

THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our Pastor: The Rev. Richard Neal

Our website: www.sttimothygrandisland.com

Our emails: communications@sttimothygrandisland.com

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Our Why:

***To serve God by inspiring
faith and passion through
connections, so that we can
nurture and fulfill our
community and the world.***



June, 2022

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Message from the Pastor

Words have been an important part of most of my life. My love of books began during elementary school, when I discovered the treasures of the public library. While in high school I began to fancy myself a writer of letters, then was drawn to public speaking by classes in high school and college. Books became a bigger thing for me when serving on the editorial staffs of my high school and college yearbooks. Publishing claimed me for a while, working for two university presses as a book designer and production director. Then there was seminary and more than four decades of preaching and writing and of organizing my life around the Word.

That's worth mentioning to help you appreciate the significance of the loss for words I'm experiencing. My deadline for the *Timothian* passed three days ago, and Kim is patiently (and gracefully) awaiting this contribution. There are many topics I could address, topics relevant to the transition period through which the congregation is wending. All of them have been pushed aside by the killing of ten of our neighbors at Buffalo's Tops Market and of eighteen children and three adults at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. Now words fail me.

In a sermon after the Tops killings, I spoke of allowing a proper silence before trying to speak about the event and others like it. Then, as I seemed to find words, the Uvalde killings stopped me again. My bias for words, my training and experience, and the role to which I've been ordained by the church all tell me I need to say something pastoral and prophetic, but while my heart is full, my bag of words is empty. In the passionate and as yet ineffective debate that rages about what to do, I return to words by William Alexander Percy from his poem "Home."

"Too much is said too loudly; I am dazed.
The silken sound of whirled infinity
Is lost in voices shouting to be heard.
I once knew men as earnest and less shrill.
An undermeaning that I caught I miss
Among these ears that hear all sounds save silence,
These eyes that see so much but not the sky,
These minds that gain all knowledge but no calm."

Percy yearned to return "Where there is still a plain simplicity, / And friendship, poor in everything but love, / And faith, unwise, unquestioned, but a star." Where might we hear the "silken sound of whirled infinity" today? Might a "friendship, poor in everything but love" still be found?

I don't have many if any wise words to share, but I have a sense of knowing where wisdom is to be found. One of the primary places is the collection of Hebrew and Christian scriptures we call the Bible. "When I found your words," Jeremiah wrote of the scriptures, "I devoured them; they became my joy and the delight of my heart, because I bore your name, O Lord, God of hosts" (Jer. 15:16). Many will try to tell us what the scriptures say, and often they will prove to be more of the many voices shouting to be heard. Can we learn to listen quietly and better to the "silken sound of whirled infinity" found in the scriptures? Can we hear their uninterpreted, unmediated wisdom directly?

We can. For several years I've helped people read the scriptures as prayer in a style that fits their personality more authentically. So while I may not add anything to the wisdom of the scriptures, I believe I can help make that wisdom more available to those who wish to listen. So in a few weeks I'll offer a new online course, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray: Praying with Scripture in a Style That Fits Your Personality." Watch for details to come.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Rich

Altar Guild Notes: June, 2022



What is light as breath, wild as sweeping wind,
Warm as a flickering candle, hot as a bonfire,
Soft as a whisper, loud as a crowd?
It's Pentecost!!

The first Sunday in June is the Day of Pentecost! Jesus' promise at His ascension to send us an advocate is fulfilled. The Holy Spirit arrives to be with us and in us! The sanctuary reflects this holy event. Our lovely set of red paraments make a rare appearance. Red geraniums continue the red theme. An origami arrangement illustrates wind and flame in color and movement. The candles flicker and flame brightly.



We are welcoming a new member and confirming a new member during the liturgy this day. What joy as the Holy Spirit moves among us!



The very next Sunday it is all changed again. We gather to celebrate the eternal Three in One. It is Holy Trinity Sunday! The sanctuary is dressed in white paraments and white flowers to quiet our focus to Word and sacrament. We pause in our liturgical year to acknowledge and honor this mystery of Father, Son, & Holy Spirit as one God of all. Our joy continues. The hymn, "Come Join the Dance of the Trinity," speaks to the joy: Within the dance of the Trinity, before all worlds begun, we sing the praises of the three, Father, Spirit, Son. Let voices rise. Love & hope set free to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of the Trinity.

The last two Sundays are the start of the "long green season." Time after Pentecost continues till the end of our liturgical year in November. There are no festivals or special events until October and November. The Sundays will be counted as we use this time to worship, grow, and learn as children of God to be a church, to love God and one another.

We sing and dance with gratitude and joy of grace, mercy, hope, & love.
Amen.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah

A Message From the President

Do you know our “Why” statement by heart? Can you tell a stranger “Why” we do what we do or what our purpose here is at St. Timothy’s? Our “Why” statement is taped all around our church, yet many of us don’t see it and cannot remember our “why”. That’s because a piece of paper on the door is just that, a piece of paper on the door. BUT, when we live our “why” each day whether it’s in church or not, we show everyone we meet what St. Timothy’s is about. Therefore, moving forward, our church council meetings will begin with our “Why.” *“To inspire faith and passion through connections, so that we can nurture and fulfill our community and the world.”* We are bringing our “Why” front at center so that every decision we make and everything we do for our church and childcare fulfills that “why.” I encourage our ministry areas to do the same.

This past month has been one of excitement. Thank you to our church and childcare staff who helped prepare our building for the summer. We washed windows, trimmed bushes, cleaned up our flower beds, laid mulch, trimmed the bell tower bushes, and discarded hidden, broken, and unused junk, while Bill and Carl moved the ash tree that was cut down. It was a wonderful day with lots of hard work and fellowship. Thank you to our 16 volunteers! Please consider joining us again in the fall.

In addition to our clean-up day, we have been working closely with our childcare center to bring Christ to our children daily. Thank you to Amanda, our director, Tracy, our assistant director, and Amanda S., our Christian coordinator for being the amazing team that they are. On Fridays, I have offered to do children’s church so that Pastor Rich can attend to the childcare in other ways. We are seeing wonderful results working as a team with them. The excitement in the children, parents and staff has been amazing.



(Pictured: God is our shield!)

This month, we have had another change on our church council. Thank you to Cheryl Wasson for her time, insight, and dedication with us. With extreme thankfulness, I would like to welcome Karen Sturniolo to our council. We are excited by her passion, enthusiasm, and vision and look forward to her working with us. Please thank Cheryl for her time and welcome Karen to our church council ministry.

Lastly, we are asking for your help not only financially but physically. We could use volunteers with ushering, counting, mowing the lawn, altar guild, childcare center, and Sunday School. Please let us know if you would be interested and we will train you! Many hands make light work, and the fellowship can’t be beat. Thank you for keeping up with your offering and please give more if you’re able. We know the last few years have been tough, but also know that God has a plan. The journey IS part of the process. What looks like a delay in getting a new pastor is an inescapable leg of the trip and part of our St. Timothy’s puzzle God is putting together.

In peace,

Karen Rose

Childcare Center News

Hello, Everyone!

May has been filled with joy but also some sadness. The shooting at Tops and the elementary school in Texas has made us look deeper into our safety and security procedures. Thankfully we added cameras with a grant. We are now working with the Grand Island Police Department and Fire Safety Systems to increase the security of our building and provide some training as well. We are keeping those families in our thoughts and prayers.

On a happier subject, the child care center celebrated our parents with a special event called "Donuts with Grownups." This was such a special time for the children to have breakfast with their family and put together a craft.

In May, the donations for the Chicken BBQ really started to roll in. We are excited to offer both big ticket and regular ticket baskets and certificates this year! Be sure you buy your tickets presale because they are selling fast!

This month we also celebrated Tracy Marrs' 5 year anniversary with the childcare center. Tracy has worked her way up from being Nicole's teacher assistant, to the lead in the one year old room, to now the Assistant Director. She has been here through it all and her commitment has never wavered. Please consider writing her a note of appreciation and give it to Karen Rose to pass along.

Finally, I would like to mention that we have a couple spots left in some of our rooms, so spread the word!

Thank you and enjoy the month of June,
Amanda Weir, Center Director

Preschool Graduation



Please join us in celebrating our graduates on Thursday, June 16 from 5:30-6:30!

Chicken BBQ

Saturday, June 18th 3:00-6:00 PM

Join us for some family fun!

Chicken BBQ

Bake Sale

Basket raffle

Vendor sale

Kids fun area with 2 bounce houses
(separated by age), face painting,
balloon twists, temporary tattoos,
and pop corn
Ice cream truck

Buy BBQ tickets early as they are selling out! Tickets are available Sundays at church and Monday-Friday at the childcare center!

Worship Information

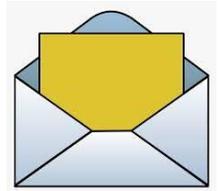


The outdoor service is back! Starting on June 12th, weather permitting, we'll be holding our 8 AM outdoor service while the 9:30 AM service will continue to be held in our sanctuary and livestreamed for those worshipping at home. To find our outdoor service, follow the Stu's Way sidewalk from the parking lot back to our shelter. Picnic benches are available to sit on, however it is recommended that you bring your own lawn chairs for greater comfort.

Congregational Celebrations

Please join us in warmly welcoming new member Jane Seese and confirmand Luke Sweeney into our church community on Pentecost, June 5th! A card collection gift bag is in the Narthex for anyone who would like to write notes of encouragement and wisdom for Luke's faith journey.

This month, we'll also be celebrating graduations! On June 19th, we'll be honoring the high school graduation milestones of Daniel Senn and Evan Steck, and we invite you to join us in signing cards for them in the Narthex on June 12th. We also have three kids graduating from our childcare center and heading off to kindergarten this year. Cards for them will also be available for you to sign on June 5th and 12th, and all are invited to the ceremony on Thursday, June 16th at 5:30 PM. We hope you can come to support the kids and families who have called St. Tim's home for the last few years!



News and Upcoming Events

Remember to wear red on Pentecost, June 5th!

Help us attract new church members and childcare families by leaving us a review on Google! To do so, simply type "St. Timothy Grand Island" in to Google, find the side panel on the right of your screen that has our picture and information, and scroll down to where it shows the reviews and has a button that reads, "write a review." We'd love to hear what you love about St. Timothy, from the community here and your worship experience to our mission, service opportunities, and how we have helped nurture your faith. Facebook reviews are also welcome. Thank you!



Join Lutheran Charities for their Annual Wine & Craft Beer Festival on Friday, June 10th from 7 PM – 9 PM. \$49 per person registration includes: spirit samplings from local breweries and wineries, light hors d'oeuvres, and entertainment from the Blazer Men's Chorus of Buffalo. The Annual Lutheran Charities Golf Classic is also scheduled for August 8th. Registration for both can be found online at www.wnyslutherancharities.org.

Fellowship and Collaborative Work

A huge thank you to Ryan, Ronan, Ella, and Karen who spent a Saturday staining our pavilion, and to the many volunteers from church and childcare who showed up to our spring clean-up and did an awesome job getting our property back in order to be as welcoming as possible. We appreciate all your hard work and enjoyed spending time in fellowship with you!



Our next fellowship event will be over Zoom on Wednesday, June 29th at 7 PM. A topic of conversation will follow as we get closer. To join, please use the link posted on the fellowship page of our website, or call in to 1-929-205-6099 and use Meeting ID 881 4809 1452 and Passcode 065400. We hope you can join us!

Missions

Childcare Center

Our Childcare Center is our ongoing mission to bring Christ to the children and families we serve, and on June 15th from 3-6, they're having their annual Chiavetta's BBQ fundraiser! There are so many ways that we can support them in this, from purchasing dinners, going in on a large-ticket-item basket from the church for their raffle, donating baked-goods for a sale. And volunteering to help with set-up, clean-up, dishing out food, and taking tickets on the day of.



Of course, support of our childcare is not limited to this event! We welcome volunteers in the classrooms to make faith-based connections with our kids, as well as smaller opportunities to engage with them for storytime and other events. Please reach out to the office or contact our director Amanda (director@sttimothygrandisland.com or 716-773-9249) if you're interested!

We'd also love to have the support of your presence at our kids' graduation day, June 16th at 5:30 PM! All are welcome to come for the ceremony which will be held in our sanctuary.

Habitat for Humanity

Save the date for another mission opportunity to reach out to our community! We'll be participating in Habitat for Humanity Niagara's Faith Build again this year on September 24th from 1-4 PM. More details will follow as we get closer.

Missions Spotlight

When will it end?

I write this from Buffalo, only two days after a mass shooting in a grocery store took 10 lives, and the feelings are still very raw. The names and photos with bios are out now, making it all the more painful. These tragedies have always been somewhere else—Minnesota, Colorado, Texas—but this is right at home, and for the rest of our Synod, too close to home.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is saddened by the all-too-frequent occurrences of gun violence in the U.S. We mourn the loss of life. We grieve for the victims and their families, who often feel silenced. And we lament for those who have done violence to others and often feel removed from a community of faith. But what can we do besides be sad, grieved, and lamented?

The ELCA actively works to prevent gun violence, through Advocacy to state and federal law makers, and through its Racial Justice Ministries. It calls us to work toward the prevention of gun violence as people of God who strive for justice and peace in all the world. Your gifts to Synod Mission Support help these efforts to end the madness. Because it must end! Thank you!

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

Marcia Brown

ELCA Mission Interpreter

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 Rich. Please also include an address where we can send cards.

We hold the following people in our prayers: Giovanna, Maria, and Daniel Gengo; Kurt Yaeger; Allan Kellam; Randy; Betty; Riley; Dan, Lucy, and child; Ted; Joe Morley; Richard E; Isla and Eleanor; Edna; Gloria; Jeannette Tate; Brian Volo; Margaret Miller; Jack Skinner; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengalio Richard; Joanne M.; Joyce Zimmerman; Dottie Roehrig; Sylvia and Joe Smith; Lorraine Pfohl; and Cheryl Rosati.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Esther Westfall's birthday on June 5th, Lauren Steck's birthday on June 7th, Karen and Ron's anniversary on June 16th, and Tina and Mike's anniversary on June 26th! 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.



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is an important resource available at St. Timothy's. Pastor Rich can be contacted at pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com, or for pastoral emergencies, at 716-984-3541.

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.

June 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 	4
5 Worship, 9:30 AM Confirmation & Pentecost	6  Pentecost	7	8 Finance Meeting, 6:30 PM	9	10	11
12 Worship, 8:00 & 9:30 Trinity Sunday	13  Trinity Sunday	14	15	16 Childcare Graduation! 5:30 PM 	17	18 Chiavetta's BBQ, 3-6 PM
19 Worship, 8:00 & 9:30 AM	20	21	22 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	23	24	25
26 Worship, 8:00 & 9:30 AM	27	28	29 Fellowship Evening, 7 PM over Zoom	30		