

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

and pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com

Our phone number: 716-773-4400

Our fax number: 716-773-4413

Our Why:

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



August, 2022

Here's what's inside:

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Message from the Pastor

As some vacation time draws near for me, I recall the words of William Henry Davies (1871-1940), the so-called “poet of the tramps,” in his little poem “Leisure.”

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

The poem pairs well with Pogo's reminder that “Important work like sittin' around fishin' remains to be done” to remind me of truths that cannot be heard amid the noise of daily life, among the busyness of the many things that clamor for our attention in the race of our ordinary days. I hope you take time to do that regularly, during vacation, or on retreat, or while observing whatever hours (or even a full day!) of sabbath you can cobble together each week. “For everything there is a season,” the Teacher wrote, “and a time for every matter under heaven” (Eccles. 3:1) – a time to embrace things that demand our attention and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to keep silence as well as a time to speak (vv. 5b, 7b).

Reportedly two percent of people can hear something that eludes the rest of us, a low-pitched hum that sounds continually. I've not heard it, but I long to be among what I believe to be less than two percent of people who can hear the rarer and more precious music of the spheres Maltbie Babcock wrote about in his hymn “This Is My Father's World.” Occasionally I believe I hear it, but doing so requires a great deal of the right kind of silence, the deep kind seldom afforded by the life we live. So once in a while I slip away to be quiet, to stand and stare, to listen to life, as St. Benedict wrote, with the ear of my heart.

We might consider this time between pastors as a similar opportunity to hear the still, small voice that speaks in our hearts, the music of the spheres that sings through our life together. It's a time when our routine is disrupted and nothing settled is ready to take its place. We can use it as a “gift of chaos,” when something new is being formed, and we're in a great position to hear it as it swells toward birth.

May the blessing of listening be yours,

Pastor Rich

Notes from the Altar Guild: August 2022

Time after Pentecost continues. This beautiful green season of growth; as a child of God, as a community of faith, as the church of St. Timothy.

Our surroundings look much the same. Outside, lawns are green and gardens are growing lush with flowers and vegetables. Inside, the green paraments and plants reflect the same growth. The Gospel readings reflect that as well with stories of Jesus' public ministry.

The cross. The cross against the backdrop of the white dossal curtain demands our attention when we enter the sanctuary. It's the sign of our salvation, a token of divine love. Our Lutheran tradition uses the cross as a symbol of resurrection. Christ died there, but we see it empty as He rose again. The only thing that really died on the cross is sin!

That is why you also see the sanctuary candle lit nearby. Ours hangs in front of the cross. You may see it standing near the cross in other churches. It is always in a safe place as it flames continuously. The flame of light illustrates Christ's victory over darkness.

The sign of the cross can fuel our faith. We are marked with the sign of the cross traced on our foreheads at baptism, declaring us as a child of God. Make the sign of the cross by touching your forehead, then center chest, then left shoulder, then right shoulder. It can bring comfort, strength, peace. Use it when you pray, take communion, or anytime you want the light of Christ.

Psalm 63 reminds us of comfort and assurance in God's presence in the sanctuary, "to behold His power and glory. Because His steadfast love is better than life. I will lift up my hands and call on your name."

Keep Jesus in your heart. Amen.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah



A Message From the President

Welcome, August!

August is always a pivotal part in our year. A time when we're in the midst of enjoying summer yet starting to plan for our fall ministries. A time when we continue to relax and enjoy family yet begin to get excited for a new year in our church and childcare center.

This month we will be preparing the budget for September, Sunday school teachers and volunteers will be meeting, another church/childcare workday is planned so we can spruce up our grounds before school starts, and ideas are bouncing around as to how we can blend our church and childcare ministries even more. Please feel free to share your thoughts.

We can feel the momentum. Come see the excitement in the children during children's church on Friday mornings. They love setting up for church. They sing and scream the songs. They know the hand motions and love learning about God. We are building. We are growing. God has been putting the puzzle pieces together all along. As the only Christ-centered childcare center on Grand Island, we are unique. Spread the word. Encourage families to come and let's welcome everyone with open arms. Only then will we see growth.

Have faith and know that God is always in control.

In peace,
Karen Rose



Childcare Center News

Hello, Everyone!

We are half way through summer and have had so much fun already! The school-age children have had the opportunity to go on field trips. So far, their favorite has been Splash World! The chicken BBQ was a great success. We raised over \$6,000.00 for classroom supplies! Some supplies we will be purchasing include foam climbing units and area rugs for the infant and toddler rooms. Thanks again for your support in making this happen!

We are happy to announce our enrollment is up and we only have a few spots left for the fall. Please keep us in mind when you speak to your family and friends!

Here are some pictures from our “Culinary Creations” week. These pictures can also be seen on our Facebook page. Be sure to “like” our page so you can get updates!

Thank you and enjoy the month of August,

Amanda Weir

Center Director



Worship Information

For the remainder of the summer, we'll continue holding an outdoor service at 8 AM and an indoor and livestreamed service at 9:30 AM. Service times for the fall will be decided this month.



News and Upcoming Events

Fall Clean-Up Day

The beginning of the school year is right around the corner, and we'd love to have our property looking especially welcoming for both new childcare families and new and returning church families. We also had such good fellowship at our Spring Clean-Up Day that we're looking forward to another! We hope you'll be able to join us for some light outdoor work on Saturday, August 20th from 9-12 with a rain date of August 27th!

Sunday School Registration

Please take a moment to fill out the Sunday School registration form on the next page for us! Copies will be available in the Narthex later this month, and emailing responses to communications@sttimothygrandisland.com also works great. Thank you!



Rally Day!

Save the date for Rally Day on September 18th! From the installation of our Sunday School and childcare teachers during the service to a picnic with fun activities, we're excited about this season's Sunday School kickoff! Further details will follow next month.

Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend our congregational meeting to vote on the budget following a single 9:30 AM service on September 25th.

Missions Opportunity

September 24th from 1-4 PM is St. Timothy's designated Faith Build day with Habitat for Humanity Niagara! More details will follow as we get closer.

WELCA Retreat

The Niagara Frontier and Southwestern Women of the ELCA Conferences are holding a joint Day-Apart Retreat with the theme "Spiritual Renewal—Centered in Prayer" presented by Contemplative Outreach Buffalo and held at St. Paul's in Ellicottville. This will be on Saturday, October 1st from 9:30-3:30 and is \$10 including lunch and retreat materials. Contact the office for registration info.



Sunday School Enrollment Form, 2022-2023

Here at St. Timothy, we seek to support the development of faith in engaging and meaningful ways. Come join us this year!

Full Name of Child(ren)	Age and Grade. Any medical concerns (such as allergies)?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Parent / Guardian Name:
Relationship to Child(ren):
Phone Number:
Email Address:
Youth phone number / email address:

Select the class(es) that your child(ren) will be attending:

- Faith Beginnings: Infant to Toddler
- Faith Basics I: Age 3 to Grade 1
- Faith Basics II: Grade 2 to Grade 4
- Communion Track: Grade 5
- Faith Foundations: Grade 6 to Grade 8
- Faith Maturity: Grade 9 to Grade 12

Thank you! We're looking forward to an awesome year of Sunday School!

2022 Report on the Upstate New York Synod Assembly

Greetings!

The Upstate New York Synod Assembly was held June 5-6, 2022, in Rochester, NY. Phyllis and Duane Keeler were honored to attend as voting representatives of St. Timothy. We joined about 250 other people at the assembly, all gathered to worship, pray, and perform the work of the church.

The theme for this assembly was “Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E. Mindset: Generous Love.” (G.R.A.C.E. is short for Generous love, Restorative justice, Adaptive leadership, Collaboration, Experimentation).

The assembly began Sunday evening with a worship service led by Bishop Lee Miller II. Then the business of the church began. Rev. Kimberly A. Vaughn, (the ELCA representative this year) is the ELCA Senior Director of Christian Community and Leadership Division. She spoke passionately about the ELCA’s goal of engaging new, young, and diverse people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The bishop spoke about the racial attack in Buffalo, praying for those affected, and giving words of hope of God in our lives.

The Synod’s Racial Justice Taskforce explained the resolution they had proposed for the synod assembly. (Contact the office for a copy). The assembly voted to approve the resolution.

The Synod’s new Director of Evangelical Mission, (D.E.M.) Rev. Imani Olear was introduced.

United Lutheran Seminary is looking for input on what people want to learn more about. They want to increase education offerings for the wider church. Email ideas to: Learningwish-list@uls.edu

Thomas Madden was reelected Synod Vice President. The other nominee was Lyndsay Stannard.

A representative of LCLC (Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Camp) spoke of their efforts to be accessible to more than just Western NY. One idea under consideration is finding a way for those dropping off kids at LCLC (from the eastern and southeastern corners of our synod) to stay overnight.

Julie Grindle, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy & Mobility, (substituting for Pastor Lori Kochanski, who couldn’t attend due to an injury) gave a summary of the changes to the S.A.M.* program, the shortage of pastors and newly ordained ministers, and how many pastors have one call and are transitional pastor at one or more churches.

*S.A.M. = Synodically Authorized Minister—formerly known as a deacon.

As one way to address the shortage of pastors, Synod Bylaw #721.02 was discussed, and approved. It allows an Assigned S.A.M.** to vote at synod assembly.

** (An Assigned S.A.M. is a trained lay person serving a congregation in much the same way as a pastor would.

Also addressing the shortage of pastors, Resolution # SC2203.07 is to be submitted to Church-wide Council. This would allow a pastor to be called to more than one (non-yoked) congregation.

The Niagara Frontier Conference submitted Pastor Kwame Pitts as the person of color for Churchwide Assembly, and she was elected.

The Treasurer's Report showed a savings—due to travel expenses being lower since most synod work is currently being done virtually.

Pastor Deron Milleville gave a presentation on Global Missions. (Zimbabwe and Zambia are our global partners). We heard updates and gratitude for our partnership and mission aid.

The annual Synod Discipleship Award was presented to Joanne Limbaugh of Incarnate Word Lutheran Church, located in Rochester.

The newly elected Synod Representative to the United Lutheran Seminary is Pastor Beth George—who co-serves a 7-point parish called the Tri-County Lutheran Parish!

This year the Synod's Hunger Appeal raised \$30,758.53. This was aided by Bishop Lee Miller II and his wife donating \$5.00 for every weird/funny/etc. mask at the assembly Monday morning.

And the assembly ended as it began, with worship, prayer, and hope.

Peace,

Phyllis & Duane Keeler



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: Walt Oldenberg; Marlene; Jane Phenicie; Yosenia; Robert Domagala; Timmy Book; 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; Brian Volo; Margaret Miller; Jack Skinner; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengalio Richard; Joanne M.; Dottie Roehrig; Sylvia and Joe Smith; Lorraine Pfohl; and Cheryl Rosati.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Phil Buchanan's birthday on August 6th and Carl and Jeanne Remmes' 50th anniversary on August 26th!



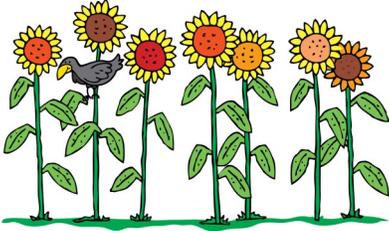
Pastoral Care

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. While Pastor Rich is on vacation from 8/1 to 8/13, please contact Pastor Mary Wolf at 716-984-2938 or at stpauls1827@juno.com.

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.

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship, 8:00 & 9:30 AM	8	9	10	11 Finance Meeting, 6:30 PM	12	13
14 Worship, 8:00 & 9:30 AM	15	16	17 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	18	19	20 Fall Clean-Up Day, 9-12
21 Worship, 8:00 & 9:30 AM	22	23	24	25	26	27 Fall Clean-Up Rain Date
28 Worship, 8:00 & 9:30 AM	29	30	31 			