

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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April, 2024

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

I couldn't help but notice the daffodils in front of our house this March. Here in Buffalo, we had such a warm start to the month that the flowers that were planted by the owners before us got a quick start and were about a foot high last week. Right before the snowstorm that dropped six inches of snow. For two days the daffodils with yellow flowers lay buried and bent.

In our lives we sometimes get so excited about what's next, about something new and exciting, a new hobby, a sunny day, that when hard times come they hit us extra hard. Like a flower suddenly pulled down and buried under six inches of snow we feel buried and cold and hidden when life is tough.

Psalm 30 assures us that when it seems like everything is against us and we feel like we're in a pit hidden away that, "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning."

I've heard that following Jesus and living a Christian life will bring us joy. And there is joy in following the Lord of Love. But sadness, grief, and difficult times still come. And when they bury us, and it's tough to see a way out, when we fall into our own Good Friday and the skies go dark, it's then that those words come to us, and we see a glimmer of hope: "Crying lasts for a night, and joy comes in the morning."

As Christians we are a resurrection people. Though death and sadness and pain still come, we know and trust and have faith that through Christ's resurrection, joy will come again. The flowers will bloom, and the sky will clear.

Friends, this Easter season, remember that because Christ is Risen indeed, joy will come, and death is not the end of the story.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

In God's amazing grace,
Pastor Adam



Altar Guild Notes: April, 2024

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The greeting and response for the 50 day Easter season can be used all this month!
The white paraments still dress the altar, pulpit, & lectern. However, the gold underneath is removed as that only appears on Easter Sunday.

There is still a hint of gold in the baskets of flowers on the brass stands.
There may be a few Lilies left bringing their fragrance and beauty to the sanctuary. Can you see the lilies on the wall banners? The Lily is mentioned several times in scripture. They are associated with Easter as they are thought to represent the resurrection of Jesus. The white petals indicate the purity of Jesus. Perhaps you have heard their reference as the “white robed apostles of hope.” The trumpet shape flowers represent the trumpet call that will sound on the day of Christ’s return.

The Christ candle will be lit each Sunday as we celebrate Jesus’ Risen Life during the Easter season.

The baptismal font remains centered in front as well. Notice the butterfly fabric beneath the bowl. The butterfly is a Christian symbol of Resurrection. It can also represent the transformation of our lives as baptized children of God.

The Eucharist meal is where we can find grace, mercy, redemption beneath the cross of Jesus. Broken pieces of bread will be used this Easter season. Bread is broken and wine is poured just as Jesus’ body was broken and His blood flowed for us. We remember that He rose from the dead, resurrected to new life so that we will rise to new life, too.

Joyful music accompanies this celebration of our St. Timothy faith community. We sing and shout with glorious acclamation. Our voices together raise our prayers like incense!

Our mission to connect with each other is renewed.
We leave to bring this same connection to our community.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah



Messages From the Co-Presidents

To Our St. Timothy Family,

It seems we have come from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday in the blink of an eye! Kim had to remind me it was time to write this message.

Some of us may remember in our childhood, Lent was always such a somber time of disbelief... how could God sacrifice everything for us? The expectation was for an already strong, formed faith that understood that great gift. The question was what will I sacrifice during Lent to honor Jesus' sacrifice? Perhaps that is why this year's Lenten Devotional has been particularly rich and meaningful for me, and I hope for many of you, as well. To be able to acknowledge "the Peter" in me...the fragile, unsure Wandering Heart...the faith and doubt...the joy and sadness...the every day ordinary and the extraordinary,...and the understanding that recognizing fear does not negate faith. We have lived out our Lent in weekly Bible Studies, weekly Lenten Luncheons and Holden Evening Prayer, and regular worship. We have lived it out in community with a successful Chili Cook-Off, Committee Meetings to continue the planning for the dreams of our congregation, and weekly Children's Church for our Child Care Center. To improve and update our Church is being lived out with strong support for our carpet fund. Additional opportunities for service will be available as the weather begins to warm up, like Spring Cleanup. We work to continue to touch our community and be the hands and feet of Christ, with concrete projects like providing new Socks for Hope, to connect with others to share the love of Jesus.

Perhaps the most recent Hallmark quote that caught my attention will resonate with you, too. "There are no perfect people, marriages or families, just people who don't give up on each other." By extension, could that not also include churches, countries, and believers? I am thankful that Jesus did not give up on Peter, and will not give up on us. Jesus says to Love One Another. Let each of us be courageous enough to live that way. Is it not time to lay our hearts, our Wandering Hearts, at the foot of the Cross? We will gather Easter Sunday to celebrate! Jesus loves us. Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

Hugs,
Shari Miller





March Review and April Activities

Shoulder paving. We met with the town highway department last year and again this year and requested that the crumbling shoulder between the church and Tim Horton's be fixed. This is the off-site evacuation route for the child care center. The paving was accomplished this month and we now have a nice crushed-stone shoulder.

Chili cook off. Thanks to Mark Steck, his cook-off team, and the many volunteers, the first annual chili cook-off was a great success. We got to taste some delicious chili from 21 chefs and there were a few hotdogs available for those who didn't want chili. Everyone is looking forward to next year's chili cook-off.

St Timothy's hosted one of the three Lenten luncheons at Trinity Church. We had many volunteers who made delicious food, set up, cleaned up, and served. The food was delicious. The main course was prepared by Kathy Freer, and several people asked for her recipe from both our church and other churches. I thank everybody who contributed their time and talent to make this a success, and of course Pastor Adam who gave the Lenten message and Donna Yaeger who coordinated St. Timothy's luncheon. It appeared to me that everyone who attended any of the three luncheons enjoyed themselves. St. Timothy was well represented at all three luncheons.

Our rug replacement fund is doing well and a small group of people will be looking at samples so we can get some more accurate prices. We will be organizing the committee by April 9th.

On April 19th at 6pm, I will have a Christmas ornament fellowship painting night for anyone who would like to participate. This is open to church members and friends. The ornaments that I carved and we will paint will be sold at the Erie County Fair in August, and the proceeds will be given to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Two of the carving clubs I belong to are participating in this fundraiser. The ornaments will be sold by the wood turners who having been selling their handmade items for the Make-a-Wish Foundation for a lot of years. The items will be available under the grandstand in the woodcarving and wood turning area near the main entrance. I will bring in on a Sunday before a few painted ornaments and some unpainted ones so you can get a feel for what we will be painting. If you are not comfortable painting but would like to come for some fellowship, feel free to bring your own craft. We will also have some adult coloring books available.

Our spring clean up day will be April 27th from 9-11:30 with a May 4th rain date. I hope everyone who is able will consider spending a few hours getting our church and grounds cleaned up.

We are also still looking for additional bike riders for our St Timothy Church and Child Care Ride for Roswell Team. Please let me know if you are interested.

Regards,

Paul Yaeger

Child Care Center News for April 2024!

Hello Church Family!

Happy Easter Everyone! March was full of excitement and joy. The children loved all of the new programs and activities we rolled out in March. The children and staff enjoyed getting their bodies moving with Mrs. Karen Figler. We were visited by the Easter Bunny for storytime. Miss Katelyn started a weekly S.T.E.M program for the UPK and Preschool classrooms.

This month we will be starting enrollment for the Summer Camp and the 2024-2025 School Year. We are also looking for donations of plastic bags, fruit, vegetable, and flower seeds, and soil. We will be starting our garden this month as well as planting flowers for our families. We are hopeful that April showers will bring May flowers!

Here's a look into the past month at the child care center:



Thank you!

Athena Torain

Center Director

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 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!



News and Upcoming Events

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who helped make the Chili Cook-off and Lenten Luncheon successful! Your efforts are appreciated.

Carpet Committee

We're ready to move to the next step in replacing the sanctuary carpet! The first set of samples are now in, and we would like to solidify a committee. Please respond to the office or Pastor Adam by April 9th to let us know if you'd like to be a part of this process.

Ornament Painting & Craft Night

Paul Yaeger has been carving ornaments to sell for the Make-A-Wish Foundation at the Erie County Fair and would like to open it to St. Timothy people for painting on Friday, April 19th from 6-8 PM. If you'd rather not paint but would like to craft, feel free to come join us anyway!

Defensive Driving Course

Wayne West will be teaching a Defensive Driving Class at St. Timothy on Saturday, April 20th from 9-3. To register, please contact Terri Glassman at tglass375@gmail.com or 716-930-3230.

Spring Clean-Up

Our spring clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th from 9-11:30 AM. Please plan to join us as you're able! In case of uncooperative weather, our rain date will be May 4th. Thank you!

Easter Flowers

For those of you who ordered Easter flowers, please feel free to take them home with you. When the flowers are spent and if you're not planning on using them in your own gardens, we would happily take any unwanted bulbs for our Easter garden.

Liturgy and the Natural World Free Class

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago is offering no-cost educational programs via Zoom. The next upcoming program is Liturgy and the Natural World, reimagining communal liturgies and daily rituals in relation to the sacredness of the cosmos, sacraments, and our bodies, beginning April 7th for the Sunday sessions and April 10th for the Wednesday sessions. Further information and registration can be found at www.lstc.edu/events.

Last Month's Memories



We had a wonderful time in community at our first annual chili cook-off last month! With 21 cooks and over 100 chili tasters, we had a full house and enjoyed a ton of delicious and unique chilis!

Congratulations to Tracy Marrs who came in 1st place and Cheryl Wasson who came in 2nd! And a huge thank you to everyone who planned, prepped, cooked, volunteered, decorated, donated, and came to eat good food and spend time with us!





From St. Patrick's Day fun, outdoor playtime, and Easter celebrations, to activities to build fine motor skills, Dr. Seuss Day, and S'TEAM classes (Science, Tech, Engineering, Arts, & Math), our kids have had an awesome month!





Many thanks to Karen Sturniolo for her phenomenal Easter Room decorations which, as always, delighted both kids and adults alike! Thanks also to Karen for taking on the role of Peter Rabbit and spending some time reading to and visiting with our child care kids!

Members of the Congregation Council were installed on March 17th during the service. Pictured (left to right): Paul Yaeger, Terri Glassman, Karen Sturniolo, Shari Miller, Duane Keeler, Dorine Fabio, and Pastor Adam.



Missions

Socks for Souls

Thank you to everyone who brought in socks! St. Timothy collected 500 pair out of a total surpassing 12,000 collected by the Niagara Frontier Conference. We are arranging a time to deliver these items with our youth to one of the local organizations that supports the shelterless in the area. Thank you for bringing this essential item to our neighbors in need!

Grand Island Neighbors Foundation

Thank you for all your generous donations for the Grand Island Neighbor Foundation! From the chili cook-off and following Sunday, plus a few monetary donations that came in with the Easter flower dedications, we collected over \$130 in cash for them and several bags of food and personal care items. They were grateful as always for our support and pass along their thanks.

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 Vacarro Family; Ray and Chris Gress; Baby Logan McKenzie; Jennifer; 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 Carroll; 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 Thomas Steck's birthday on April 2nd and Paul and Donna Yaeger's anniversary on April 4th.




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.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Bible Study, 1 PM	3	4	5	6
						
7 Worship, 9:30 AM	8	9 Bible Study, 1 PM	10	11 Finance meeting, 6:00 PM	12	13
14 Worship, 9:30 AM Confirma- tion, 10:45	15	16 Bible Study, 1 PM	17 	18 Council meeting, 5:30 PM	19 Ornament painting & crafting, 6 PM	20 Defensive Driving Course, 9AM-3PM
21 Worship, 9:30 AM	22	23 Bible Study, 1 PM Confirma- tion, 7 PM	24	25	26	27 Spring clean-up! 9-11:30 AM
28 Worship, 9:30 AM	29	30 Bible Study, 1 PM				