

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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February, 2024

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

February is, of course, the shortest month and even with an extra day this year, it is going to feel jam-packed with things to do, and ideas to digest. In the church this is especially true as Lent begins pretty early this year.



Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th, which is, as you know, when we observe St. Valentine's Day. Thinking ahead to that day, I've been trying to reconcile what I will say to people as they come forward to receive ashes. At the same time as we are celebrating romantic love, I will also be reminding people of their mortality!

It feels like these two ideas should not go together. On the surface, the phrases, "Will you be my Valentine?" and "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return" seem about as far apart as we can get. Yet, I think there is a link when we put these ideas in the context of Jesus Christ's life, ministry, death, and resurrection.

In Lent, as we follow Jesus to the cross, we think about the ways that we have fallen short, and the about God's call to return to him. One of the readings often used for Ash Wednesday is from the second chapter of Joel. The prophet Joel warns of the day of the Lord which is about to happen, a day of darkness, gloom, clouds, and terrible war. Joel is writing after the people of Israel have been afflicted by a terrible plague of locusts. Their food supply has been taken from them and everything seems to be bad news. The people of Israel and Judah are facing their own mortality in this moment. And in this moment Joel reminds them:

Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

This is our call today. In the face of tragedy, pain and sadness; in the middle of grief and death and loss, God still calls to us, reminding us that the love that is given is steadfast. That love was made real in the person of Jesus, who carried the cross, carried our pain and sadness and loss, and in his great love, allowed himself and all our fear to be crucified.

We know that our time on this earth is temporary. We also know and trust and hope in love that never ends, and that death is not the end of the story.

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, and God loves you more than you can understand."



In God's amazing grace,
Pastor Adam

Altar Guild Notes: February, 2024

February is a short month with a lot to do! Gonna be busy. Let's see what's ahead!

The first Sunday is the last Sunday in our current season, Time after Epiphany.

The sanctuary is still draped in green. The altar frontal image of the shepherd and the lambs has held our focus, Christ as our Good Shepherd & Christ as our sacrificial lamb. Christ with us, Christ for us, Christ in us.

The second Sunday we celebrate Transfiguration of our Lord. Jesus is on a mountaintop with 3 disciples. There, the disciples see Jesus transfigured in a vision of spectacular dazzling brightness. The divinity of Jesus is so blinding they cannot see His face. Notice the altar frontal on the white parament.



**Transfiguration
OF THE LORD**

See the radiant beams around Jesus head. We cannot see His face either.



It is Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. We are in church. No white, no green.

Somber purple everywhere, it covers the crosses, drapes the altar, pulpit, and lectern. We hear the words that we are from dust and to dust we shall return as our foreheads are marked with ashes. The ashes imprint are in the sign of the cross, a sign of new life through Christ!

The last two Sundays continue our Lenten journey. The purple paraments tell the story of what's to come. The shine of the brass vases are covered in purple. There are no flowers, but the bare branches inside have buds of life to come.

There will be much introspection, perhaps some personal austerity during this season. The sanctuary candle burns continuously. The altar candles are ignited when we gather in church for the Word and the Eucharist. There is always light. Christ is with us now, too.

♪ "Christ be our light. Shine in our hearts. Shine in the darkness." ♪

May this light shine so brightly that all may see Christ in our lives & theirs.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah



A Message From the Co-Presidents

Welcome to 2024. We had a difficult start with the passing of Jim, Phil, and Judy, and our hearts go out to their families and friends who are in mourning. They will be truly missed, but they are in a better place now.

We would like to thank Mark Steck who has finished his 2nd 3-year term on council. Thanks for all the time, effort, and expertise you put in. Welcome Duane.

Our congregational meeting was held on January 28th and our finances were reviewed and presented by Justin from Bonadio. We received the highest rating. Pastor gave his annual address as did Shari and Paul.

We would like to thank all the committees for all the work they've done in 2023, and we look forward to a wonderful 2024.

Property update: We are looking to replace the rug in the sanctuary and we received an anonymous donation to cover a substantial portion of the costs. Depending on the color we may need to replace the fabric on the kneelers as well. A committee is being put together. We have also received a partial grant to cover a security camera and intercom system at the church door. This would complement the security in the child care as the church door is not monitored. If access is via the church door, it would allow access to the child care center for anybody entering. The parking lot will also need to be redone which is a large and expensive job. We need to raise some funds for these Capital improvements and are discussing a potential barbecue fundraiser in the fall to help offset some of the costs. The projected capital campaign fund raising is \$15,000 for interior projects, and the goal amount for the parking lot is \$30,000-\$35,000.

Outreach

I have created the 2024 Ride for Roswell St. Timothy's Lutheran Church and Child Care Center team. Please consider joining or supporting our riders to help fund cancer research. This team last year consisted of church members and their families and friends, so please invite other riders to join this great cause and make our 2nd year even better than last year. The Ride for Roswell has many routes both short and long and will be on June 22nd this year. There are also fun social get togethers where you pay for a beer at one of the hosting restaurants and the money goes towards your ride donation.

Mark Steck is spearheading here at St Timothy a chili cook-off community event on March 9th. We are looking for volunteers to make chili and help in other ways. Of course we need you to sample and vote for your favorite chili, too!

Regards,

Paul Yaeger & Shari Miller

Child Care Center News for February 2024!

Hello, Church Family!

As we finished up the first month of the new year, we welcomed new employees and new families. We are hoping to be fully staffed and enrolled by the end of February. It's a great month for new faces to be joining the center as we nurture and care for the children just in time for Valentine's Day.

Every year, we award a teacher with the Mike Endres Leadership Award. This award is given to a teacher to recognize their dedication, exceptional leadership, and professionalism. This year we presented the award to Stacy Grzybowski. Stacy has worked at St. Timothy Lutheran Child Care Center for four years and is the lead teacher in our Toddler 2 classroom. Stacy is a vital part of the center from training new staff, promoting learning and development of any child she comes in contact with on a daily basis, and encouraging others with her positive attitude. We are blessed to be able to honor Mike's legacy throughout the Child Care Center.



Thank you!

Athena Torain, Center Director

Here's a look into the past month at the Child Care Center:



Worship Information and Lenten Schedule

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 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. You can contact Pastor Adam or the office to make arrangements.

Please see below for a list of Lenten offerings this year outside of Sunday services.

February 13th and Following Tuesdays

Lenten Bible Study—St. Timothy, Tuesdays at 1 PM

February 14th

Ash Wednesday—St. Timothy, 7 PM

February 21st

Holden Evening Prayer—St. Timothy, 7 PM

February 28th

Lenten Luncheon—Trinity, 11:30 AM, \$10 per person
Hosted by Trinity; serving lasagna, garlic bread, salad, & dessert

March 6th

Lenten Luncheon—Trinity, 11:30 AM, \$10 per person
Hosted by St. Martin's; menu TBD

March 13th

Lenten Luncheon—Trinity, 11:30 AM, \$10 per person
Hosted by St. Timothy; serving roast beef sandwiches, pasta salad, chips, & dessert

March 20th

Holden Evening Prayer—St. Timothy, 7 PM

March 28th

Maundy Thursday—St. Timothy, 7 PM

March 29th

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

March 29th

Good Friday—St. Timothy, 7 PM

News and Upcoming Events

Congregational Meeting Highlights

Thank you to everyone who attended and presented at our congregational meeting! After some good time in fellowship around delicious food, Justin from Bonadio gave us a report on our audit, which received an unmodified rating—the highest possible. A unanimous ballot vote for Council representative resulted in Duane Keeler accepting his first term, Karen Sturniolo accepting her first full term after completing a partial term, and Dorine Fabio accepting her second and final full term.

Some of the larger property items we dealt with this last year, along with upcoming planned projects, were reviewed. Of note, our parking lot is in poor shape. A full redo is preferable—somewhere between \$30,000 and \$35,000—however, if funds do not allow, another short-term-fix patch job can be done for maybe around \$15,000. In order to help us pay for this, it was suggested we approach the congregation with the option to “buy” a square foot or parking-space-worth of parking lot to make the job more manageable. Please look for upcoming correspondence in regards to this later in the month. A BBQ fundraiser in the fall will likely be held as well.

A presentation by Tracy Marrs, our Assistant Director of the Child Care Center, informed us that things are going well with our ministry. Enrollment is high, and the kids and families love coming. The current struggle, which Justin earlier reiterated all care industries are struggling with, is finding and retaining staff. Further presentations by Paul, Shari, and Pastor Adam gave us a thorough overview of the year and passed along thanks and appreciation for everyone who makes this community run smoothly. They also noted with gratitude the support we have for each other.

New business brought up another item of note: a generous, anonymous donation was made and was suggested to be put towards a new carpet in the sanctuary. A request was made to raise additional funds to cover the remainder of the carpet expense along with various smaller interior improvement projects. We are \$8,000 towards our \$15,000 goal, and additional designated contributions are welcome using the fabric square board in the Narthex (note: fear not—these are not carpet color options!). If you would be interested in being among those who will meet to decide on the rug, please let the office know so we can coordinate a meeting.

Finally, our first annual chili cook-off received an enthusiastic response. We're excited to host this fun fellowship event on Saturday, March 9th, and we hope you're able to join us! Please see below for further details.

Thank you!



Lenten Luncheon Hosting

St. Timothy will be hosting the March 13th Lenten Luncheon at Trinity. Help preparing, serving, or cleaning up would be appreciated. Thanks!

Easter Flower Orders

Our greenhouse would like preliminary Easter flower orders by the end of February and final orders by March 10th. Our choices this year are: lilies, daffodils, hyacinths (pink, blue, or white), and tulips (red, yellow, white, purple, or pink). They are \$13 each. Donations for the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation in lieu of flowers will also be offered. Please include who they are in honor or memory of using the upcoming bulletin insert or by contacting the office.

Defensive Driving Course

Wayne West will be teaching a Defensive Driving Class at St. Timothy on Saturday, April 20th from 9-3. It will not be through AARP and will need about 25 participants to run. Further information for registration will be coming soon.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those who have Thrivent Choice Dollars, please consider directing them to St. Timothy by March 31st. The additional support is appreciated!

Winter Weather Closure Preparation

Closure notices will be shared by email and on Channels 7 & 2, and services will be held on Zoom.

Stella Niagara Programs

Stella Niagara is holding a "Winter Evening of Prayer: Optimistic Realism" mini-retreat on February 27th from 5-8 PM for \$35, including dinner. The registration deadline is February 13th and can be done by calling 716-754-7376, ext. 1, or mailing in the form available in the church office. Another retreat day, "Mandalas: Windows on Our Spiritual Journeys" will be held on March 19th from 10-4 for \$65 including lunch, with a registration deadline of March 5th.

In Loving Memory

This month, we mourn the loss of our beloved friends, Phil Buchanan and Judy Bassette, but we rest knowing they are with our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the church triumphant. Thank you for all the support you have given to their families in this difficult time, and for the love and care you all shared through the years.



Missions

Thank you for your generous support of Undie Sunday! Recipients at the Community Missions of Niagara Frontier are grateful for the gift of comfort and dignity.

Fellowship and Community Involvement

Chili Cook-off

St. Timothy is excited to host our first ever community-wide chili cook-off on March 9th from 4-6:30 PM! With this event, we hope to create a welcoming environment for the community to enter our building and get to know us a little better. \$5 presale and \$7 day-of tickets will help us cover costs, while hot dogs, chips, drinks, and baked goods will be sold as well as alternatives and supplements to the chili. Tickets will be available before and after services, at designated times in the community to be determined, and through the office.

There are several items on our volunteer request list that we would love help with! These fall into the categories of:

- Advertising—post fliers around the community and share on Facebook
- Ticket sales—Sunday mornings and in the community
- Creative preparation—making indoor signs to direct people on the day of
- Donations—baked good items and other food items to sell, plus practical items such as paper towels and spoons
- Set-up help—likely on Friday afternoon or evening
- During-event help—at the ticket table, baked good table, serving food, etc.
- Clean-up help

A sign-up sheet can be found [here](#) and on Sundays at church, and help can also be offered by contacting the office. Please note there are additional items on here that may change as we determine what we are able to accomplish in this time frame and with the volunteers that we have and what we should hold off on for this year.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to make a pot of chili! If you know of anyone else who may be interested, an online chili registration form can be found at <https://www.sttimothygrandisland.com/chili-cook-off>.

Please help share our event! Fliers will be passed out at church to hang around the community (please note—many bulletin boards require permission to post on), and for those who use Facebook, you can share our posts or the following event with friends: <https://fb.me/e/3n5GcSuOc>. The flier posted on the following page can also be printed and shared.

With this being a community-oriented event and knowing that this is the toughest season for the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation, we have also decided to host a collection for them on the day of. They are especially in need of canned meat, tuna, and mayonnaise, hygiene items such as hand soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste for children and adults, deodorant, etc, and monetary funds. Help us spread the word so we can support this essential organization and the people they serve as well.

Thank you for your help making this event successful and welcoming!



Join us for

Our first annual community-wide

Red Chili cook-off!

Saturday, March 9

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

<https://www.sttimothygrandisland.com>

Tasting @ 4:00-6:00 pm • \$5.00 Presale Tickets
\$7.00 at the Door

Judging @ 6:00-6:30 pm • Free entry for the Cooks

Prizes @ 6:30 pm • Exciting 1st Place Prizes
and 2nd Place Prizes

Scan QR Code for
more information!



Join in on the fun, food, games and more!!

Donations will be accepted to benefit the GI Neighbors Foundation

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: Mary Ann Kemp; Elaine Hardman; Jack Skinner; Joan Buchanan; Karen Wiswall; Bettie Cummings; Ronald Olson; Jan Cutini; Eric Alexander; Janet Upham; Deborah Piotrowski; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Myles; Becky; Cathy; Deb; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Nancy Gorrell; Brenda; Margaret Miller; Marlene; Yosenia; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Isla and Eleanor; Edna; Gloria; Brian Volo; Marianne Caroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengalio 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, 716-773-4400). Thank you.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Herb and Esther Westfall's anniversary on February 4th and Mark N. Steck's birthday on February 22nd.



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 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship, 9:30 AM Confirma- tion, 10:30	5	6	7 Confirma- tion Class, 7 PM	8	9	10
11 Worship, 9:30 AM	12	13 Bible Study, 1 PM Finance meeting, 6:30 PM	14 Ash Wednesday Service, 7 PM	15 Council meeting, 5:30 PM	16	17
18 Worship, 9:30 AM	19	20 Bible Study, 1 PM	21 Holden Evening Prayer, 7 PM	22	23	24
25 Worship, 9:30 AM	26	27 Bible Study, 1 PM	28 Lenten Luncheon, 11:30 AM at Trinity	29		