

THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our Pastor: The Rev. Adam Arends

Our website: www.sttimothygrandisland.com

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

Our phone number: 716-773-4400

Our Child Care Center:
716-773-9249

Meeting Needs with



November, 2025

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ~ Ephesians 1:15

November is always designated as a month to give thanks to God for what we have. As we prepare to gather with family and friends on the U.S.'s Day of Thanksgiving at the end of the month, each year those around the table may change. Some years families are blessed with an extra seat: a newborn baby, or a new partner or spouse. Sometimes college kids bring home friends who don't have a way to get home that year.

And there are other Thanksgivings when there is an empty chair for the first time as a beloved soul has left this earthly plane in the past year.

This year November gives us a way to acknowledge, remember and give thanks all in the same month.

The first Sunday of the month we will celebrate All Saints day together. In worship we will read off the names of those Saints who now rest in God's care. I pray that this year, having All Saints and Thanksgiving in the same month will be a blessing as we will carry the memory of those Saints who have gone before through the month and give thanks for all they have given to us on November 27.

And even more amazing for November 2025 is that the last Sunday will be the first Sunday in Advent when we as a church remember God coming into the world as one of us in Jesus the Christ, and the church also prepares for and remembers Christ's promise to come again.

This month, keep in mind the love, the wisdom, and the care that the Saints in your life have shared with you, and together we will celebrate our God in Christ who has been here, is present now, and will return to this world. This month, we celebrate with all the Saints, give thanks for all the Saints, and look forward to being with them all again.

In God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor Adam



Altar Guild Notes: November, 2025

The Saints come marching in on the first Sunday of November!

The sanctuary is dressed in white to remember the saints that have gone before us. Candles will help us do just that. Each bright flame lit to remember the light of Christ within a loved one then and now.

Green panels are added to the altar frontal for the following two Sundays.

They serve as a reminder we are still in the current liturgical season of Time after Pentecost.

The addition of harvest decorations also remind us of our current climate season of Autumn!

The fourth Sunday is the last Sunday of our liturgical year. The green panels are removed. The Autumnal decorations remain, but all traces of green are gone. We celebrate the festival of Christ the King this day. See the crown near the altar? Look closer. There is a crown of thorns too.

Now focus on the altar frontal. Our king's hands are not clenched around a scepter or resting on the arms of a throne. Our Savior King has His arms outstretched to envelop us all with love and mercy. Christ, with arms that were outstretched on a cross in death, rose again to bring us to eternal life with God.



One more Sunday this November! It's not over! But yes, it is! We are starting a new liturgical year in church! Advent begins!!

Yep, out comes the blue paraments. The Advent wreath is up front. Blue candles in the windows. We are waiting, preparing for Christ.

The seasons change outside. The seasons change inside church. What never changes is Christ's love and mercy.

Keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah

A Message From the Co-President

Each Sunday, we gather together and begin our worship with words of confession. The first time I spoke the words of our current Confession, it really got my attention! Our collection of humanity is indeed, “stiff-necked,” and “we trample on the needy, grumble about [God’s] grace to others, and turn away from the poor.” How did this happen? Then I realize that sad reality can co-exist with the uplifting message of God’s love. I have mentioned James Talarico before. He is a young member of the Texas House of Representatives, now running for the US Senate, who says, “I follow a barefoot Rabbi, who gives me two commands. Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbor.” And Pastor encourages us to remember to work against injustice, and reminds us, “Do not Loose heart. God is with us.”

We all come to worship to be regularly recharged for these challenges ahead. We are led by Pastor with instruction in Scripture, within the proper context of the time. We are led by the beautiful gift of music, provided by Tim. He attended our last Worship and Music Committee meeting, and we all realized, he gets it! He is a wonderful new addition to our family! And the work of the congregation goes on. Pastor is again teaching two of our youth, guiding them with their preparation for confirmation. Some of the work is more visible, like Deaconing, and others, out of sight; the Church Council, Finance, Property, and Hospitality Committees. Although I did drive by the other day and see Pastor out changing the letters on the sign!

We support our mission, the CCC. I believe “little bits” learn and feel that God wants them to have fun, too, as we prepare for Trunk or Treat, and the parade with costumes. They continue to be blessed with weekly Children’s Church, led by Pastor and Karen Rose, and go home singing their songs of kindness, fun, and Jesus’ love. We all applaud the steady leadership provided by our Director, Athena. Our reputation of excellence is known in our community. And yes, our dear Karen Sturniolo never loses her zeal for decorating. She even knows how to make a tomato cage turn into a Halloween decoration!! She loves numbers, and is so very clever!

We will again welcome the community for the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service and Smorgasbord on November 23, and thank the Community Chorus for providing special music. There is comfort in this tradition of togetherness. And there is comfort and joy combined as preparations are already underway for the CCC Breakfast with Santa, on December 13. Many volunteer opportunities are available!

We are often inundated with the news, which increases our anxieties and fears. I find comfort in remembering, that we are a steady, welcoming, encouraging congregation, and are built up by the love and community we share. As Pastor has said, we gather in the Narthex after worship, and it is our second communion.

In the midst of all of this, we find joy. The same Good God who has brought us this far will not desert us now. Love and Hugs,

Shari Miller

Child Care Center News for November 2025!

Hello, Church Family!

As we move into November, we want to take a moment to reflect on all the wonderful experiences our children enjoyed in October. We kicked off the month with a very special visit from one of our local firefighters. The children were fascinated as he showed them his protective gear, explained how it helps keep him safe, and taught them that firefighters are helpers and someone they can trust and go toward in an emergency. The highlight of the visit, of course, was getting to see the fire truck up close! The children loved exploring all the tools and equipment. It was a fun and valuable learning experience that tied perfectly into our lessons about community helpers.

Later in the month, we bundled up and headed to The Great Pumpkin Farm for our annual fall field trip. Even though the day brought chilly temperatures and a bit of rain, our spirits stayed warm! The children enjoyed seeing the pumpkins, hayrides, and fall decorations, and everyone came home with smiles (and a little mud on their shoes). It was a wonderful way to celebrate the beauty of the fall season together.

This month, our classrooms are focusing on the themes of gratitude and kindness. We'll be learning about Veterans Day, talking about what it means to serve our country, and honoring the brave men and women who protect our freedoms. The children will make thank-you cards and artwork for local veterans as a way to show appreciation. As Thanksgiving approaches, we'll spend time talking about what it means to be thankful — for our families, our friends, our teachers, our church community, and the many gifts God provides every day.

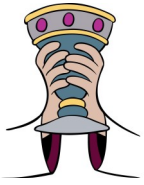
Looking ahead, we are so excited that our beloved Breakfast with Santa will return on Saturday, December 13th! This event is always a joyful time for our families and community to come together in celebration. We will soon be reaching out for volunteers and donations to help make this event extra special for the children. If you feel called to lend a hand or contribute in any way, we would be deeply grateful for your support.

Thank you!
Athena Torain
Center Director

A look into the Child
Care Center last month:



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 age 3 through 4th grade is held during the 9:30 AM service. We hope you can join us!

News and Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service & Dessert Smorgasbord

Invite friends, family, and neighbors for our community-wide Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service and Dessert Smorgasbord on Sunday, November 23rd at 7 PM! We welcome your help with set-up, making desserts, and clean-up again this year; details for volunteers will come as we get closer. Fliers are available in the Narthex to hang around the community.

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!



Bible Study

Bible study continues Thursdays at 1 PM in the parlor through November 20th.

Building Fund

Thank you for continuing to support our building fund as we work with and prepare for both anticipated and unforeseen maintenance expenses—roof repairs, boiler issues, plumbing work, heater motor repairs, etc. As you are able, contributions to the building fund can be designated through the blue envelopes found in the pews or can be otherwise clearly labeled and given to the office. Thank you for helping us keep our property in great shape and functioning well as we prepare to meet our building needs with God's gifts!

Christmas Eve service

St. Timothy's Christmas Eve service will be held at 4 PM this year.

Missions

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 16th. 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.



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 16th, 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.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service Collection

Our Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will once again include a collection for a local community organization. This will be announced as we get closer.

Conference Assembly News

After opening worship at the October 22 Conference Assembly...

Pr. Jeremiah Smith was reelected as Dean of our conference (Niagara Frontier.) He ran unopposed.

Two resolutions were passed and will be forwarded to the synod council. The council will check them to ensure they are legal and not in violation of the synod constitution. If the synod council considers both conditions to be met, the resolutions will be brought before the 2026 synod assembly for action. As with the conference assembly, St. Timothy is allowed to have the pastor and two members serve as voting representatives at the synod assembly.

The resolutions—in simplest terms are:

Resolution to set term limits for synod executive officers (excluding the office of bishop) to two consecutive full terms for the vice president and secretary, and three consecutive full terms for the treasurer. (There are conditions allowed when partial terms come into play.)

Resolution to encourage all congregations to adopt and implement safe supervision standards in youth and children's ministry. (The resolution is 8 pages long, so this is just the simplest, most basic version!)

Pr. Adam, and Phyllis & Duane Keeler attended as voting representatives of St. Timothy.

Because there was an election for the position of dean, Bishop Miller attended the meeting to run the election. After the business of the conference was completed, the bishop answered general questions.

Submitted by Duane Keeler

Last Month's Memories



We were excited to welcome Tim Dyet as our new music director! Trunk-or-Treat was also a blast—the games, crafts, goodies, and decorations were amazing. Thanks to all who made this possible!



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: Marge Skinner; Charris Kiener; Eilene Gebrian; Paul Schwandt; Adelaide Benninger & family; Terri; 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; 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 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.



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 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship, 9:30 AM	3	4	5	6 Bible study, 1 PM	7	8
9 Worship, 9:30 AM	10	11 	12	13 Bible study, 1 PM	14	15
16 Worship, 9:30 AM	17	18	19 Finance meeting, 12 PM	20 Bible study, 1 PM Council, 5:30 PM	21	22
23 Worship, 9:30 AM Thanksgiv- ing Service, 7 PM	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiv- ing Day 	28	29
30 Worship, 9:30 AM						