

# 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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716-773-9249



## March, 2024

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

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## From the Pastor's Desk

In March, we continue our walk following Jesus to the cross. This year, we are focusing on one of Jesus' companions in particular in this journey: Simon Peter. We are utilizing liturgy, hymns, and poems from the company, A Sanctified Art. Each week has its own theme focusing in on part of Simon Peter's story, and each week the theme title is taken from the hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" by Robert Robinson from the 1700s.

Verses one and three have particular significance this Lent as we return to God over and over again, just as Simon Peter seems to alternately focus intently on Christ, and then let his focus wander.

1. Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise,  
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.
3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

In Lent, we are asked to recognize the grace that Christ offers to us freely, even as we continue to wander. And even when we know we are in God's presence, like Peter losing focus on the waves, like Robert Robinson singing of our knowledge that we're prone to wander, we do things we know we shouldn't, and fail to do what we know God wants.

It's reassuring to have Peter as our companion on this walk with Jesus, as in one moment he proclaims Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, and then in the next breath tries to tell Jesus that he cannot fulfill that walk to the cross, which earns the famous rebuke, "Get behind me, Satan!" In one moment, Simon Peter has the faith needed to build a church on, and in the next he's being told to get out of Jesus' way! In our faith walks we have moments of clarity and other moments where we begin to sink into the depths of doubt, and self-doubt, and feelings of unworthiness.

As we walk this Lent, and we recognize our need for forgiveness and do our best to focus on Jesus again, take heart that even from the beginning, those who follow Jesus have always had great faith and wandering hearts. And take heart that even when we face Good Friday, even when we are faced with the starkness of the cross, Easter is coming.

In God's amazing grace,  
*Pastor Adam*



# Altar Guild Notes: March, 2024

Low. High. Low. High

Purple. Scarlet. Black. Gold

Low. Purple. The purple of Lent continues as we enter March. Three Sundays to soak in the somber symbols depicted on the purple paraments. They tell the story of Jesus' last hours. The altar parament shows the center cross of our divine king in gold flanked by two crosses for the criminals. One side panel shows Jesus' tunic along with dice ("they cast lots to divide His clothes"). The other panel displays a jug, a stick with hyssop/sponge on top ("to offer Jesus sour wine"). Notice also the spear ("the soldier pierced His side with a spear"). These actions occurred to fulfill scripture.



High. Scarlet. The fourth Sunday we are startled by scarlet paraments!

Holy Week begins with Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday. Palms are handed to us as we process into the sanctuary, ready to welcome Jesus as He enters Jerusalem. Shouts of Hosanna, songs of glory, laud, and honor are heard.

Scarlet still drapes the altar, pulpit, and lectern when we return on Thursday. Maundy Thursday begins the Triduum/ The Three Days. The palms are gone. You will see a basin, pitcher, towels representing foot washing. Pay attention to the sacramental words of the Eucharist meal. The sanctuary is quiet while a psalm is chanted. The chancel area is stripped of paraments, communion vessels, and all else. No benediction. Leave in silence.



Low. Black. It's Good Friday. We are back in church. Only black cloth of mourning is seen. Candles still hold the light of Christ. It grows dim as they are extinguished. Hold on. The light is returned. The light of Christ lives. We leave again in silence.

Still low. Holy Saturday we stay home. Traditionally, this is a day of silence as Jesus rests in the tomb. Even if it cannot be silent, try to find some time of quiet and prayer.

High. Gold. Easter Sunday! Jesus is Risen! He is risen indeed! It is the only Sunday to see gold draped underneath the white paraments on the altar. Flowers and fragrance abound. Music

reverberates from the rafters as we sing in gladness and joy. The Christ candle burns bright. The seven branch candles make a rare appearance. Perhaps a few Easter bonnets will be spotted.....

So. Hang on for the roller coaster of March. Always look for the light of Christ. Keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,  
*Deborah*



## Messages From the Co-Presidents

To Our St. Timothy Family,

At the Ash Wednesday Service, Pastor Adam greeted us with Happy Valentine's Day, and Welcome to Lent... and made the point, both "celebrations" are about love. The romantic love of the human heart on Valentine's Day with flowers and candy. The Defining love for all the world during Lent... the gift from God's heart, the life of God's only Son, given for us.

Every year we attempt to understand all of this more fully. Our Lenten Journey this year is for the Wandering Heart. Already, one week in plus, I am a fan. I find it transformative.

Sometimes faith seems so BIG, hard, with such overwhelming responsibility. There is so much to do! So much I'm supposed to do! Last Sunday, Esther and I were sharing Grandma concerns. What kind of world are we leaving for our grandbabies? We have to get it right, whatever that is. Yet all around us is loss, war, tragedy, unkindness, and what feels, at times, like imminent danger. Then God provides for us, Peter... to show us the "imperfect way," that God makes perfect for God's purpose.

The love of Valentine's Day... the love of Lent. Maybe faith is really always big, but not always so complicated, after all. Could it be "bite sized" on a daily basis?

The love of God, in daily bite sized pieces such as learning in a Bible Study. Or the love of God as neighbors gather in community, perhaps at a Chili Cook-off or a Lenten Luncheon. The love of God as we worship together regularly and the great joy of welcoming all to God's table at the Communion rail. The love of God in stewardship of time, talent, and resources, such as our regular tithes, the carpet fund, faithful service on prayer chain, deaconing, ushering, coffee hour, committee work, and the unwavering support of God's children in the child care center. And the love of God in Pastor's chanting, our spoken or sung response, and the heart Nick puts into all our music. And the love of seeing people return to church and being able to say to them, "welcome home."

Maybe it is hearing Sarah Speed's words encourage us to allow God to "tune my heart" so I can learn a "new song." Perhaps it is as Rev. Speed writes, "noticing... I am not alone. God has been chasing after me all this time." And for all of us, the Journey continues.

Love and hugs,  
*Shari Miller*

Good bye, February, and hello March. January was a difficult month with several of our family passing on, February saw another as MaryAnn passed away. All are in a better place now. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends. Much thanks to the Prayer Chain members for holding so many in difficult circumstances in your prayers.

We welcomed Duane to our church Council and have begun utilizing his talents immediately.

We are on our Lenten journey heading toward Easter. This is a time of change and promises. We will see Jesus crucified and buried with the promise of his resurrection. As February ends, we look forward to the promise of longer days, the return of some of our feathered friends that signify spring. The Robins, Redwing Blackbirds and Grackles are starting to sing already. The early spring flowers like Daffodils are out of the ground, and many already have buds promising us flowers. The sap is running, too—I can almost taste the maple syrup. Look around, God is everywhere. See the rebirth that is promised and is beginning.

Outreach: We have restarted the Lenten Luncheons and we encourage everyone to attend them. They promise to be good. St Timothy's is providing the lunch on March 13th at Trinity at 11:30. I would like to thank all those that volunteered their services already. There is prep work on Tuesday at 2:30 in our church kitchen, and we also need help on Wednesday for setup / cleanup and serving the lunch. We can always use more help. Please see the sign up sheet in the narthex on Sunday.

Mark is leading our 1st annual chili cookoff on March 9th at 4:00, and he is also looking for help with a number of tasks and more cooks. You can sign up on the sheets after church on Sunday. Both events help to show the community at St. Timothy. They are also a time for fellowship and enjoying some delicious food.

I have created the 2024 Ride for Roswell St Timothy's Lutheran Church and Child Care Center team. Please consider joining or supporting our riders to help fund cancer research. This team last year consisted of church members and their families and friends, so please invite other riders to join this great cause and make our 2nd year even better than last year. The Ride for Roswell has many routes both short and long and will be on June 22nd this year. There are also fun social get-togethers where you pay for a beer at one of the hosting restaurants and the money goes towards your ride donation.

On the Childcare side, enrollment is looking good. Thanks to all our wonderful teachers and to Athena and Tracy for keeping our ministry alive with all those cute little ones.

Property: As you probably know, we are looking to replace the carpet in the sanctuary and have received a substantial donation to cover portion of the cost. Paul Bassette has also designated memorial funds from Judy to be put towards it as well. Karen Sturniolo has created a wonderful board that allows us to submit a donation and for tracking the funds to reach our goal. We are making great progress. Thanks to everyone who has contributed. We are looking for a few members to join a temporary committee to look at rug choices and make a recommendation to the pastor and council. Please talk to Pastor Adam if you'd like to be on the committee.

Thanks for all you do to keep our community alive and running smoothly.

*Paul Yaeger*

# Child Care Center News for March 2024!

Hello, Church Family!

There are many exciting events our center participated in this past month. We celebrated Valentine's Day with all our friends at school. We also got to celebrate Ash Wednesday in Children's Church! With the approval of families, children were able to participate in receiving ashes and being blessed by Pastor Adam.



In March, we will be celebrating Good Friday and Easter. Throughout the month, the Easter Bunny will be stopping at the center to read to the children. We are also looking forward to a new program we are starting with Mrs. Karen Figler called Move and Groove. This monthly program will give the children more developmentally appropriate gross motor activities.

March and April are busy months around the Child Care Center as we prepare for Fall and Summer Camp enrollment. Fall enrollment opens to new families Monday, April 1st. Summer Camp enrollment opens up for new families Wednesday May 1st. We can't wait for another amazing year!

Thank you!

*Athena Torain, Center Director*

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



# Worship Information and Lenten Schedule

Worship continues at 9:30 AM each Sunday. All are welcome! You can also watch us on our livestream at [www.sttimothygrandisland.com](http://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. We hope you can join us!

For those who are homebound or don't drive during the winter, we would be happy to give communion at home. You can contact Pastor Adam or the office to make arrangements.

Please see below for a list of Lenten offerings this year outside of Sunday services.

## **Tuesdays at 1 PM**

Lenten Bible Study—St. Timothy

### **March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Lenten Luncheon—Trinity, 11:30 AM, \$10 per person  
Hosted by St. Martin's; serving Sloppy Joe's

### **March 13<sup>th</sup>**

Lenten Luncheon—Trinity, 11:30 AM, \$10 per person  
Hosted by St. Timothy; serving turkey-stuffing casserole, salad, & dessert

### **March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Holden Evening Prayer—St. Timothy, 7 PM

### **March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Maundy Thursday—St. Timothy, 7 PM

### **March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Good Friday Ecumenical Service—St. Martin's, 12 PM

### **March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Good Friday—St. Timothy, 7 PM

## *In Loving Memory*



We mourn the loss of MaryAnn Kemp, but we rest knowing she is with our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the church triumphant. Thank you for all the support you have given her family in this difficult time, and for the love and care you all shared through the years.

# News and Upcoming Events

## **Lenten Luncheon Hosting**

St. Timothy will be hosting the March 13th Lenten Luncheon at Trinity. Help preparing the food on Tuesday 2:30 PM and help setting up, serving, taking money, and cleaning up on Wednesday morning and/or afternoon would be appreciated. If you haven't already, please sign up on Sunday or let the office know if you'd like to help. Thank you!

## **Easter Flower Orders**

Final Easter flower orders are due by March 10th. Our choices this year are: lilies, daffodils, hyacinths (pink, blue, or white), and tulips (red, yellow, white, purple, or pink). They are \$13 each. Donations for the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation in lieu of flowers will also be offered. Please include who they are in honor or memory of using the form in the Narthex or by contacting the office.



## **Defensive Driving Course**

Wayne West will be teaching a Defensive Driving Class at St. Timothy on Saturday, April 20th from 9-3. To register, please contact Terri Glassman at [tglass375@gmail.com](mailto:tglass375@gmail.com) or 716-930-3230.

## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

For those who have Thrivent Choice Dollars, please consider directing them to St. Timothy by March 31st. The additional support is appreciated!

## **Bold Women's Day**

Bold Women's Day is celebrated in the Lutheran Church on March 3rd, honoring women past and present who have and continue to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. St. Timothy will celebrate these women's impact in our lives on an upcoming Sunday after Easter.

## **Stella Niagara Programs**

Stella Niagara is holding a retreat day on "Mandalas: Windows on Our Spiritual Journeys" on March 19th from 10-4 for \$65 including lunch, with a registration deadline of March 5th.

## **Lutheran School of Theology Free Class**

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago is offering no-cost educational programs via Zoom designed to enhance lay education and enrich parish learning programs. The next upcoming program is Liturgy and the Natural World, reimagining communal liturgies and daily rituals in relation to the sacredness of the cosmos, sacraments, and our bodies, beginning April 7th for the Sunday sessions and April 10th for the Wednesday sessions. Further information and registration can be found at [www.lstc.edu/events](http://www.lstc.edu/events).



# Fellowship and Community Involvement

## Chili Cook-off

St. Timothy's first ever community-wide chili cook-off is almost here! Join us on March 9th from 4-6:30 PM as we welcome the community inside our doors to get to know us a little better and spend some time in fellowship. \$5 presale and \$7 day-of tickets will help us cover costs, while hot dogs, chips, drinks, and baked goods will be sold as food alternatives and supplements to the chili. Alternative meal tickets, which include a hot dog, chips, and drink or juice box, are available for those who would like to attend but not taste chili, and children's activities including a visit with the Easter Bunny and coloring sheets will be available during the event. Tickets can be purchased before and after services and through our child care center office during the week.

There are a few items on our volunteer request list that we would love help with!

- Sharing event details with friends and family—the more, the merrier!
- Baked good and corn bread donations—please package individually
- Set-up help—Friday evening at 6 PM
- During-event help—at the ticket table, baked good table, in the kitchen, etc.
- Clean-up help after the event—taking down tables and washing the floor

A sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex or you can just come as you're able.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to make a pot of chili! Presale tickets currently exceed 90, so please make a substantial batch! Small cups will help stretch each chili, but the more tasters who get to try it, the better.

With this being a community-oriented event and knowing that this is the toughest season for the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation, we have also decided to host a collection for them on the day of. They are especially in need of canned meat, tuna, and mayonnaise, hygiene items (such as hand soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste for children and adults, deodorant, etc.), and monetary funds. Help us spread the word so we can support this essential organization and the people they serve.

Thank you for your help making this event successful and welcoming!



# Missions

## Grand Island Neighbors Foundation

If you're not planning on coming to the chili cook-off but would still like to help support the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation in their toughest season of the year, donations can be brought in on Sunday, March 10th as well. They are especially in need of canned meat, tuna, and mayonnaise, hygiene items (hand soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste for children and adults, deodorant, etc.), and monetary funds. Thanks for helping provide the temporary assistance that gets many of our Grand Island neighbors through some of the tough times in their lives.

## Socks for Souls

St. Timothy is joining the Niagara Frontier Conference in collecting socks for those experiencing homelessness and is in friendly competition with other area churches to collect the most pairs. New, clean socks help keep people's feet healthy, warm, and dry, and socks are extra important since many of these people spend hours a day on their feet and often don't have anywhere to wash their socks. It is one of the most requested but least donated items in shelters. Sock donations will be passed along to local organizations serving the shelterless, including Buffalo City Mission, Friends of the Night People, and Hearts for the Homeless. The collection will run through March 24th (Palm Sunday). Thank you for taking care of your neighbors in need!



## 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](mailto: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: Baby Logan McKenzie; Jennifer; Elaine Hardman; Jack Skinner; Joan Buchanan; Karen Wiswall; Bettie Cummings; Ronald Olson; Jan Cutini; Eric Alexander; Janet Upham; Deborah Piotrowski; 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 Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengaglio 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](mailto:communications@sttimothygrandisland.com), 716-773-4400). Thank you.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Eilene Gebrian's birthday on March 6th, Herb Westfall's birthday on March 20th, and Mark and Lauren Steck's anniversary on March 27th.



## 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](mailto: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.

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship, 9:30 AM	4	5 Bible Study, 1 PM Confirma- tion, 7 PM	6 Lenten Luncheon, 11:30 AM at Trinity	7	8 	9 Chili Cook-Off! 4-6:30 PM
10 Worship, 9:30 AM Confirma- tion, 10:45	11	12 Bible Study, 1 PM	13 Lenten Luncheon, 11:30 AM at Trinity	14 Finance meeting, 6:30 PM	15	16
17 Worship, 9:30 AM	18 	19 Bible Study, 1 PM	20 Holden Evening Prayer, 7 PM	21 Council meeting, 5:30 PM	22	23
24 Worship, 9:30 AM	25	26 Bible Study, 1 PM	27	28 Maundy Thursday, 7 PM	29 Good Friday, 12 PM St. Martins 7 PM St. Tim's	30
31 Worship, 9:30 AM						