	13	14
15 Worship, 9:30 AM	16	17 	18 Ash Wednesday, 7 PM	19 Bible Study, 1 PM Council, 5:30 PM	20	21
22 Worship, 9:30 AM First Communion Class, 10:45	23	24	25 Confirmation Class, 5 PM Holden Evening Prayer, 7 PM	26 Bible Study, 1 PM	27	28

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. - Isaiah 58:6-8