

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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September, 2025

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

~ 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

On a Saturday this past month, our church council took a retreat to Stella Niagara for the day. We had a good conversation about where St. Tim's has been, who we are today, and our hopes for the future. As part of our discussion, we recognized the ways that St. Timothy Lutheran Church of Grand Island is a place where people use their gifts. Each person who is a part of this community brings with them experience, talent, gifts, and a spirit of collaboration that keeps St. Timothy thriving. Each of you contribute in ways that match your interest and gifts. It continues to amaze me how God is at work at St. Tim's through your gifts and the work that your hands and hearts produce.

The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Corinth that in our communities there are many gifts, but the same Spirit that gives life to God's mission. Paul talked about gifts including speaking wisdom, sharing knowledge, strong faith, healing, powerful deeds, prophecy, and understanding spirits and tongues. Though all these gifts are different, they all work together through the Spirit to do the work of the church together.

If I might be so bold, it seems to me that Paul's list was incomplete. The Spirit continues to give and manifest gifts within each of us that work for the common good for the church today! The gift of teaching Sunday School, the gifts of assisting in worship, the gifts of preparing the sanctuary and altar for worship, the gift of giving of our time and treasure in order to maintain a safe and appealing building in which to gather, the gift of gardening and tending to plants, the gift of holding children and reading them stories, the gift of music and sharing it together, the gift of welcoming hugs, the gift of understanding building codes and how asphalt works, the gift of graphic design, and of doing small and big repairs. The Spirit gives some the gift of speech, and others the gift of listening. And so many other gifts you are willing to share!

Out of this understanding of gifts, we have come up with a new theme for this year. Our focus for this year will be "Meeting Needs with God's Gifts." Thank you for all the gifts you share, and for all the gifts you will share throughout the coming year. Let's use our gifts from God to meet the needs of our congregation, this community, and the world God has made.

In gratitude for the Spirit's gifts,
Pastor Adam



**Meeting Needs with
God's Gifts**

Altar Guild Notes: September, 2025

The more things change the more they stay the same. The long green season of Time after Pentecost continues. But, feel the change in the air? It's a little cooler. Feel the hustle bustle of life is creeping back in our lives? It's happening at church too!

Did you notice the paraments are different? Still green for the season! This green set is the oldest handmade set made here at St. Timothy. Skilled women used appliqué and embroidery along with sewing techniques to create them.



Single 9:30 service returns this month. We will all be together again.

Rally day will stir us with installation of teachers, Harvest House donations will be recognized and picked up. But wait, still more this day!

This year, the centuries old festival, Holy Cross Day, falls on this Sunday!

A festival calls for red! However, the red paraments will stay tucked away until Reformation Sunday. But you will see accents of red.

Why not the red paraments, you ask.....

Well..... The scheduled lectionary reading for this day is a much loved, familiar passage from Luke referring to Jesus as our shepherd. Now look at that center green frontal. There is Jesus with his shepherd's crook in front of the cross. He has turned a cross of suffering and death into a divine use, to find and save His sheep. An image to see and carry in our hearts today.



The cross is a major image in our faith, representing who we are and whose we are. The empty cross reminds us that Christ not only died on the cross for us but rose again, human and divine! King and Savior.



Look around the sanctuary to see how many ways and places you see a cross. The windows, the fabrics, the candles. It is carved, molded, sewn, engraved, painted in so many ways to inspire us. Keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah

Messages From the Co-Presidents

Over the summer months, we have had a little of everything! Too hot, too cold, not enough rain and what sometimes seemed like only a sprinkle now and then. There is a sense of lack of stability around the world, political unrest, and seismic change about the moral compass of our country. And even so, when we are not sure of what to do to make a difference, St. Tim's continues to "do church." We have had some beautiful mornings of outside worship. The work of the volunteer lawn mowing crew has continued. We have had a recent baptism, and Pastor is helping a couple plan a wedding! A mighty crew painted Christmas Tree ornaments carved by Paul, and he took them to the fair, to donate money for Make-a-Wish. Pastor led us in a Council Retreat, and we discussed a new description of what we do at St. Tim's... Meeting Needs with God's Gifts. The reality is we have a lot of Gifts from God at St. Tim's.

Some of us traveled to enjoy family and friends, and now rested, return in time for the beginning of fall programming. This will begin with Rally Sunday on September 14. At that time we will recognize our Sunday School Teachers and CCC Staff. Pastor will offer a Fall Bible Study, and we, as a congregation, are planning for our September 18th Chicken BBQ... the day of a Bills game! Our goal is to surpass our success of last year. Again, we will all need to work together to staff the day and bake. Let the baking never be underestimated. Last year we made over \$400 from donated baked goods alone. Prior to that, a day for fall cleanup is scheduled for September 6. And along with this, our Harvest House Collection has been going strong.

We have accomplished so much, and there are so many to thank... and our work will continue. Meeting needs with God's Gifts. May we thank God for each other, always, and for the work we will do in His name.

Love and hugs,
Shari Miller





The weather is getting cooler and kids are heading back to school, we are all getting busy for the fall. We have a very busy end of the year coming.

The Chiavetta's BBQ is right around the corner on September 18th. We are looking for a lot of volunteers to help to make this a success. The money raised will be put towards the extra expense of the parking lot. Before that we have the fall clean-up day on the 6th from 9:00 to 11:00 to spruce up the property before the BBQ, Trunk-or-Treat at the end of October, and Breakfast with Santa in mid-December where we have a large number of non-members coming to our church and child care center. These are opportunities to introduce our warm and welcoming community, facilities, and services to the greater community.

For outreach we've been collecting for Harvest House and it looks like another banner year based on the contents in the coat room. We will be collecting school supplies for the child care center towards the end of September, and we have the BBQ coming up shortly. St Timothy's Lutheran Church and Child Care Team raised \$1520 for Ride for Roswell cancer research. Church members painted some hand-carved ornaments to sell at the Erie County Fair for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. The total raised for Make-A-Wish was \$59,600 from the turners and woodcarvers.

A Boy Scout troop will be using our fellowship hall again this school year, and the Grand Island Community Chorus will be holding rehearsals in the sanctuary on Sunday evenings starting this month.

On a sad note, Guhan will be leaving us and taking a job in New York City where he found sponsorship for his Visa. His last day is August 31st. Our search has started for a new organist. We we'll miss him but we wish him well in his new endeavors.

Our work continues updating the property. We have new lighting in the back by the playground and child care office after removing the old light poles, which posed a potential risk with rusted-through bases. We also have new flooring in the preschool classroom to replace the carpet in what was once the old child care office. All the child care rooms have been repainted and look great.

On September 28th, will have our congregational meeting to go over our 25-26 year budget as our fiscal year comes to an end. Join us for a potluck brunch and some fellowship after the service that morning before the meeting begins.

Thank you to everybody who continues to support our Church and Child Care Center through your donations and your time and effort on many of our committees. As Shari always says, we have a small but mighty family here at St Timothy's Lutheran Church and Child Care Center.

Regards,

Paul Yaeger

Child Care Center News for September 2025!

Hello, Church Family!

September is always a special time—filled with fresh beginnings, new routines, and exciting opportunities for our children to learn, play, and thrive. We welcomed returning families and many new little faces this month. Our classrooms are buzzing with energy as teachers and children settle into their daily rhythms. Please keep our staff and families in your prayers as they embark on a year of nurturing curiosity, kindness, and development.

This month we will be hosting our Open House for our Child Care Program on September 11th from 6 to 7 pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity for families to visit the classrooms, meet our teachers, and learn more about our center and exciting things that will be happening throughout the upcoming year. One event that will be kicked off at Open House is our Book Blast Program that provides free books to every child at the center! We are also looking forward to Rally Day on September 14th and getting to see all of you!

At the end of September we will be doing our back to school supply drive again. We are asking for glue, playdoh, construction paper, washable nontoxic paint, dry erase markers, chalk, tape, paint brushes, and bandaids. More than anything, we ask for your continued prayers—for our little ones as they grow, for families as they juggle busy days, and for our teachers as they pour love and patience into their work each day. In a world that can sometimes feel frightening and uncertain we are especially grateful to provide a place of safety, love, and faith for every child in our care. Every prayer, every small act of kindness, and every word of encouragement helps us continue this ministry of love and learning.

Thank you!

Athena Torain, Center Director



Worship Information

Worship continues at 9:30 AM each Sunday; the 8 AM outdoor service will finish on September 7. All are welcome! You can also watch us on our livestream at www.sttimothygrandisland.com.



Sunday School for age 3 through 4th grade will resume on Rally Day, September 14th, and is held during the 9:30 AM service.

We hope you can join us!

News and Upcoming Events

Fall Clean-Up Day

Join us for our fall clean-up day on Saturday, September 6th as we maintain our property to keep it welcoming, especially for all our BBQ visitors and new families! The main jobs will be weeding, trimming bushes, and doing a deep clean of our sanctuary. Your help is appreciated! The rain date will be Saturday, September 13th.

Rally Day, Sunday School, & Blessing of the Backpacks!

Kick off Sunday School and the new school year with us on Rally Day, September 14th! We'll install our Sunday School and Child Care teachers and staff, bless kids' and teachers' backpacks, and welcome all our kids back. Joe Somma from Harvest House will be here to speak again as well as we end our collection. If anyone would like to bring goodies to share after the service, we would welcome treats for our time in fellowship!

Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ and Bake Sale Fundraiser

Our BBQ and Bake Sale fundraiser is coming up on September 18th! We've ordered 500 meals this year and hope to sell out again. Here's how you can help us make this a success:

- Spread the word. Hang fliers in public places, hand out small fliers to friends and family, put a lawn sign in front of your house, and encourage everyone you know to come to St. Timothy for their pre-game meal on Thursday, September 18th between 3:30 and 6:30 PM!
- Purchase presale tickets. These will be available before and after services, at our child care and church offices, and online at <https://www.sttimothygrandisland.com/event-details/chiavettas-chicken-bbq>.
- Make baked goods for the sale. Last year, brownies and unique desserts went the fastest! Specific drop-off times will be communicated as we get closer, but labeled desserts can be dropped off ahead of time and will be cut and packaged the night before.
- Volunteer! We can use as many hands as we can get on the 18th. We have jobs for a variety of activity levels and will welcome any and all to join us for whatever times they're able.

Thank you for all your help again and we look forward to another great BBQ!

**DRIVE-THRU
CHIAVETTA'S BBQ
& BAKE SALE**

\$16



September 18th from
3:30-6:30 PM at St.
Timothy Lutheran Church
1453 Staley Road, GI



Get your pre-game meal from St. Timothy!

Each meal includes a half chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, and roll with butter.

Thank you for your support!

**For presale tickets, visit our church or
childcare office, scan the QR code, or
go to www.sttimothygrandisland.com.**

Saying Goodbye

Our organist, Guhan, is moving on to serve at a music school in New York City. We are grateful for our time together and wish him all the best!

Congregational Meeting and Potluck Brunch

Our Congregational Meeting to approve the budget will be held on Sunday, September 28th immediately following the 9:30 AM service. Please bring a brunch (breakfast or lunch) dish to pass as you're able and join us for some time in fellowship and church business.

Bible Study

Pastor Adam will hold a Bible Study on Thursdays at 1 PM for 8 weeks, starting September 25th. It will focus on catechism.

WELCA Retreat

The Women of the ELCA Niagara Frontier Conference is holding their annual convention October 3-5 at the Notre Dame Retreat Center, focusing on our relationship with our indigenous sisters, especially those murdered and missing. Late registration is still open.

ELCA and Synod News

Kristen Arends' Ordination

Pastor Adam's wife, Kristen, will be ordained on Saturday, September 6th at 4 PM at St. Paul Lutheran in Eggertsville, 4007 Main Street, Williamsville. All are welcome to attend & wear red.

New ELCA Bishop and Secretary

The Rev. Yeheil Curry was elected as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA and The Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills as ELCA Secretary at Churchwide Assembly in July. Both began ministry in the ELCA as Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) Candidates. There's a wonderful video introducing Rev. Curry available through the ELCA YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-P_fMDfj4U.

Missions

Harvest House

St. Timothy is continuing to collect for Harvest House and their Baby Shower through Rally Day, 9/14. Harvest House serves families living at or below the federal poverty level on the East Side of Buffalo. They are most in need of diapers sizes 2-5, socks for children age 3+; clothing newborn to 5T; bottles and feeding supplies; baby hygiene products (wipes, creams, etc); safe, portable cribs; car seats and strollers (new or gently used), and books and toys. Thank you for helping secure the health and welfare of children and their families through these essential items!



School Supplies

Once school supplies go on sale towards the end of the month, we would welcome some items for our child care! Elmer's liquid glue and glue sticks, playdough and playdough accessories, construction paper, washable nontoxic paint, water color paint, dry erase markers, chalk, drawing pads and paper, tape (duct, masking, scotch), paint brushes, bandaids, binders and tabs, and command strips and hooks. Our collection will start mid-September and run for two weeks. Thank you for your support as always!

Summer Memories



Our parking lot was redone and looks gorgeous!

Thank you to all who made this possible, and especially to Paul Glassman for doing all the leg work and to our generous donor who matched gifts. To the greater community, St. Timothy

contributed a clothes-on-the-line (with a few wind-blown socks) money tree basket to the Lutheran

Charities Golf Classic, had a small but mighty Ride for Roswell team, and painted ornaments to sell at the Erie County Fair for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Thanks to everyone who contributed in time, talents, and donations to all!





This summer, we welcomed Stella Rose Soell and Gino William Rossi in baptism! We celebrate with parents Kaityln and Tyler Soell and sponsors Chris Rose and Angela Tierney, and with parents Megan and Nicholas Rossi and sponsors Michelle Hoople and Joseph Rossi.

We also held our third annual Vacation Bible School and it was a blast! Thank you to all our volunteers who helped make this happen!



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: Eilene Gebrian; Paul Schwandt; Kalene Best; Terri; Adelaide Benninger & family; Michael Briggs; Rob Cornelius; Phyllis Hall; Rick Burns; Mike Seguin; Matt Rowe; Esmaeil & Fariba; Dana; Judy Nutz; Jerry & Sharon; Eliana & Lilly; Jay; Dan; Michelle Ramsey; Mike & Tina Cutini; Diane & Brian Lind; Aiden Haynes; Barbara Dow; Vanessa; Logan McKenzie; Karen Wiswall; Ronald Olson; Janet Upham; Deborah Piotrowski; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Myles; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Brenda; Margaret Miller; Marlene; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengalia Richard; Joanne M.; Sylvia & Joe Smith; Lorraine Pfohl; and Cheryl Rosati.

Please note that we no longer remove people unless we have heard of their improvement or their

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This summer, we'll be celebrating Cheryl and Mike Wasson's wedding anniversary on September 7th and Merle Wilson's birthday on September 19th.

To add your birthday or anniversary to our celebration list, call 716-773-4400 or email communications@sttimothygrandisland.com.



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.

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6 Clean-up day, 9-11 AM
7 Worship, 8 & 9:30 AM	8	9	10	11 Finance meeting, 6 PM	12	13 Clean-up rain date
14 Worship, 9:30 AM Rally Day!	15 	16	17	18 Chiavetta's BBQ! 3:30-6:30 PM  BBQ	19	20
21 Worship, 9:30 AM	22	23	24	25 Bible study, 1 PM Council meeting, 5:30 PM	26	27
28 Worship, 9:30 AM Congregation Meeting, 10:30 AM	29	30				