

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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November, 2024

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

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MAY GRACE AND PEACE
BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE.

I PETER 1:2, NRSV

From the Pastor's Desk

A pastor I know, who served in a rural congregation, came out of his door one day to walk to his car, and blocking his way on the steps sat a bucket: a re-used ice cream pail. The lid was on, so, curious, the pastor picked up the bucket and lifted the lid enough to see inside. It was filled to the brim with the ripest, fullest blueberries he had ever seen. On the top of the bucket was a strip of paper taped to the lid with the word, "Pastor" written on it.

That Sunday, the pastor was greeting people in the sanctuary and when he got to Karla, she said, "Did you get it?" Not having any idea what she was talking about out, the pastor, confused, said, "Um, what did I get?" "The blueberries! We picked them for you."

In November we often think about giving thanks. In worship each week we give thanks to God in many ways. Following the direction of many Psalms, we give thanks to God in song. At the communion table, I say, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." And you respond, "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The question, then, is how do we give our thanks to God.

In worship we thank God with songs of praise. By giving an offering, we give thanks to God for the abundance with which we have been entrusted. There is another way that it is appropriate to give thanks to God: Picking blueberries and giving them to a neighbor.

Now, of course, it doesn't have to be blueberries! But when we give to our neighbors, we give thanks to God. Martin Luther is reported to have said something like, "God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does." This month, in giving thanks to God for all we have, how can we show our gratitude through love of neighbor?

I invite us all to give thanks to God in all we do, and to remember that sometimes God receives our thanks when we give blueberries to a neighbor.

In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Adam



Altar Guild Notes: November 2024

Festivals! We begin and end November with principal festivals.
The white paraments are displayed. Candles are flaming.

We begin November in the white and light of Christ. All Saints' Sunday. We remember those who have passed from the "church militant" (Christians on earth) to the "church triumphant" (Christians rejoicing in heaven with God). The white paraments call to mind the white garment of baptism as well as the white funeral pall draping the casket or urn. The lit Christ candle stands guard at both.



The next two Sundays, green panels are added on both sides of the altar frontal to remind us we are still in the season of Time after Pentecost. We are reminded there is much to do in response to God's love as the "church militant." For example, the St. Timothy Women of the ELCA, WELCA, will bring in our annual thankoffering. It is a reminder that our pocket change and prayers combined can make a difference!

The following Sunday brings the joy of a baptism. A new saint will be brought into our community of believers!



The festival of Christ the King falls on the last Sunday. It also earmarks the last Sunday of the season of Time after Pentecost and the last day of our liturgical calendar year. The green panels are gone. The white paraments will be accented with gold. Jesus is celebrated as our one true Savior King on earth and in heaven for the fullness of time. The gold-draped stand near the altar holds two crowns. The crown of thorns suffering Jesus wore as he died for our sins rests on a gold royal crown that signifies His divine rule as Jesus rose from the dead to erase those sins. Divine King of all.

That same Sunday evening, St. Timothy Church hosts an ecumenical service to observe the secular holiday of Thanksgiving. The sanctuary will be decked out with colors and symbols of Fall & harvest as well.

All of these celebrations, symbols, colors are to bring our hearts and minds to Christ Jesus. Find Jesus in the Word & Eucharist every Sunday.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah



Messages From the Co-Presidents

Last month, Pastor preached on “how many people can God hug?” The children helped us learn, “God can hug everyone.” We learned we have our tight inner circle, our wider circle of friends, and, there is the rest of the world, people we don’t know. We can “hug” all of these. Jesus is teaching us ways of discipleship, and how we should live, including living out our agape love.

I see this being lived out in many of the things happening at St. Tim’s. We, as a congregation, so many of us good, close friends, have faithfully undertaken, and succeeded at some really big projects. We all pooled our resources in order to refurbish our sanctuary, with the goal of providing a new, warm, inviting atmosphere for all, including those we have not yet met! I think most of us have long believed, our country needs a tsunami of people returning to faith. All the activity in our congregation speaks volumes about our care and concern, and our invitation to them. God’s work, our hands. We trust the Spirit. In thinking of past Sundays before writing this article, I realize I have met new folks in our midst in 3 of the past 5 Sundays. We can warmly offer each and every one of them a seat at Christ’s table, in the midst of all of us. One young woman told me this past Sunday, she came to St. Tim’s because her friend’s child receives love and care at our CCC. God’s work, our hands, and we trust the Spirit. Similarly, our Trunk or Treat was a great success, providing fun for not only St. Tim’s children, but children of the CCC, and of the community. God’s work, our hands! Thank you Karen, and everyone who contributed in big and small ways.

Pastor talked about a small gesture on our part, like buying extra paper towels for our CCC, and how that can make a big difference. We can open our hearts to the possibility of completing the essential renovation of our parking lot, to safely welcome all to our church for worship, and allow safety for our CCC families. How splendid that an anonymous donor has a generous heart, and will match all donations for the parking lot. I choose to believe this is the Spirit at work. I choose to buy a parking spot!

We may be small, but we are mighty. We are alive and well doing God’s work, whether it be all the above-mentioned activities or our book study on Luther, confirmation classes, Sunday School, coffee hour, etc. In one of the most politically-charged times in recent memory, we continue to find ways to work together. We are all different, with our own opinions....and we share the desire to do God’s work, with our hands. Every day I feel the Spirit at work amongst us. Every day, I choose joy!

Hugs from Shari



Hi. This month we had a new rug put in and I'd like to thank everybody who took things down, moved things, dusted and cleaned, and put everything back together. Of course the reason for the new rug and painting is due to the generous donations, thanks to you all. The kneelers are the last part of the inside of the church that is still pending. The completed kneelers will be coming soon.

Please be aware that we're building on the BBQ fundraiser momentum that started our parking lot campaign. You can find information in the bulletin and later in the newsletter. We're looking for pledges and donations for the month of November because we have a generous donor who's going to match funds for the month. We are hoping that with the money we receive and the pledges, it will cover the parking lot expense by March. Fingers crossed. Thanks to everyone in advance for their help in making the parking lot fund a success.

Regards,
Paul

Thank you!

Our refreshed and renewed worship space is complete, and it looks amazing!! A sincere thank-you to everyone who made this possible—with generous donations and the dedication of Judy Bassette's memorial funds, with input through the carpet committee and congregational vote, with labor preparing the sanctuary for installation and replacing the furniture afterwards, and with time and effort dusting and refreshing individual elements so clean items could be replaced on freshly painted walls and new carpet. Thank you for helping make our sanctuary warm and welcoming for years to come!



Child Care Center News for November, 2024!

Hello, Church Family!

As we embrace the month of November, we at St. Timothy Lutheran Child Care Center want to take a moment to express our gratitude for the wonderful community that surrounds us. This time of year encourages reflection and appreciation, and we are thankful for the support and involvement of our families and friends. November is a month filled with warmth, togetherness, and opportunities for learning. We have exciting activities planned that celebrate the changing seasons and foster a spirit of kindness and gratitude among our little ones. This month, the center is focusing on being thankful, who our heroes are, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving. We are asking for donations of paper towels and are grateful for any we receive.

Coming up this month, we will be conducting parent-teacher conferences which are valuable ways to enhance the educational experience and ensure that each child receives the support they need to thrive. We will also be doing Fall Picture Day on November 18th and 19th. We will be continuing yoga, Library Club, and Children's Church through the month as well. December is quickly approaching, so remember Breakfast with Santa is December 21st!!

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! Can't make it in person? You can also watch us on YouTube or livestream our service at www.sttimothygrandisland.com. Sunday School meets during the service for kids ages 3 through grade 5.

News and Upcoming Events

Congregational Meeting Review and Emergency Preparedness Plan

Thank you to all who attended our congregational meeting and brought a dish to pass! At the meeting, we approved the 2024-2025 budget, reviewed and approved proposed changes to our constitution which have now been sent to the Synod for approval, and reviewed our emergency preparedness plan.

Here are the most important things to know for emergency preparedness that are specific to our building. Both sacristies (the small rooms off the altar area) have emergency exits, and the sacristy to the right has a fire extinguisher, fire blanket, and first aid kit just inside the door. Fire extinguishers are also located in the church office, narthex near the courtyard, balcony, kitchen, and fellowship hall, along with several in the child care wing. Maps with the locations of exits and emergency items, along with our plan summary sheet, will be posted around the building shortly, pending the purchase of a certified refurbished AED, which we voted to obtain using funds that remain from the carpet campaign. This map is also included on the following page for your reference. In the event of an evacuation, please stay on church grounds so we can make sure everyone is accounted for; our evacuation assembly points are the front sign and the picnic shelter. Thank you.

Parking Lot Match!



Our parking lot campaign is officially open, with a goal amount of \$40,000 for the much-needed resurfacing of our lot. A generous donor has offered to match any donations that come in the month of November, and we are grateful for any support you are able to give!

When the lot is divided up, each parking space is about \$450. Please find in your November bulletins and in the narthex pledge forms that you can submit, marking off one spot, two spots, or any amount that's right for you, either given with the submission of the form or pledged by spring. Please submit your pledge form by December 1st so we know where we stand. To have these donations on your 2024 tax statements, please give by December 29th. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service & Dessert Smorgasbord

Please join us again this year as we invite the community in for a celebration of Thanksgiving and fellowship around desserts, with music courtesy of the Grand Island Community Chorus. This will be held on Sunday, November 24th at 7 PM. All are welcome! Help setting up, cleaning up, and making desserts is appreciated for all who are able, too!

Emergency Plan Map



Key:

- Emergency Exit
- Fire Extinguisher
- Fire Alarm Pull
- First Aid Kit
- Automated External Heart Defibrillator (AED)
- Primary Evacuation Route
- Secondary Evacuation Route
- You Are Here

Poinsettia orders

Poinsettia orders are being placed once again this year to grace our sanctuary on Christmas Eve, and the flowers can be taken home after the service to enjoy. Choices are red, white, and pink blooms and are \$11 each again this year. The greenhouse would like our preliminary count by November 24th but will accept orders through December 8th; please fill out the upcoming bulletin form or contact the office to place your order. Each plant can be designated in memory or honor of someone, or this commemoration can be done with a donation to ELCA World Hunger in lieu of poinsettias. Thank you!

Missions

Child Care Center Support



As we work on meeting our budget in the Child Care Center, we welcome your donations of paper towels and gloves! Our staff goes through tons of paper towels for wiping down tables and for the two changing station wipe-downs required between each child. A new set of gloves is used with each

diaper change, too. Any kind of paper towels are welcome, but please only purchase latex-free and powder-free gloves. All sizes are welcome. Thank you!!

Save the date for Breakfast with Santa on December 21st, too!

Thankofferings: Giving Thanks to God, All Day, Every Day

The daily practice of giving thanks to God for blessings received is at the heart of our lives as people of faith. Even the ordinary blessings of daily life call us to gratitude. One way we do this is through our Thankoffering collection, which will take place on Sunday, **November 10th**. At St. Timothy, all are encouraged **“to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ”** by participating in this special collection.

Thankoffering was started by women in Lutheran churches more than one hundred years ago. Through the organization they established, they were able to do collectively what they could not do alone. By adding all their pennies and nickels together that they had gathered in thanks throughout the year, they were able to support a missionary or maybe build an orphanage.

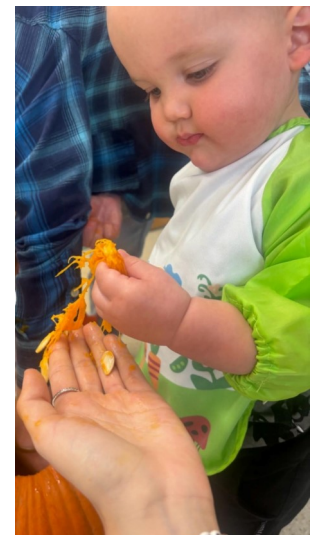


Thank
Offering

Today, Thankofferings support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA such as justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders, grants and scholarships that help women “to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ,” and the many communications channels that support, encourage, and inform people to help them grow in their discipleship, among others. Through our Thankofferings, we show gratitude for God’s blessings and support our partnership with God in making Christ known to all the world. We are called to offer with joy and gratitude what God has first given us.

On Sunday, November 10th, please use the blue envelope given to you by one of the women of St. Timothy or write **“Thankoffering”** on your check or envelope and place it in the basket provided. Thank you for acting boldly on your faith.

Last Month's Memories



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 Rudy Nutz; Diane and Brian Lind; Chris Sweeney; April Vines; Bill and Nancy; Joan Buchanan; Aiden Haynes; Vanessa; Barbara Dow; Tina Cutini; Logan McKenzie; Joan Buchanan; Jack Skinner; Karen Wiswall; Deborah Piotrowski; Ronald Olson; Eric Alexander; Janet Upham; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Deb; Myles; Becky; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Nancy Gorrell; Brenda; Margaret Miller; Marlene; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Alex; Robin Bengalia 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 Paul Yaeger's birthday on November 10th and Kathy Freer's birthday on November 20th. Please let us know if you'd like to add your birthday and anniversary to our celebration list!



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.

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship, 9:30 AM	4	5	6	7	8 	9
10 Worship, 9:30 AM Thankoffering Confirmation, 7 PM	11  Vet's Day	12	13 Confirma- tion, 7 PM	14	15	16
17 Worship, 9:30 AM	18	19	20	21 Finance, 3 PM Council, 5:30 PM	22	23
24 Worship, 9:30 AM Thanksgiving Ecumenical, 7 PM	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiv- ing Day	29	30 