

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, 2023

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

Grateful

I recently heard a story about a writer, A. J. Jacobs, who decided to be more thankful in his life. He started a practice at dinner of thanking the people who helped grow the food that got to his table each day. One day, his son said, "You know dad, those people aren't here in our apartment, so they don't know you're thanking them." So A. J. decided to thank people starting with the woman who served him coffee at his local coffee shop. But he didn't want to stop there. He decided to thank everyone who made it possible for him to drink coffee each day, starting with the manager at the coffee shop, and then the person who delivered the coffee to the shop, and the people who ran the warehouse that stored the coffee before it got to the truck, and even the pest control workers who kept bugs out the coffee beans. He even traveled to Columbia to thank the farmers who grew the coffee. The more people he thanked, the more he realized that there were more people to thank, because in our society we depend on each other to do something as simple as get a cup of coffee. He ended up thanking over a thousand people!

Jacobs' book about this thankfulness journey is titled, [A Thousand Thanks](#), and he also has a TED talk about it you can find on YouTube. A fellow pastor told me about this project, and I'm excited to keep giving thanks this November.

I am thankful for being welcomed into the St. Timothy's community. This year has been one of transition for all of us, and you have welcomed me so warmly. I'm thankful for those who lead worship with me as Assisting Ministers, for those who sing and usher and greet. I'm thankful for welcoming handshakes, nods, smiles, and hugs. I'm thankful that St. Timothy continues to provide a welcoming place for the children of Grand Island to grow and learn at our child care center. I'm thankful for community celebrations like our Trunk or Treat even and the upcoming Breakfast with Santa.

This November, I want to keep give thanks, and I hope you'll join me. I'm going to put out 1000 thank you cards, and I invite you to take as many as you think you will use and send them or give them to those you want to thank. You can send them to your family, your friends, your doctors, emergency responders, teachers, community leaders, and neighbors. You can send them to those who pave our roads, those who serve you coffee, and people who grow our food!

Having a thankful heart, and giving thanks to God for all we have can be made tangible and real for us as we actively live our gratitude and give thanks to those around us who work to make all of our lives more fulfilling. The Spirit is at work in and through us and all around us. Let's take time to recognize it and give thanks for it!

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Adam



Altar Guild Notes: November, 2023

The red of Reformation is in the rear view mirror.
What's next, you ask!

November will keep us busy. The mood changes immediately.

The first Sunday is All Saints Sunday. We will remember the saints that have gone before us. The altar, lectern, and pulpit are dressed in white paraments. The seven branch candelabras make a rare appearance. Names submitted of those that died this past year will be read aloud as a candle is lit for each.

The second Sunday we are reminded that we are still in the season of Time after Pentecost. Green panels are added on both sides of the white altar frontal. This Sunday, WELCA, Women of the ELCA, will highlight our annual thankoffering. This is a lovely tradition at St. Timothy. All year, each woman adds a few coins to her home bank many times to recognize the many moments of gratitude. The total amount is donated as a thankoffering and is sent to the church-wide group in support of their many essential ministries.

The green panels remain for the third Sunday. You may have noticed that Autumn Harvest decorations have been added this month. This Sunday is especially lush. We will once again host the Thanksgiving Ecumenical evening service in our sanctuary. Then we will continue the celebration in the fellowship hall around a dessert buffet!

Christ the King Sunday is celebrated the last Sunday this month. It is also the last Sunday of this liturgical year! The green panels are gone from the altar. Everything is white again. Notice the gold crown on a stand near the altar frontal showing Christ with his arms outstretched. He is our Divine King and Lord of all. The crown of thorns hang from the gold crown. Christ's sacrifice for victory over death for us!

A whole month of giving thanks; for saints gone before us, for daily blessings, for creation's abundance, for Christ our Savior King.

May we give thanks in our prayers, by using our gifts to serve God and our neighbors, by gathering and sharing the Eucharist with our family of faith. Amen

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah



Messages From the Presidents

To Our St. Timothy Family,

Last month, we spoke of new beginnings, the change of season and the end of Summer. Rally Day introduced Fall, a new school and Sunday School year, a new Bible Study, Habitat for Humanity, and a new congregational budget. All of them signifying new opportunities for services to connect to God and connect to our neighbors.

By the time you read this, we will have had, I am sure, a successful Trunk-or-Treat to help the little kids in our lives celebrate a successful and safe Halloween, and a marvelous CCC Halloween Parade. Stop for a minute to think of the loving hands that gently assist our 57 CCC kiddos get into Halloween costumes, march in the Parade, and have such fun... and then change them back into regular clothes! All of this in addition to the daily care they give to these small treasures!

We will also have “celebrated” the “Old Reformation,” making it new again, “allowing the preaching of the Gospel and the extension of grace to all.” And we will be committed to collecting food pantry items, with love and intention, to connect with and create new beginnings for many of God’s children in need.

We will be looking forward to our Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, hosted for so many years at St. Timothy, on the Sunday Eve before Thanksgiving Day. This year, our commitment is to again gather in those from all the congregations, worship with thanksgiving, and again dazzle them with the Dessert Smorgasbord. Please be available with many hands to set up tables, set tables, and make or bake your specialty as we come together in community.

And speaking of thanksgiving... it is with profound gratefulness I embrace my kids... home from the horrific conflict in Israel and the Middle East. The story there is old, complicated and generational. I am so thankful for all the unceasing prayers you have offered for Jordan, Adam, Julian, and Ari’s safety, but sad, as they have left a bit of their hearts in Jerusalem with many Palestinian, Israeli, and Arab friends who are all still in harm’s way. The way ahead is unknown and difficult. Please continue to pray for small steps that might change the current course of hate and terrific hardship for all. It is something we must all do together.

Love and hugs,
Shari Miller



Community involvement

Trunk-or-treat was very successful and is always a fun time. The kids are so cute and excited to get candy. Little ones seem to pick the candy by color and the older ones know what they like. Thanks to everyone who participated or brought little ones and shared the day with our small friends. There were some great costumes and a number of costumes of characters I didn't recognize.

Habitat for Humanity was interesting this year. Pastor Adam, Scott Webb, and I were working on a house that had walls made of Styrofoam that were then filled with concrete and rebar (photo of a wall block included). There was a break in the wall when they poured the concrete, which resulted in a large puddle of concrete that we needed to break up and remove so that we could apply the waterproofing sheets to the basement walls. We worked hard trying to figure out how to break up the thick concrete with a few chisels and sledgehammers and were eventually successful. We got lucky and had the young dad to help break up the thicker part of the concrete with the sledgehammer and then move some



of the big pieces. His wife and kids were done cleaning up around the edge of the basement, and the dad and son cut the waterproofing material that we attached to the basement walls. We only got a few pieces of waterproofing attached to the basement wall before we left for the day. It was nice meeting and working with the family that would own the house. This house was much different than last year's Habitat house that was a net-zero emissions house and had solar panels, huge amounts of insulation, and a heat pump furnace and hot water heater. Last year's house was completed and the family moved in late this summer. From where it stands today, it appears that with the cold weather coming, it will probably be a late summer move-in for the family next year.

Camp Good Days and Special Times future event

Several of you know I like to carve. I belong to two different wood carving clubs and we have been asked by the woodturners at the Erie County Fair to provide them 500 carved Christmas ornaments to sell at the Fair next August. What I would like to do is carve a number of the ornaments and then have a social night with a few good painters to paint my carved ornaments that I will donate. The wood turners would like to sell the ornaments between \$20 and \$40 a piece. So once I get a some ornaments carved, I'll try to set up a time somewhere around Christmas and then probably one in the spring or summer where we can have fun painting ornaments. All the ornament money raised at the Erie County Fair goes to support Camp Good Days and Special Times for kids with cancer. Hoping our painting time can be a fun social event.



Regards,

Paul Yaeger

Child Care Center News

Hello, Church Family!

October was a busy month at the Child Care Center. During this month we have had our Parent Teacher Conferences, a Fire Safety Demonstration, a field trip to the Great Pumpkin Farm, Trunk or Treating, and our Halloween Parade and Party. We would like to thank the church members who helped with our Halloween festivities. This year's Trunk or Treating was the biggest yet! We had crafts, cider and donuts, pumpkin painting, pumpkin decorating contest as well as over 20 decorated trunks.

In November the classrooms will be completing the food drive for The Community of Good Neighbors that we partnered with the church to show our support for our community. We are also having our Parents Night Out fundraiser on November 17th. The center will be participating in Light Up the Boulevard on December 2nd. If anyone would like to contribute working Christmas lights to be used on our float it would be greatly appreciated. The week after Light up the Boulevard is Breakfast with Santa on December 9th. We are looking for donations of pancake mix, holiday plates and napkins, and plastic Christmas ornaments for our Christmas trees.

Thank you and have a great November!
Athena Torain, Center Director

Here's a look into the past month at the Child Care Center:



Worship Information



Worship continues at 9:30 AM each Sunday. All are welcome to join us! You can also watch us on our livestream at www.sttimothygrandisland.com. Sunday School for ages 3 through 4th grade is held during the service, and care for younger children can be arranged ahead of time by contacting the office.

For planning purposes, please note that our Christmas Eve service will be at 4 PM again this year, and we will have an informal service that morning for the final Sunday in Advent.

News and Upcoming Events

Thankoffering Service

Sunday, November 12th will be our WELCA Thankoffering service. Please consider giving a Thankoffering on that day to support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA. What are Thankofferings? This quote from the former director for stewardship for Women of the ELCA explains them.



Thank
Offering

“Thankofferings are gifts made in gratitude for the blessings that God so generously poured out upon us - blessings that we never could pay back, but that we can certainly pay forward. Thanks be to God.”

Please use the Blue envelopes provided or write “Thankoffering” on the Designated Offering line on your envelope. Make checks payable to St. Timothy, as one check will be sent to the churchwide office in early December. Thank you for making an impact in the support of many important ministries – including justice and advocacy work, training and development for leaders, online and printed communications channels, support of congregational and synodical women’s organizations, administration of grants and scholarships, and more – through your gifts of gratitude.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service and Dessert Smorgasbord

The Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will be held at St. Timothy on November 19th at 7 PM. We look forward to worshipping with other Island churches and being joined by the Grand Island Community Chorus. Donations that evening will be collected for the Grand Island Neighbor’s Foundation. Anyone who won’t be able to come but would like to contribute can designate envelopes or checks as “GI NF.”

After the service, we will hold our famous Dessert Smorgasbord, and we welcome any and all to contribute your favorite treats again this year! If you would like to help beyond desserts, we will have a planning meeting on November 5th after the 9:30 service which you are welcome to attend, or you can contact the office to find out how to help. Thank you!



Poinsettia Orders



Poinsettias will be available to order again this year to help us decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Each can be designated in memory or honor of someone and can be taken home to enjoy after the service. If you would like to order poinsettias, please submit the bulletin insert that will be available towards the end of the month or contact the office. They will be \$11 each again this year.

Bible Study

Pastor Adam will continue holding Bible Study on the Minor Prophets on Wednesdays at 1 PM in the church parlor through mid-December.



Coffee Hour Contributions

Please consider signing up in the Narthex to bring a goodie to share after one of the next several services to encourage people to stick around for fellowship and conversation!

GreenFields Holiday Bazaar

GreenFields, a continuing care community in Lancaster (5953 Broadway), affiliated with the Niagara Lutheran Health System, is having a Holiday Bazaar fundraiser on Saturday, November 11th from 9 AM to 3 PM. There will be fun for the whole family with over 50 vendors and artisans with crafts, décor, gifts, jewelry, pet accessories, and more; visits with Santa; a bake sale; and food and refreshments at GreenFeild Manor.

Pictorial Directory

Plans for an updated pictorial directory have been pushed back. Pictures will take place before and after several services in December and January, so please keep an eye out for the sign-up sheets soon. In the meantime, we welcome any submissions of pictures of parishioners together in recent years.

A Note of Celebration

Our awesome organist, Nick Bai, is happy and grateful to share with the congregation his piano performance successes! During the summer, he got the bronze medal from the American Virtuosi Competition and a gold medal from GOCCA International Music Competition. In November, he will be performing as part of the Naumburg International Piano Competition, and in December, will be part of the Wideman International Piano Competition. We are so lucky to have him with us! Please pass along your congratulations when you see him!



Last Month's Memories







Missions

Community of Good Neighbors Food Drive

Through November 19th, we'll be collecting food for the Community of Good Neighbors food pantry, a Lutheran organization helping to eradicate food disparity on the East side of Buffalo. The CGN is also a worshipping community that provides an inclusive, sacred, safe space to discern about God's Word through small group discussions.



Due to reduced access to healthy foods in these neighborhoods, the CGN asks that we are mindful about purchasing heart-healthy options. Shop as if you are shopping for a loved one. While all support is appreciated, they would like to give a gentle reminder that this is not the time to clear your pantry of expired foods. Single-family sizes are also appreciated over bulk.

Some of the items they could most use are: low sugar cereal and oatmeal; dry or canned beans; canned fruit; low sodium soup; and 16-32 oz bags of rice. If a physical shopping trip isn't the best option for you, they are also thankful for monetary donations, which can be made out to St. Timothy and designated in the memo line or on the envelope as "CGN" or "food pantry."

Thank you for supporting your neighbors in need. God's work, our hands.

Kenmore Alliance Shelterless Outreach

Our youth will once again be volunteering with Kenmore Alliance to serve the shelterless in downtown Buffalo, and they welcome other parishioners to join them as they are able. You can meet us on Saturday, November 18th in the St. Tim's parking lot to carpool by 11, or meet us directly at 175 Bonnett Ave in Tonawanda. We hope you can join in!



Breakfast with Santa

Our Childcare Center's Breakfast with Santa is right around the corner! Save the date for a yummy stack of pancakes, breakfast sausage, fruit, and coffee or juice on Saturday, December 9th from 9-10 and 10:30-11:30 AM! Join in our holiday singalong, and enjoy raffles, craft stations, and of course, a photo-op with Santa! Presale tickets will be available soon. As always, volunteers and donations are appreciated! We're especially looking for pancake mix, holiday plates and napkins, plastic ornaments for our Christmas trees, and monetary donations to help cover sausage, fruit, juice, and various additional expenses. Thanks for your support!

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 Jean Donaldson; Judy Bassette; Elaine Hardman; Jack Skinner; Jim O'Connor; Karen Wiswall; Bettie Cummings; Camsela Jordan; Joe Levy and Family; Jan Cutini; Eric Alexander; Wesley Clark; Janet Upham; Deborah Piotrowski; Larry Neutz; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Myles; Becky; Cathy; Deb; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Nancy Gorrell; Brenda; Margaret Miller; Marlene; Yosenia; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Isla and Eleanor; Edna; Gloria; Brian Volo; Marianne Caroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengalio Richard; Joanne M.; Sylvia and Joe Smith; Lorraine Pfohl; and Cheryl Rosati.

Please note that we no longer remove people unless we have heard of their improvement or their passing. Updates are always appreciated and can be directed to the office by paper note, email, or phone (communications@sttimothygrandisland.com, 716-773-4400). Thank you.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



This month, we'll be celebrating 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 716-327-4653.

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 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>MAY GRACE AND PEACE BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE. <small>1 PETER 1:2, NRSV</small></p>			1 Bible Study, 1 PM	2	3	4
5 Worship, 9:30 AM Fellowship Mtg, 10:30	6	7	8	9	10	11 
12 Worship, 9:30 AM	13	14	15 Bible Study 1 PM Finance 6 PM Confirmation 7 PM	16 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	17	18 Kenmore Alliance Outreach 11 AM
19 Worship, 9:30 AM Thanksgiving Service, 7 PM	20	21	22 Bible Study 1 PM	23  <i>Thanksgiving</i>	24	25
26 Worship, 9:30 AM	27 	28	29 Bible Study, 1 PM Confirmation 7 PM	30		