

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



January, 2024

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

- ◇ From the Pastor's Desk
- ◇ Altar Guild Notes
- ◇ Messages from the Co-Presidents
- ◇ Child Care Center News
- ◇ Worship Information
- ◇ News and Upcoming Events
- ◇ Missions
- ◇ Last Month's Memories
- ◇ Prayer Chain & Pastoral Care
- ◇ Calendar

*Nations shall come to your
light, and kings to the
brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



From the Pastor's Desk

During the summers of my college years I worked as a camp counselor at a Christian camp. We had weekends off and one Saturday evening, feeling wistful and brave, I decided to go for a night hike. The moon was full and bright and I thought, "I know this path and the moon is bright, I can go out without a flashlight. I can do this."

So down the trail I went by moonlight. As soon as the trees covered the trail, I realized that I did not have night vision. It was dark. I managed to carefully and quietly hike down the trail to the cliff edge where there was a great view of the moon. As I had walked, I realized how much I was relying on my senses of hearing and touch as I heard the twigs crunch underfoot as I tried to avoid tree roots, and felt the brush and small trees brush against my arms. My senses were still on high alert as I sat down to stare at the moon and think the thoughts of a young man searching for meaning in the world.

And that's when I heard the growl. I froze. And there was another low growl. Some kind of creature was not happy that I was encroaching on their night time prowling.

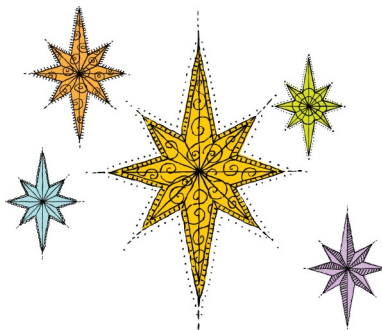
With fear at what I could not see in the dark, I slowly backed away from the direction of the growling, and then swiftly walked back up the trail I had come. I made it back to my cabin, but resolved to at least bring a flashlight next time, just in case!

As we enter Epiphany, the season of light, I'm reminded that we all think we can live this life on our own. We think we know the way. We think we don't need extra light. But when we venture out on our own without the source of light, we are surprised and alone when creatures and fears growl at us out of the shadows.

Friends, like the Magi that followed that new star that gave great light, like a ship at night relying on a lighthouse in a storm, take the light with you. May we all take the light of Christ with us, relying on the Spirit's light in our hearts and in our friends to guide our way, and light our path when the night brings fear.

Glory to God in the highest! And peace and light to the people of earth.

In Christ's Amazing light,
Pastor Adam



Altar Guild Notes: January, 2024

Sad news. Glad news.

Christmas season is over. Sad.

Epiphany is here! Glad!!

The light of the world is revealed to all!

The Christmas paraments still adorn the altar, lectern, pulpit. That is because Epiphany is on the pulpit panel. There they are, the 3 Magi (kings). Notice the gifts they bring for the divine infant King. Their sights were set on the light of the star guiding them to the light of the world. Then hearts (theirs & ours) were lit with the fire of the Holy Spirit.



Speaking of the Holy Spirit....we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord the day after Epiphany. A dove descends, a voice rings out, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Christ is revealed as the Son of God.

In one Sunday we have the light of the star, the infant Jesus, the adult Jesus. The Holy Spirit descending, God's voice proclaiming!

The light is blinding!!



The next Sunday the sanctuary looks quite different.

The season of Time after Epiphany begins. This is the "short green season." All the showy, sparkly festive decorations are gone.

We will use our older "vintage" green paraments to dress the altar, pulpit, and lectern. The flowers are changed to an arrangement of greenery.

The stands of 7-branch candelabras are stored again. However, the candles on the altar will be ignited for services. The fire of the sanctuary candle that hangs above the altar burns continuously.

Each Sunday our hearts and minds are fueled by the Word and the Eucharist. We leave as lights of Christ into our neighborhoods and the world.

May we all blaze brightly to reveal God's love to the world today.

Your sister in Christ,

Deborah



Messages From the Co-Presidents

Dear St. Tim Family,

A wonderful two seatings sold out Breakfast with Santa at the CCC... done.
Countless hours of love and patience poured into the gentle loving care at the CCC... done.
Scurrying around, shopping, and gifts wrapped... done.
Shopping and creation of delicious meals prepared and eaten... done.
Too many cookies and deserts baked and eaten... done.
The particularly delightful Children's Christmas Pageant performed and appreciated... done.
Gifts of generosity shared by way of the Angel Tree... done.
Advent Candles and Christmas Eve Candles lit and extinguished at worship... done.
Travelers returned home... done.

This Most Wonderful Time of the Year.

And with this beauty, joy, and hope, comes grief. For many of us, joy and hope, sadness and grief, co-exist in our minds and hearts. I know some who have attended a "Blue Christmas Service" offered locally. And if personal grief is not heavy enough, we have not yet touched on two or more wars raging in our world, unimaginable numbers of refugees and displaced families, hungry and alone, in need of so much. There is reliable evidence of the evolution of "modern homo sapiens" 40,000 years ago. It is clear humanity, collectively, has learned very little about sustaining a kind, equitable society.

When all of this sits heavy on my heart, I focus on and am grateful for the infinite grace, love, and promise offered to us. Who could conceive of this? The birth of this baby, fully human, fully divine, gifted to us in an extraordinary virgin birth. Only to grow up and die cruelly on the cross, for our salvation, forgiveness, and redemption. All so we could learn how to live into His love. We are imperfect at best, often inattentive, selfish, and afraid. But each day we have another opportunity to "love better." Every thought of Christmas can draw us closer to the purity and love of a child, as we celebrate the birth of THE child. What can I do, what can I give him? I am reminded of my grandson Ari's response at The Children's Pageant. What can I give him? "I will give him my heart."

May the love of the baby Jesus, and the Hope He brings, settle over you all and live in your hearts.

God Bless us Everyone.

Love and hugs,
Shari Miller





December was a very busy month. We created a wonderfully decorated and lit-up Christmas float for St. Timothy Lutheran Church and Childcare Center's participation in the 11th annual Light up the Boulevard parade. We borrowed a trailer, used two houses from the playground, obtained many used hay bales from Halloween as seats, and received donations of several strings of lights. The Child Care Center ordered two wonderful signs which were adorned on the side of the float with two spotlights on each side so they could be seen. There was a great turnout of parents and kids to ride the float, and several teachers walked, rode, and waved to the spectators and some of their students. Pastor Adam added the last decoration of a star to one of the houses before the parade started. We had several church members involved working on the float, walking in the parade, and as participants in the crowd. St. Timothy was the only church or child care center represented. It was a fun evening although a little damp. Thanks to all who helped with donations, time, and effort.



St. Timothy's hosted the holiday Community Chorus event this year. It was well attended and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the music.

On Saturday the 9th, we had another great event with the Breakfast with Santa. This event was sold out before it even started. We had church members working with the child care teachers and some of our youth. This was a wonderful community event. Thanks to all our sponsors and workers.

On the 17th, the youth and not so youth 😊 put on the Christmas pageant. This version of the story of the birth of Christ put smiles on everyone's face. Thanks to all who put this together.

Two services were held on Christmas Eve with the morning service in the narthex. This was a more informal service. In the evening, we had a packed house for the 4pm traditional Christmas Eve service. Silent night with the lights turned off and the candles all lit always adds that special touch.

December was very busy. January should be slower but ends with our Congregational meeting and a brunch. I hope everyone had a good Christmas, and Happy New Year to all!

Regards,
Paul Yaeger

Child Care Center News for January 2024!

Hello, Church Family!

I hope you enjoyed your holidays as much as we did at the Child Care Center. We had an amazing and busy December. We participated in the Light up the Boulevard and continued our annual tradition of Breakfast with Santa. We had a wonderful turn out for both and would like to thank all of the church families, whether you donated your time, supplies, or attended the events, Thank you! The teachers and staff at the center had a professional development day at the end of December and received scholarships for our first aid and CPR as well as Medication Administration training.

This month, our teachers will be welcoming new children to their classrooms with a few new families joining the center as well as children growing and transitioning to new classrooms. To start out the new year, the children will be learning about all things winter. We will also be participating in collecting for the Undie Sunday Community Project where the Child Care Center will be helping to collect socks, t-shirts, and undergarments.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

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! 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. 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. Please contact Pastor Adam or the office to make arrangements.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th this year. Our service will be held at 7 PM.

News and Upcoming Events

January Congregational Meeting & Brunch

Please note that our congregational meeting date has shifted to Sunday, January 28th. Please plan to join us as we vote in a new Council member, hear the results from our audit, and review suggested updates to our constitution according to the most updated model, which will be available for review two weeks ahead of time to pick up in the Narthex or request over email.

We are also looking forward to gathering during this time for some fellowship! As you are able, please bring a dish to pass and join us afterwards for a light brunch meal and some conversation. If you forget to bring something, please come anyway! We would love to have you with us.

Poinsettias

For those of you who purchased poinsettias through the church to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve, please feel free to take them home with you to enjoy in the coming weeks!

Chili Cook-off

St. Timothy is excited to host our first ever community-wide chili cook-off on March 9th from 4-7 PM! Our next planning meeting will be Sunday, January 14th after church, and we invite you to join us. Preliminary information and the chili registration form can be found at <https://www.sttimothygrandisland.com/chili-cook-off>. Further details will be coming over email later this month.

Winter Weather Closure Preparation

In the event of unsafe winter weather, please check your email, Channel 7, or Channel 2 for our closure notices. If necessary, we will hold services via Zoom to keep everyone safe. If you are not a computer user and would like a phone call with Zoom dial-in information when the decision is made, please contact the office.

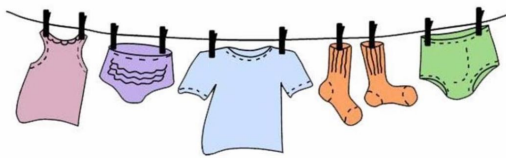
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Free Classes

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. Upcoming programs include: Theological Intersectionality for the 21st Century Church, exploring the intersections of race, class, and gender and anti-oppressionistic approaches to theology and parish life, starting January 7th for the Sunday sessions and January 10th for the Wednesday sessions; and 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.

Missions

Undie Sunday

St. Timothy will once again be joining the Rotary Club of Grand Island for their annual Undie Sunday community project to be distributed to the Community Mission of Niagara Falls and other area missions. They are seeking the basic needs of new and unused underclothing and socks for less fortunate and homeless men, women, and children. These items provide personal dignity, comfort, and warmth, and are so much appreciated by them. They are in particular need of warm socks; T-shirts of all sizes; men's underwear sizes Large, Extra Large, and XX Large; and all women's undergarments. The collection will take place between January 13 and 21st. Thank you for helping provide for those in need.



Undie Sunday!

ELCA Good Gifts

Thank you for your generous Good Gifts donations this Advent and Christmas Season! The people of St. Timothy have given \$919 to the ELCA's World Hunger ministry, including six goats, two sets of chicks, two sets of honeybees, a fish farm, a water filter, a microloan for a woman, school supplies for a child, school fees and uniform for a girl, food for a refugee family for a week, and \$54 where needed most. Each of these helps create long-term economic stability and food security for families and communities globally. Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ to our neighbors in need!

Pancake Breakfast

Thank you to everyone for your support of our child care center at their pancake breakfast fundraiser! It was a successful and enjoyable event. From volunteers to those who donated, decorated, and came with family, you are appreciated!



Last Month's Memories



Our Christmas Eve candlelight service was packed with people celebrating the mystery of the birth of Christ among us and was filled with special moments.

Thank you to the Altar Guild who always does a wonderful job preparing the sanctuary and various other elements to stir our hearts.



Our Christmas Pageant was a blast! Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen!

We enjoyed an evening of Christmas- and winter-themed music by the Grand Island Community Chorus.





Light up the Boulevard was a blast! Thanks to everyone who helped decorate our trailer and donated items to make it happen!

Photo credit: Phyllis Keeler & Tracy Marrs.



Thank you to all who pitched in to help with Breakfast with Santa and came to support our Child Care Center. It was a successful event and a fun morning for all!



A special thank-you to Karen Sturniolo for her awesome Santa's Candy Shop creation - it was spectacular and a feast for the eyes as always!



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 Jim O'Connor; Harold (Trey) Bolden; Mary Ann Kemp; Judy Bassette; Elaine Hardman; Jack Skinner; Lynn Arends; Karen Wiswall; Bettie Cummings; Larry Neutz; Ronald Olson; Camsela Jordan; Joe Levy and Family; Jan Cutini; Eric Alexander; Wesley Clark; 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, 716-773-4400). Thank you.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Shari Miller and Kevin Wilson's birthdays on January 15th, Joan Buchanan's birthday on January 16th, and Diane Wilson's birthday on January 25th.



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.

January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 	2	3	4	5	6 
7 Worship, 9:30 AM	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Worship, 9:30 AM Chili Cook-off Meeting	15 	16	17	18 Council & Finance, 5:30 PM	19	20
21 Worship, 9:30 AM	22	23	24 Worship & Music meeting, 7 PM	25	26	27
28 Worship, 9:30 AM Congregation Meeting, 10:30 AM	29	30	31 			