

THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our Interim Pastor: Rev. Thomas Glasoe

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Our Vision:

***Christ Being the Cornerstone of
Grand Island***

Our Mission:

***Sending Forth Disciples of
Christ***



May, 2021

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

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From the Pastor's Study

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

There is a little-known story in the Old Testament that speaks to our times today. It is so little known that even observant Jews don't always know about this particular chapter in their history. Yet, it offers us a better understanding of how to approach our spiritual lives today.

In the book of Kings, we read about the building of the Temple after centuries of worshipping in a tabernacle (really a tent). The tabernacle was situated on top of Mt. Zion and had to be destroyed in order to build the Temple in its place. This displaced the worshippers and for years, the worshippers didn't come to Mt. Zion to worship. For seven years, the Judeans didn't come to Mt. Zion, but instead found other methods of worshipping Yahweh (God).

Finally, the Book of 1 Kings records that when the Temple was finally finished, it was the most beautiful and ornate building in all of the Levant and Israel.

King Solomon initiated a dedication service and for seven days, the people of Judah attended the dedication of the Temple and King Solomon oversaw all of it. During that dedication service, all the furnishings from the tabernacle were brought into the Temple, all the decorations and fineries were installed within its walls, the priests and servants were brought forth, and then the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Holy of Holies. Finally, on the last day of the dedication, King Solomon blessed the people. In that blessing, then he said,

"The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us, but incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our ancestors. Let these words of mine, with which I pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires; so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. Therefore devote yourselves completely to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day." (1 Kings 6:57-61)

Today, after a year long closure due to the pandemic, we are opening our worship space again and for a lot of us, this is wonderful. We can now be back in the house of God and worshipping Him rightfully and correctly. Yet, for others, the fear of the virus is still real. That fear is legitimate and must be honored. However, when we are all comfortable coming back, remember that the Lord is here in our sanctuary.

When Solomon dedicated the Temple, he said, *"[Incline] Your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which You said, "My name shall be there," that You may heed the prayer that Your servant prays towards this place."* This was a reminder to the Judeans that the Lord, their God, was to always be present in the Temple and He will always hear the prayers of the faithful.

There are many places and means to worship our Lord. We can worship God on ZOOM and by watching television. We can be in creation and at a bar but if Solomon's words are to be taken seriously, we know that it is in God's House that God hears us best and is always present.

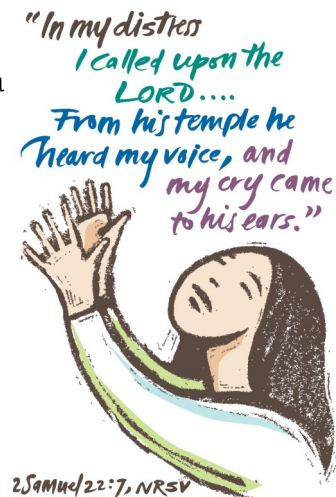
So, when you are ready to be back, come back. Come back into the embrace of our ever-present Lord and come into His eternal presence.

In return, our congregation will seek ways to make your time in worship as spiritual and as meaningful as possible. In this house, at St. Timothy, we will speak God's Word, share in His Supper and swim in the Baptismal waters, and live out God's Promise of Love, hope, and eternal life.

Until you are ready, remember that we will continue to provide live-streaming worship, email updates, and continued engagement wherever you are.

In Christ,
Pastor Tom Glasoe
Interim Pastor

P.S. – I have now received my COVID vaccine and am willing to visit persons who are homebound or, when allowed, living in a health care home in order to provide Holy Communion or pastoral care. If you desire a pastoral visit please call or email the church office or email me directly at pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com.



Pentecost Reflections

This month, we celebrate the birthday of the Universal Church at Pentecost. I would heartily argue that Pentecost is the most neglected and downplayed high holy day of the Church calendar. It makes sense that it would be as it falls at one of the busiest times of the year.

Pentecost tends to fall in May or early June, right when we are busy finishing up the program year, getting ready for proms and graduations. It falls at the junction between the meteorological end of spring and the beginning of the meteorological summer. Include in there Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and spring cleaning, and Pentecost is forgotten.

Yet, Pentecost is arguably the fourth holiest day of the year behind Easter, Good Friday, and Christmas. The arrival of the Holy Spirit makes the enduring promise of God's deep desire to continue His relationship with humanity. It marks a new and current covenantal form of His relationship with us.

Every Pentecost, I take time to meditate on the gift of the Holy Spirit and the word *religion*. That word means *to bind*. The Greek word for religion came into common usage after the fateful day 50 days after the First Easter over two millennia ago.

I ponder on how the Holy Spirit acts as the *binding* agent in our spiritual lives. It binds you and me together but also it binds us to other Christians from around the world and those who have gone before us and those to come.

To me, the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of Jesus's promise of "*where two or three are gathered I am there*." (Matthew 18:20) It is the culmination of God's enduring desire to be in intimate relationship with us. It is the impetus for us to want to serve our Lord and the inspiration to want to love God's people and live a life that glorifies God. In other words, it is the source of our faith and the well by which we draw our courage, strength, and desire to love others and serve God's people.

To me, the Holy Spirit is our best connection to God, all of creation, and all of humanity. For that, Pentecost should be celebrated and not forgotten. I invite you to take some time this month and especially on Pentecost to ponder and meditate on the works of the Holy Spirit in your life and what it means to you.

I ask that you wear Red on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, and come ready celebrate the birthday of the Church and God's renewed commitment to us.

In Christ and Merry Pentecost
Pastor Tom Glasoe



PENTECOST INFORMATION

Pentecost Sunday is just around the corner – May 23, 2021.

But what is Pentecost?

It's not like Pentecost is a word that we use much outside of church. Unlike some other Christian holy days, it hasn't leaked into popular culture. You won't find new stories about the "War on Pentecost" – there's no tradition of gift giving (and the accompanying sales) around Pentecost. You aren't even likely to find an increase in chocolate sales to go with the holiday.

So what is Pentecost ... and why should we care?

The Basics of Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday is the day when Christians around the world celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

On Christmas, Christians celebrate the Incarnation – the idea that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ.

On Easter, Christians celebrate the Resurrection – the belief the Jesus rose from the dead, a sign of the promise of resurrection given to all God’s people. And on Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit – the gift of the God’s comfort, power, and strength given to God’s people.

The History of Pentecost

In the Hebrew Scripture, the Jewish people celebrated a holiday known as the “Festival of Weeks” (see Exodus 32 and Deuteronomy 16). This was a harvest festival, a time when the Israelites celebrate the generosity of God, shown in a successful harvest of grain.

While the Temple stood in Jerusalem, each farmer would bring their *first fruits* – the first ripe samples from their fields – and give them as an offering of thanksgiving in the Temple. This meant that many Jews from all across the countryside would gather in Jerusalem in order to present their offering at the Temple.

The Festival of Weeks happened fifty days after the Passover. For this reason, the Greek-speaking Jews of the first century called the festival “Pentecost” – from the Greek word meaning “fiftieth day.”

It was during the Festival of Weeks, fifty days after Passover, that the disciples of Jesus were gathered in Jerusalem. They had spent the last fifty days making sense of their experiences of the resurrection of their teacher, Jesus, and the fact that he had just ascended into heaven (for this whole account, see the book of Acts, chapters 1 and 2).

While the disciples were gathered, the Holy Spirit filled them. They began to tell to the pilgrims who were gathered in Jerusalem about Jesus. As they preached they were amazed to discover that all the pilgrims – regardless of what language they spoke – were able to understand them. So What

The Christian holiday of Pentecost is rooted in this historical event – an event sometimes called the “birthday of the church” because it marks the day that Jesus’ disciples began to share the story of Jesus and invite others to share in their faith in Jesus as the Son of God.



But Pentecost is more than just remembering a historical event. On Pentecost, we invite the same Spirit that filled the disciples that day to transform our lives. Even more important than looking backward and remembering what God did two thousand years ago, we look forward and invite the Spirit to pull us into the future.

The Holy Spirit has a way of turning things upside down. The story of Acts is all about how the lives of the disciples got turned upside down – and by extension, how the world turned upside down by this new, Spirit-filled faith.

On Pentecost we invite this disruptive presence of God into our own lives. The fruit of the Spirit, says Paul, is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are what we seek to live into, how we seek to transform the world, and the evidence of the Spirit at work in our lives and in the world. Join us as we celebrate and explore all that Pentecost means for us.

ASCENSION DAY

Welcome to the Forgotten Festival! This month includes Ascension Day on May 13th, or, as it's more properly called, the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. But there is reason to call it, as I say, the "Forgotten" Festival. Because even though Ascension Day is classed in the church year as a major festival, which means it's a day for all churches to hold the Divine Service of Word and Sacrament, the sad fact is that in recent decades many congregations and many Christians have forgotten all about celebrating this important festival.

It used to be that you could go to any Lutheran church—or any liturgical church, for that matter, Catholic, Episcopalian, Lutheran—and they would have Ascension service on this day. But with the decline of Christian culture in our country, it's pretty hard to find churches that are having service today. And where you do, it's usually only the hardy few who turn out. You see, by definition, the Ascension of Our Lord always comes forty days after Easter, which means it always falls on a Thursday. And it is hard enough these days to get people to come to church on a Sunday, let alone on a Thursday.

For the Ascension of Our Lord is a wonderful, marvelous event, deserving of a day all its own. My goodness, the fact that Christ "ascended into heaven" even rates a line in all three of the ecumenical creeds! I want to tell you why we remember and rejoice in the Ascension of Our Lord.

And the reason—or one of the reasons, at least; there are several—one reason we remember and rejoice in this festival is this: The Ascension of Our Lord tells us that Christ is working in and through his church by the ministry of the gospel. The accounts of the Ascension that St. Luke gives us, both at the end of his gospel and at the beginning of Acts, show Christ preparing his disciples for the mighty ministry that the church will undertake once he ascends.



The risen Lord Jesus appeared to his disciples a number of times during those forty days from Easter to Ascension, and it says he was "speaking about the kingdom of God." Jesus had been training his disciples over the past three years, but now he takes them to the next level. They had a lot to learn. They hadn't really "got it" up to this point. Oh, they had heard and seen a lot from their master during those years, but it hadn't really clicked yet—especially the part about him having to suffer and die. But now the light bulb comes on. "Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures," it says. Now they will understand how it all fits together.

Brothers and sisters, Ascension Day tells us that our Lord Jesus Christ is working in and through his church by the ministry of the gospel. For this reason, the Ascension of Our Lord really is a most wonderful festival.

So should we call Ascension Day the "Forgotten" Festival? Well, even though much of the church may have forgotten this festival, the good news is that Christ our ascended Lord has not forgotten his church! Remember and rejoice in that!

Altar Guild Notes: May, 2021

The Paschal candle by the baptismal font continues to be lit for the first three Sundays of May. We are still celebrating the Easter Season. The gold accents are stored but the white frontals still drape the altar table, pulpit, and lectern.



Forty days after Easter, Christ ascends to God the Father. The Ascension of our Lord always falls on a Thursday (this year 05/13/21). Before He ascends we are given our “marching orders” to spread the gospel. Ten days later, God sends our Advocate.

Fifty days. The Holy Spirit comes 50 days after Christ’s resurrection. It is the third important Festival of our liturgical calendar. Pentecost! The term Pentecost comes from the Greek meaning fiftieth! This occurs this year on the fourth Sunday of May. The liturgical color is red, the color of fire and zeal. You will see our red paraments and red roses displayed to grace the chancel area. Notice the red banner, too. The symbol of the Holy Spirit is the descending dove. Sometimes you will see the dove depicted with seven flames. These represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, & fear of the Lord.

Pentecost is thought of as the birthday of the church. We, the people, were and are the church. Our mission every day is to bring God to others. The Holy Spirit is with us in this mission. Our Advocate is with us on our own spiritual journeys as well, even hearing our sighs, joys, and tears as prayers.



One more Sunday in May. The paraments are changed again! White is the color for this special Sunday. We celebrate The Holy Trinity! The eternal Three in One, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer are represented in several symbols. A triangle inside a circle or encompassing a circle is common. A three leaf shamrock is often used to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

Our God is determined to have a relationship with us!
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah



A Message From the President

If you think back to the time when you joined the organization, what inspired you most? What inspired you to keep coming back? That was one of the questions from our “Why” discovery process a few weeks ago. Now.....bring yourself back to when you were raising your children, but now you’re raising them in 2021. Ask yourself that same question. Can you answer that? Do you even go to church? Or, do you just drop your children off at our childcare center to be cared for until you’re done with work each day? Are you inspired to come see what St. Timothy Lutheran Church is all about? Why or why not?

As we move forward in search for a new pastor, we need to keep in mind that we have a vision and mission. We always have, but maybe we haven’t acted on it as best we could. We are working on putting feelings behind those statements so those in the community can resonate with us. St. Timothy’s is our home. How can we show others that we are passionate about Christ being in our lives and in our church? We can do that by living through our “Why” statements. Let us be intentional in taking care of our present parishioners. Call them, visit them, and let them know we care. Let us be intentional in connecting with those who haven’t come in quite some time. Let them know we miss them. Let us be intentional with our youth. Talk with them, encourage them, guide them, and teach them. Let us be intentional in showing that our childcare center is more than just a daycare center, it’s OUR CHURCH MINISTRY. Then let us be intentional in finding a new pastor who is passionate about leading our church and childcare center, together, with purpose, into the next generation of St. Timothy’s.

In peace,
Karen Rose



Our Why in Progress

Below are the Why drafts we formed in the workshop. We’ll take the next few weeks to resonate with them, learning what parts excite us, what parts need refining, and what parts might belong better in our How statements. Our Why is ultimately what already drives us, who we are at our core; when we put this into words, we can live it out with intentionality and see our mission thrive all the more fully. How do these statements make you feel?

- ◆ To serve God by inspiring faith and passion through connections so that we can nurture and fulfill our community and the world.
- ◆ To serve God by igniting the passion in others to become an extended family under this house, the community, and the world.
- ◆ To be connected and committed so that we create positive experiences.

News and updates from the Child Care Center



The Chicken BBQ will be May 15, 2021 between 3:00-6:30pm. Chicken dinners are \$13.00 each. All tickets are presale and can be purchased after church or at the Child Care Center. During the BBQ, we will also have a raffle for large ticket items; raffle tickets can be purchased the day of the event. We will have a drive through option for families who would rather take out food. Any church member who would like to donate a big ticket item for the raffle can contact the Child Care Center for details. Thank you for supporting our kids!

Joelle Waters
CCC Director

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee held another meeting on April 14. We are working our way through the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and gathering input from a wide array of stakeholders. By now, everyone should have received a survey either in hard copy or by email, asking for your feedback regarding the characteristics of our ministry, the five most critical tasks you believe our next pastor should focus on, and the ministry gifts that our next pastor should possess. There is a separate, but similar, survey that we are administering to the youngest members of our church community. We would ask that everyone fill out only one survey, in whatever format is best for you, and return it to the Church office by May 10. The Call Committee will then tabulate the results and use them for discussion purposes before finalizing the responses for the MSP.

On Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m., the Committee will host a discussion regarding the survey results and other aspects of the MSP. Specifically, in addition to the survey results, we will discuss: (1) ways in which Grand Island has been challenged by change and transition in the last five years, (2) trends within the St. Timothy's in the last five years, and (3) identifying St. Timothy's gifts and how they are being used. The group sessions will be the same, so you need only attend one. We expect them to last approximately one hour. **All are welcome, please make your voices heard.**

Following those small group meetings, we will consolidate the information and complete the MSP. Our current expectation is that by the end of June, we should be in a position to present a draft of the MSP to the Church Board for consideration. That would mean that we should be in a position to post the MSP in July.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Call Committee. And please continue to pray for Christ's grace as we proceed through the discernment process.

Yours in Christ,
Ryan Cummings

Worship Information

Sunday Worship Services

Our worship services are now permanently back in-person with a single 9 AM in-person service each Sunday until we reach a capacity that warrants two services. As with any gathering until covid is no longer a threat, we ask that you wear your masks, sanitize your hands upon entry, and practice social distancing. Thank you as always for keeping your neighbors safe!

Online Worship Option

For those that feel safer worshipping at home, we will be live-streaming our 9 AM service each week, followed by a Zoom coffee hour to socialize for a few minutes as we would normally do after church. The links for both are on the front page of our website. To make the worship experience



as authentic as possible, we have printed bulletins available for pick-up each Friday afternoon, as well as an online version that can be printed at home and one that is better suited to phone and tablet use. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if there is anything we can do for you.

News and Upcoming Events

Upstate New York Synod Assembly

June 3-5, 2021 – Rochester

Remember that our synod will be conducting the annual synod assembly. The theme for the 2021 Assembly is Grace for the Sake of the Word. "You are chosen...called into God's light" (1 Peter 2:9). Please keep in your prayers the synod as we will be electing a new bishop and a host of other leaders. If you would like to attend this online event, please contact the office to register or find it live streamed on the Upstate New York Synod Facebook Page each of the three days.

Updated directory

An updated directory is now available. Please note that there are only a few changes and we will come out with a more permanent one when our new pastor arrives. A few hard copies are on the table in the Narthex nearest the office, and a few will also be in the tote outside. An electronic version will go out by email next week. If you find any mistakes, please don't hesitate to let the office know so we can make corrections. Thank you.

Prayer Adjustments

Praying for our friends and loved ones is important and necessary. Christ instructed us to pray to Our Lord often. And it is wonderful to be in a community of faithful servants that value the importance of prayers as the center of our life in Christ. In our congregation, we have prayers in worship, the prayer chain, and prayer emails blasts giving us names to pray for and giving us updates on those we have been praying for. Due to the lengthening list of names and constraints on time, starting on May 23, Pentecost Sunday, we will only pray for the names of our congregation members during worship and list all those other names in the back of the bulletin (in the announcement section). We will continue to share every prayer request in our newsletters, bulletins, and email blasts. We will continue to include everyone and every prayer request in our spiritual life as a congregation through the ministry of the Prayer Chain. God Bless, Pastor Tom

Grass Cutting

Please contact the church office if you would like to help with grass cutting this summer. We truly appreciate your help in maintaining our property!



Missions



Our partnership with Habitat for Humanity Niagara is resuming! Marco Notaro will be coming to speak with us on Pentecost, May 16th, to let us know how we can volunteer and to give us some information on the Faith Build. Please give him a warm welcome! Information on volunteering will be posted afterwards for those

Missions Spotlight

In Bangladesh, Farida works as a housekeeper, and her husband is a field laborer. They live near the Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh Hospital, which offers self-help groups for women that provide an opportunity for savings, small business development, economic and financial training, and relational support. When Farida joined the group, she received training in home-stead vegetable gardening. She now tells her neighbors how her life has changed. In addition to her cleaning work, she now has an extra income source selling her vegetables at the local weekly market. Her economic status has improved, and her children have their basic needs met. "I will always be grateful to Almighty God and to the Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh."

As you plan your garden this spring, think of Farida and her vegetable garden. It wouldn't happen without your gifts to Mission Support and to ELCA World Hunger, which support families as they grow food to nourish themselves and build safer, healthier communities for the long term, helping to put an end to hunger—for good. Thank you!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

Marcia Brown

ELCA Mission Interpreter

Youth

Karen Rose and Terri Glassman will be holding a Youth Event for grades 5 and up, and all youth are invited to bring a friend! On May 15th, they'll be volunteering for the Child Care Center's BBQ from 3-6:30 PM, playing pickleball at 7, and having a sleepover at church at 9. It'll be a blast!

Dinner will be from the BBQ to support the CCC; tickets are \$13 and will only be sold in advance this year, so please let us know who's coming. Karen will collect the ticket money. To RSVP, please email communications@sttimothygrandisland.com, call the office, or contact Karen Rose. Thank you!

Youth Gathering



From the ELCA

ELCA and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) resume dialogue

CHICAGO — The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have resumed a bilateral dialogue that will define a new ecumenical relationship for common mission and ministry.

In a March 10 meeting, leaders from the two church bodies resumed the dialogue that had begun in 2004 but been put on hold due to leadership and staff changes at both churches.

The goal of the dialogue is to determine what form of ecumenical relationship will enable the two church bodies to affirm their common confession of the Christian faith and to witness to the good news of Christ together more fully. The two churches will explore how they have grown in mutual understanding and common mission over time. An important consideration will be the maturity of the full communion relationship each church shares with the United Church of Christ (UCC). For this reason, the UCC was invited to appoint an observer.

"We celebrate the resumption of this dialogue with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a sign of the visible unity that is already ours in Christ Jesus," said the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop. "This dialogue will intentionally draw from the deep well of shared mission and ministry in local and regional settings, while tending to the complex theological questions that arise between us as churches. In this way, we hope to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit and the possibility of new forms of ecumenical relationship that serve the gospel and enrich the body of Christ."

"I am grateful that we are now moving forward in our dialogue with the ELCA," said the Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. "In times like these, it is more important than ever that we as Christians can model for the world what it looks like to walk together, serve together, even when we may disagree on points of doctrine. Our goal must always be to amplify our witness to the limitless love of God, and we have an opportunity to reimagine how we do that through this dialogue with our Lutheran siblings."

This first round of meetings focused on building relationships, identifying the questions participants bring into this dialogue and sharing ideas for next steps.

"The path to Christian unity is hard, but if we can embody the love and grace of God revealed in the life of Jesus, then the journey the ELCA and Disciples have undertaken will be worth the effort," said the Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cornwall, who serves as dialogue co-chair from the Disciples of Christ. "We may not know where the journey ends, but I am ready and willing to get on the road."

"The renewal of this dialogue is extremely important right now," said the Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the ELCA Indiana-Kentucky Synod and dialogue co-chair from the ELCA.

"In a world that is so deeply divided as we try to deal with profound changes and challenges in our common life, these two different traditions sitting at the table to listen deeply, think creatively, and act boldly together is a much-needed witness to the justice- and peace-seeking spirit of the crucified and risen Christ."

In the next round of discussions, planned for later this year, the churches will focus on getting to know one another, as traditions and as people. They will make use of case studies developed by each church that highlight examples of common mission and challenges to fuller cooperation and ministry, along with papers from the initial round of dialogue in 2004.

The two churches agree that seeking unity is not the goal of this dialogue, because that has already been accomplished in Christ. Rather, they seek to manifest their unity so that "the world may believe" (John 17:21 NRSV) and God's just peace may be experienced more fully by all people and creation.

More information about the dialogue, including a list of participants, is available at <https://www.disciplescuim.org/elca-disciples-bilateral-dialogue/>.

Bishop Eaton issues statement on gun violence

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24).

Dear church,

As a nation we have lived through a very difficult two weeks following the mass shootings in Atlanta on March 16 and again in Boulder, Colo., on March 22. The shooting in Colorado was only the most recent of [104 mass shootings](#) already in 2021 (there have been 156 since the publication of this statement). Colorado has a painful history of mass shootings. Since 1993 the deadliest incidents have been the 1999 Columbine High School massacre, the mass shooting in a movie theater in Aurora, and now the 10 lives taken, including the life of a responding police officer, at a supermarket in Boulder.

Together with God, we grieve with the families and communities impacted by gun violence — especially in communities where it is an everyday occurrence. These shootings are not isolated but rather a pattern of the gun violence crisis in the United States. The numbers of victims tell only a part of the pain — the trauma caused by gun violence ripples across family members, friends, neighborhoods, communities, and this country.

As we near the Sunday of the Passion, we enter into the suffering of Christ and into solidarity with the sufferings of the world. As we look to the healing power of the cross, we celebrate the gift of peace through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are empowered to take up the challenge to prevent violence and grapple with the complex causes that make violence so pervasive.

The ELCA is a church in society striving for peace in all the world. Let us join with others in calling for greater gun safety, including preventing easy access to assault-style weapons and strengthening our federal system of background checks for all gun sales. We call for support and protection for those living out their vocations to protect and defend society, enforce the law, and work toward restorative justice. We pray for rostered ministers who provide support and counseling services to those affected by gun-violence-related crimes even as we pray for the perpetrators of violent acts. We call upon congregations to hold safe space for those dealing with the fears and threats related to violence in all its manifestations.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A statement from Bishop Eaton addressing racial justice

*"But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24 NRSV).*

The last 16 days have been a microcosm of the original sins of racism and white supremacy in the United States. This has included the trial of Derek Chauvin in the killing of George Floyd; the extrajudicial killings of Daunte Wright in Brooklyn Center, Minn., and Adam Toledo in Chicago; the lack of justice for Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wis.; and the release of the body cam video of the abuse of Lt. Caron Nazario in Norfolk, Va.

As an anti-racist church that condemns white supremacy, we acknowledge how these injustices are traumatizing to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and call on God's comforting love. We join in lament over the lost lives of Daunte and Adam and in the cry for justice. We recognize that "rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color" ("[Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)," page 2).

As we await the verdict in the Chauvin trial, we pray for justice, we cry out as in Amos 5:24: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." We call for reforms to this and any institutionally racist system. We also encourage you to join Campaign Zero, a 10-point policy platform created by the #BlackLivesMatter movement to address and improve relationships between local law enforcement and the communities in which they serve, at joincampaignzero.org and to learn more about ELCA resources at elca.org/blacklivesmatter.

The 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution condemning white supremacy [CA19.04.18]. ELCA members can join the efforts to end racism by participating in the ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge [here](#).

We join other Christians in condemning these injustices. Read more at nationalcouncilofchurches.us/topics/statements/.

In Christ,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Black Lives Matter movement is often misunderstood; the ELCA clarifies as follows: “This movement does not seek to elevate Black lives above others. Rather, the movement seeks to help people recognize that Black lives matter no less than other lives, and to expose how Black people have been and continue to be dehumanized and considered insignificant, expendable prey in our society... This church teaches that human dignity is God’s gift to all children of God. Caring for the lives of others lies at the very heart of Christian faith (Matthew 22:36-40). As church, we stand in solidarity with the Black community against systemic racism that devalues Black lives.” You can read more at <https://www.elca.org/blacklivesmatter>

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 those 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.com, or contact Pastor Tom. Please also include an address where we can send cards.

We hold the following people in our prayers: Myrna Milani, Abbie K., Siobhain, Jennifer Buchanan, Dan Kramer, Brian Volo, Charlene Faleski, Margaret Miller, Phil LeFevre, Mel and Joyce Zimmerman, Mike, Olivia Williams and family, Matt Stzaba, Ray Romaleski, Murray Chesbro, Danny Penque, Renee, Lauren P., Joanne M., Robert Miller, Dottie Roehrig, Sylvia and Joe Smith, Lorraine Pfohl, Cheryl Rosati, Rosaria Phillipone, and Robin Bengaglio Richard.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we’ll be celebrating the following birthdays: Karen Rose’s on May 9th, Nancy Morth’s on May 13th, Donna Yaeger’s on May 15th, and Evan Steck’s on May 21st. Eilene Gebrian’s anniversary is also on May 9th, although her husband is no longer with us, Please let us know if you’d like a directory to contact these members, or if you’d like to add your birthday and anniversary to our celebration list!



May 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship, 9 AM	3	4	5 Call Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM	6	7	8
9 Worship, 9 AM Mother's Day	10 	11	12	13 Ascension of our Lord	14	15 CCC BBQ 3-6:30 PM Youth event!
16 Worship, 9 AM Habitat speaker	17	18 Group discussion, 6:30 PM	19 Board Meeting, 5:30 PM	20	21	22
23 Pentecost Worship, 9 AM Group discussion, 10 AM	24 	25	26	27	28	29 
30 Worship, 9 AM Trinity Sunday	31  MEMORIAL DAY					