

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

Our website: www.sttimothygrandisland.com

Our emails: communications@sttimothygrandisland.com,
pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com

Our phone number: 716-773-4400

Our Child Care Center:
716-773-9249



October, 2023

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

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



From the Pastor's Desk

Holy Week in October?!

Usually we only think about Jesus entering into Jerusalem and making his way to the cross during Lent and Holy Week, which is always in the Spring. Yet the Gospel texts from Matthew for the next 4 Sundays are all taken from between when Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey and the Last Supper when Jesus is handed over to the authorities.

The last Sunday of this month, we have our remembrance of Reformation Day when we as Lutherans remember Martin Luther's call for the church to reform itself using God's grace & the truth of the Gospel as our guides.



**Reformation
Sunday**

Do Holy Week and the Reformation have anything to do with each other?

Martin Luther famously called out the corruption he saw within the church and the pope during his time. Similarly, one of the reasons that Jesus was arrested was because he was calling out the religious authorities for the mishandling of the temple and its collaboration with the state. While Jesus is in Jerusalem, he flips over the tables of the moneychangers, and then repeatedly (see this month's texts) calls out the religious leaders for not bearing good fruit. Through parables, he calls the authorities to account.

When those in power lose sight of their call from God to be good stewards and bear good fruit, people suffer. As followers of Jesus the Christ, the one who called on those with power, wealth, and influence to remember their calling, we too must always keep in mind what we are called to do.

Jesus gave the Great Commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." How are we bearing good fruit with what we have been trusted? Are we using whatever wealth, power, and influence we have to connect with God and connect with our neighbors?

We can all look for ways to connect in many parts of our lives, with family, friends, and at work. At St. Timothy's we hope you can connect with one of our events on the calendar!

Let's continue together to reform our lives to follow Jesus, loving God and loving our neighbors.

In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Adam



Altar Guild Notes: October, 2023

Still. It is still the season of Time after Pentecost. It is still green in the sanctuary. There is still 9:30 AM Sunday service here at St Timothy.

The Word of God is still read out loud to be heard by all gathered here.
It is still the body and blood of Christ received in the Eucharist meal.

Still. Continuity in the liturgical year imprints our faith on our hearts and in our minds. Christ through our faith then sustains us in times of great joy, times of struggle, as well the ordinary times.

Still. On we go through October without a major festival. Take some time to contemplate the familiar surroundings of the sanctuary and church building. Symbols are everywhere! Notice the stained glass pictures in the hall windows as well as stained glass crosses in the sanctuary windows. Banners line the walls in the sanctuary and the halls. There is framed wall art in many places. See the wooden praying hands in the narthex? See our new logo; Connecting with God. Connecting with Neighbors! Want to know more about any of these symbols?

Until. Until we get to the last Sunday of October. Reformation Sunday!!

You will know it when you see the red paraments & red flowers!!

This Sunday we celebrate God's grace at work in the church, it's people.

We pray to be reformed and renewed. Reminded that we are redeemed by grace as a gift of God's astonishing love, the death, resurrection, ascension of Christ, the presence of the Holy Spirit. It cannot be earned, but we can surely respond!

May we respond in our words and deeds in our connections. Amen

Your sister in Christ,

Deborah



Messages From the Presidents

To Our St. Timothy Family,

School has begun, and the buses are rolling! Our beautiful weather has begun to cool in the evenings, suggesting Fall is on it's way, and was perfect weather for Fall clean-up. Our little band of fierce "merry men and women" got a lot done trimming bushes, controlling weeds & spiders, shoveling dirt into the crevices in our beautiful green space (are we done yet?), and washing windows. We realize there are a few other areas that need attention around our church property, and plans have been made.

Rally Sunday was a festive day with a full church, installation of Athena Torain, our Child Care Center Director, the CCC and Sunday School teachers, and a blessing of the backpacks. Pastor smiled as during the Children's Sermon, the children had all the right answers to his questions! They had been paying attention at VBS this summer. The simple way to explain the "theology" of our faith is LOVE!

Pastor has begun a new Bible Study learning about the "minor prophets." It happens at Church on Wednesday at 1 pm. It is good to remember, not all of us can be "major" at everything we do. Maybe the small things matter, too? And perhaps some time spent working, as you are able, with Habitat for Humanity in Niagara Falls on October 7, or contributing pantry food stuffs to the Community of Good Neighbors in Buffalo food drive (out of the old Resurrection Congregation) will have meaning to you. Again, big and small things work together when done in the Spirit of love. Ask Karen Rose about that. She continues to faithfully serve our CCC children together with Pastor Adam, every week at Children's Church.

We on Church Council and The Finance Committee had an opportunity to get to know Athena Torain, our new CCC Director a bit better as she delivered her CCC report to your church leadership. I find her to be articulate, knowledgeable, and applauding the things we do well, and digging in to what, perhaps, she feels we need to strengthen.

On September 24th, we had our Annual Congregational Budget Meeting. I have such appreciation for the hard work and attention the Finance Committee and Karen Sturniolo put into careful and honest stewardship of all St. Timothy Church and CCC. They are the modern interpretation of "good and faithful servant." And, as is fast becoming our wonderful new tradition, after the meeting, we enjoyed fellowship together with good food, conversation, and laughter. And for those who were able to attend, Pastor Tom Glasoe shared his "bucket list" trip back to Viet Nam, the land of his birth. It is good for all of us to remember when we first truly felt God's presence in a meaningful way.

Lastly, an Annual Budget Meeting makes one think of, well, budget, underpinnings, support and success, having the money available to take care of our responsibilities...to be the hands

and feet of Christ. We have been blessed and also have work to do. We in Leadership have been talking about a Fall Stewardship Campaign. Do we need a “hook” or a dazzling line to draw everyone into looking into their hearts to perhaps, increase their tithe? Or, would a few moments of reflection help us see more clearly? Several words in the above script have meaning together. Work, together, stewardship, minor vs major, fellowship, good and faithful servant. Not everyone’s tithe can be “major.” Circumstances may not allow some to consider an increase at all. Even “minor” changes can have a powerful effect if all of those who can, do. Consider this. Our “deficit” is approximately \$6500.00. If each of 30 congregational givers is able to “share” this “deficit,” it amounts to \$216.67 per giver per year...or about \$18.00 per month. This might not be possible for all, but perhaps those who are able, could? We are “The Little Church that Can.”

Love and hugs.
Shari Miller



I would like to thank everybody who was able to attend the congregational meeting to review and to approve our annual budget. I know there was one negative number on the approved budget but I'm confident that our congregation can rise to the challenge to close that amount. Thank you for your contributions and to all of those who contribute their time and effort on committees that help make our church run smoother. Our volunteers save us from hiring people to do the work.

We have many committees and they're always looking for more volunteers. Many hands make light work. Some of the committees are: Altar Guild; Property; Hospitality; Grass Cutting; Sunday School; Youth; Outreach; Social Media Communication; Worship and Music; and Finance. We also always welcome new counters, ushers, worship assistants, and prayer chain members.

I would also like to thank everybody who participated in the fall cleanup day—they made our church and grounds look very nice for the child care open house and for our annual budget meeting.

Several of us were able to attend Pastor Tom’s talk on his trip back to South East Asia to kayak on the Mekong river and continue his research on his early childhood years.

We have many upcoming events planned this fall. We hope to see many of you there.

Regards,
Paul Yaeger

Child Care Center News

Hello, Church Family!

The Child Care Center staff enjoyed Rally Day on September 17th. I personally wanted to thank you all for welcoming my family and I with open arms. The center staff has been very busy preparing for the new school year and welcoming new families. We would like to thank you for all of the donations of school supplies and money to put toward school supplies. All of it will be put to good use and is much appreciated.

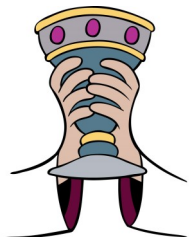
In September, we had both an open house and a UPK meet-the-teacher day. This gave families a chance to meet teachers, see the classrooms, and see some of the work the children have been doing. We will be having a Child Care Committee Meeting on October 4th at 6pm and invite parents, teachers, and church members to join us to discuss upcoming events. One of these events that we will be discussing is St. Timothy's Trunk or Treating which will take place October 28th from 2-4pm. We encourage you to join us! We also invite you to come to our Halloween Parade on October 31st at 10:30 AM. Nut-free candy is appreciated for our students with allergies. The Preschool and UPK class has a field trip to The Great Pumpkin Farm that we are looking forward to this month as well.

Thank you and have a great October!
Athena Torain, Center Director

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



Worship Information



We've returned to a single 9:30 AM service for the fall and welcome all to come worship with us! You can also watch us on our livestream, accessible at www.sttimothygrandisland.com. Sunday School for ages 3 through 4th grade continues during the service.

News and Upcoming Events

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped with our fall clean-up day! The front looks much more tidy and welcoming, the cobwebs have been cleared inside, and several cracks in the lawn have been filled. We appreciate all your help!

Congregational Meeting Outcome

A quorum of the congregation passed the 2023-2024 budget on September 24th. For anyone who was not able to attend the meeting, copies of the handouts can be picked up from the office or emailed upon request.

Dessert Smorgasbord

Esther and Carolyn are scheduling a planning meeting as part of the Fellowship Committee. Please consider attending to help keep this tradition in the ministry of St. Timothy. We will have a brief meeting in the parlor on Sunday, October 8th after the service.

The Smorgasbord will be held after the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service on November 19th.

Pastor Tom's Presentation

For any that were unable to come to Pastor Tom's presentation, the recording is available to view upon request. Please let the office know if you're interested.

Bible Study

Pastor Adam will continue holding Bible Study on Wednesdays at 1 PM in the church parlor.

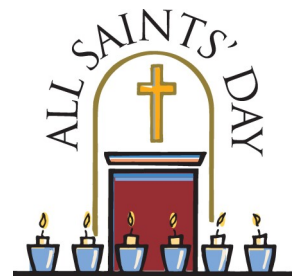


Coffee Hour Contributions

Please consider signing up in the Narthex to bring a goodie to share after one of the next several services to encourage people to stick around for fellowship and conversation!

All Saints Day

All Saints' Sunday is coming up on November 5th. Please tell us the name of the loved one who has died, the date of death, and who they are remembered by no later than Monday, October 30th. You can turn in the upcoming bulletin insert form, call the office, or send an email to communications @sttimothygrandisland.com to add a name. Please only include loved ones who have died between November 1, 2022 and November 1, 2023.



Solar Energy and Savings Opportunity

Here at St. Timothy, we purchase our electricity through a local solar farm run by PureSky Energy. They invited us to share with our community that anyone who signs up through our specific link—<https://www.pureskyenergy.com/sttimothys>—will receive the same 10% discount on the going rate of electricity that we receive. After two successful billing cycles, they'll give \$75 in billing credits to us at St. Tim's and a \$50 gift card to those who sign up. If no space on the farms is currently available, the offer will be held till space is found.

How does this work? Puresky evaluates how much energy you typically use in a year based on previous National Grid statements, then they determine how many solar panels you should need plus a little extra cushion in case your needs increase. More is paid in the summer months since the panels are producing a lot, and when not much is produced in the winter, you have a minimal bill and spend down the credits you get for National Grid. There's also an option to arrange for more even payment amounts if needed. Your PureSky bill would show what your panels produced, the amount that it would cost based on the going rate of electricity, and the 10% discount, and your National Grid bill would just be the delivery and service fee. Further questions can be directed to our area representative, Molly, at 1-877-267-8727 or molly.mccready@pureskyenergy.com.

Thanks for joining us in doing our part for the care of creation.

Aging Gracefully Series

Finding Grace in Life's Transitions, the wellness series on serious illness and aging from a faith lens, hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Williamsville, continues with two more sessions. These will be October 28 on Planning Your Funeral—offering this piece to those loved ones left behind so they know how we would like to be remembered and to offer more time for the remembering; and November 18 on the When, Where, and How of Healthcare Decision-making, Advance Care Planning, and Hospice Care—focusing on the applicable documents (NYS Healthcare Proxy, NYS Living Will, MOLST, Five Wishes) available to assist as we make decisions about the healthcare we want and do not want when we are unable to speak for ourselves because of illness, as well as addressing what hospice care is and is not and how to have a conversation about hospice admission. Each Saturday morning session is from 10-11:30 AM and will be followed by lunch and conversation. Registration is due by the Saturday prior and can be done by calling 716-634-3220 or by scanning the QR code on our bulletin board. More information is available at StPaulsWilliamsville.org.

September Memories



In September, we celebrated Rally Day, the Blessing of the Backpacks, and the installation of our Sunday School and Child Care Teachers. Thank you to everyone who made this day a success and contributed yummy goodies to celebrate with after the service!

Missions



School Supply Drive


A huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations of school supplies to support our child care center—we are grateful for you!

Habitat for Humanity

Our Faith Build with Habitat for Humanity Niagara Falls is coming up fast. We'll be helping build a house for a family in need on October 7th from 9 AM to 12:30 PM, and we hope you'll invite your friends and family to come join us! The address is 1609 Walnut Ave; more info will be sent via email a few days prior.



Community of Good Neighbors Food Drive

 From October 15th through November 19th, we'll be collecting food for the Community of Good Neighbors food pantry, a Lutheran organization helping to eradicate food disparity on the East and West sides of Buffalo. The CGN is also a worshipping community that provides an inclusive, sacred, safe space to discern about God's Word through small group discussions.

Due to reduced access to healthy foods in these neighborhoods, the CGN asks that we are mindful about purchasing heart-healthy options. Shop as if you are shopping for a loved one. While all support is appreciated, they would like to give a gentle reminder that this is not the time to clear your pantry of expired foods. Single-family sizes are also appreciated over bulk.

Some of the items they could most use are: low sugar cereal and oatmeal; dry or canned beans; canned fruit; low sodium soup; and 16-32 oz bags of rice. If a physical shopping trip isn't the best option for you, they are also thankful for monetary donations, which can be made out to St. Timothy and designated in the memo line or on the envelope as "CGN" or "food pantry."

Thank you for supporting your neighbors in need. God's work, our hands.

Missions Spotlight

In May 2022, our family moved to Jerusalem to begin our work as co-country coordinators for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission Program (YAGM). The YAGM program is invited by and hosted in Jerusalem and the West Bank by our partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). It is a privilege to learn about the ELCJHL's rich, diverse, life-giving work and ministry, and a great gift for us to walk alongside of them in accompaniment, sharing both the joys and struggles of their everyday life, and lifting up the strong and creative leadership of our Palestinian partners.

As YAGM co-country coordinators, we lead a group of young adults from the United States in their 20s who spend an immersive year of service learning in Jerusalem and the West Bank. The YAGM volunteer at ministry sites of the ELCJHL, form authentic relationships with our Palestinian host communities, and daily practice the ministry of accompaniment through listening, learning, and lifting up the leadership of our local partners. We learn with and lead the YAGM through providing continuing education events, retreats to places that have included Nazareth/the Sea of Galilee and Jordan, and ongoing conversation and life together with our Palestinian hosts. We recently finished our two-week in-country orientation with the five YAGM who have begun serving in the ELCJHL. We look forward to supporting and walking with them through their YAGM year.



We have learned and continue to learn so much as we settle into this part of the world. Our family has been warmly welcomed by our Palestinian host communities and our kids' schools. Julian (who will be 8 in October) and Ari (who will be 5 in November) are enjoying their schools, playing chess and soccer with new friends in the West Bank and Jerusalem, learning how to make falafel in Bethlehem, and playing with Mango, the cat we

adopted from the Old City of Jerusalem. Our whole family is deeply grateful to our Palestinian partners and friends for inviting us into their lives and community, for the delicious food we are learning to love, the stories we are privileged to hear and witness, and for walking together with us through our days in this ancient, multifaceted part of the world.

Thank you so much for your prayers, your interest in learning more about our work, and for your financial support. We are deeply grateful for the ways that you walk with us as we walk with the YAGM and our Palestinian partners.

In holy gratitude,
Pastors Jordan & Adam Miller-Stubbendick

P.S. To support our work and ministry as ELCA mission personnel in Jerusalem and the West Bank, go to <https://community.elca.org/globalmission> and choose "Young Adults in Global Mission" OR "ELCA Missionary Sponsorship."



Jordan helping pilgrims
reaffirm their baptism in the
Jordan River.

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 Ren Trietley; Judy Bassette; Elaine Hardman; Jack Skinner; Bettie Cummings; Jim O'Connor; Mr. Ritchie Guz; Camsela Jordan; Joe Levy and Family; Jan Cutini; Eric Alexander; Wesley Clark; Janet Upham; Alex; Deborah Piotrowski; Larry Neutz; Karen; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Myles; Becky; Cathy; Deb; 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 Nancy and Art Morth's anniversary on October 15th, Tina Cutini's birthday on October 9th, and Kim Yaeger's birthday on October 12th.




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 608-525-0288.

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.

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship, 9:30 AM	2	3	4 Bible Study 1 PM Confirmation 7 PM	5	6	7 Habitat for Humanity, 9-12:30
8 Worship, 9:30 AM Choir 9 AM Fellowship Mtg, 10:30	9 	10	11 Bible Study 1 PM Worship & Music, 7 PM	12	13	14
15 Worship, 9:30 AM Outreach Mtg, 10:30	16	17	18 Bible Study 1 PM	19 Finance Meeting, 6:30 PM	20	21
22 Worship, 9:30 AM	23	24	25 Bible Study 1 PM	26 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	27 	28 Trunk-or- Treat! 2-4 PM
29 Worship, 9:30 AM	30 	31 Halloween Parade! 10:30 AM				