

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

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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.*



May, 2022

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Message from the Pastor

We're roughly halfway through Easter, the church's great fifty-day celebration of the risen Christ and of the new life that is ours in Christ. But as it does following Christmas Day, our celebration of Easter winds down pretty quickly after the Day of Resurrection. The hard realities of life as we know it in the world weigh heavily on any exuberance we might feel on that day, and "normal" creeps back in so quickly. It's a normal that contains much we wish weren't there.

But the words of a song Don Marsh and Richard Avery wrote fifty years ago keep running through my head. "Daily news is so bad it seems the Good News seldom gets heard. / Get it straight from the Easter People: God's in charge! Spread the word!" Then the refrain kicks in, "Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on! / Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!"

Easter and its celebration are not limited to a single day nor even to a season. Every Sunday is an Easter of sorts, the week's first-day celebration of new life in the risen Christ. To see it, maybe we need to lower our sights a bit. The first resurrection appearances are anything but exhilaratingly breathtaking. Jesus' first appearances were to women at the tomb in the early morning, in the dark. He came to them in their mourning, while their thinking was muddled by grief. They mistook him for someone else, the gardener, the most ordinary, inconspicuous, and easily overlooked of people. Later that day he appeared to two others on the way to Emmaus, talking with them as they tried to sort out the confusion of the previous few days and trying to make sense of the strange reports they heard of his first appearances. Or he meets them on the shore over a simple meal of broiled fish.

But right now it's the conversation on the road to Emmaus that captures my attention. The glory in which they recognized him lasted only the briefest of moments before he vanished from their sight. His longer and more engaging, illuminating presence, on the road while they tried to make sense of their confusion, was where they felt their heart warmed.

No glorious appearance of the risen Christ is likely to be ours. If the scriptures are any indication, and they certainly are, we'll discover only afterwards that the risen Christ has been among us when we've tried to make sense of a life that has us stumped with its dark, muddling confusion. The war in Ukraine, the mess we've made of our system of government, the confusion of how to live with covid-19 and its aftermath, the fierce debate over values in public education, the impatience and anxiety that can grow all too real during the search for the congregation's next pastor – these experiences and so many more are some of the most likely times when we'll be approached by the risen Christ and when we'll step into the reality of the resurrection life that's already in our midst. Our faithful task is not to withdraw from those stressful situations but to look at them squarely, without flinching and with open hearts.



Blessings to you all,
Pastor Rich

Altar Guild Notes: May, 2022

The great 50 days. Fifty days of celebration. Easter lasts for seven weeks. We have Five Sundays in May to celebrate!

The white paraments remain in place. The Easter banner on the wall continues it's proclamation. Baskets of flowers have replaced the lilies.

The Christ candle burning brightly draws our attention. Hymn numbers are posted on the side walls for our songs of praise and thanksgiving. The elements sit on the altar, veiled and ready for our communion.



But wait! There's more! Ascension of Our Lord is 40 days after Easter Sunday. Therefore it's always on a Thursday. This also falls in May this year. We have had these 40 days after Easter to listen and come to know who Jesus is and who we are meant to be in Jesus. The sanctuary remains dressed in white for this commemoration. His followers are instructed to be witnesses of the risen Christ and proclaim the Word to all. These instructions apply to every generation, including us! There is more good news, we are assured Jesus is sending an Advocate to help and guide us!



We wait again, confused and uncomfortable. There are 10 more days in the Easter season. The sanctuary is still in white. Although Christ has ascended, traditionally the Christ candle is still lit. The next big change comes in June.

For May's five Sundays let us rejoice with the canticle of praise. This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia!

Blessing, honor, & glory to God.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah



Childcare Center News

April was such a fun month at the Childcare Center! From story time with the Easter bunny a few weeks leading up to Easter to an Easter egg hunt, parade, and interactions with the Easter bunny, our kids had a blast! They've also been learning about gardening, insects, and the life cycles of butterflies and have been enjoying time spent outside on the playground.

In May, we'll be having a Doughnuts for Grownups event to celebrate our kids' parents and grandparents in the season of Mother's Day and Father's Day. We're also busy planning our Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ on June 18th!

Summer enrollment is filling up fast, and we still have spots open for the fall if you know anyone looking for a meaningful childcare experience. Please have them call us for a tour!

Thank you for your support as always and have a wonderful month of May!



A Message From the President

“Let all that you do be done in love” 1 Corinthians 16:14. This is one of my favorite verses and one that I see on my wall every day. A verse that reminds me of how Jesus wants us to act. This verse is a perfect example of why we still sit every other pew, have pews marked for those who wish to mask, and why we continue to have communion at our seats. Every week is hopefully one step closer to being back to “normal.” We thank you for your patience and understanding as the council strives to make the best decisions for the health and welfare of our congregation.

By now I hope you were able to see our Easter (coat) room. The Easter Bunny (aka Karen Sturniolo) came to visit our childcare children and church families, read books, lead a childcare center parade, took pictures with the children, and gave each child a “Nobunny loves you like Jesus” Easter treat from St. Timothy’s Church. Thank you, Karen! Your ideas and energy are contagious!

On May 1st, please join us in welcoming Phyllis and Duane Keeler to our church ministry. They will be received as new members on Duane’s birthday. We look forward to getting to know these fantastic folks!

Also, this month, we are having our first (hopefully bi-annual) indoor/outdoor church cleanup day on May 14th from 9am – 12 noon. Many hands make light work, so we hope you can help in any way. Food and drinks will be provided. Please sign up in the narthex. All hands on deck.....including kids! Childcare staff will be volunteering as well so let’s get to know them better.

Looking forward to June, we are excited to announce that Luke Sweeney will make his Rite of Confirmation on June 5th, we anticipate welcoming Jane Seese into our church ministry, and on June 18th, our childcare center will be having their Chiavetta’s BBQ. Volunteers are needed. More details to follow.

On a final exciting note, outside worship will begin on June 12th, weather permitting. We will confirm times of both outdoor and indoor services at our May council meeting and make an announcement.

In closing, please continue to pray for direction for our church. We could not do what we do without your patience, understanding, prayers, offerings, and donations of time, talents, and teamwork. We are who we are because of all of you. Let us continue to work together as we beautify our church grounds, strengthen our childcare center in Christ, grow our Sunday School program and youth group, and prepare for the next generation of St. Timothy’s.

In peace,
Karen Rose

Let all that
you do
be done in
love

1 COR. 16:18

Worship Information

Services through the month of May and for the first Sunday of June will continue to be held at 9:30 AM. Our outdoor services will begin on June 12th, weather permitting, while our livestream will still run at the later service. Service times will be confirmed later this month and announced in the bulletin and in next month's Timothian.

Masks are optional at this time, although they are still recommended by the CDC. We will continue to social distance by using every other pew, and a designated section in the rear of the sanctuary is reserved for those who will continue masking. We are grateful for your consideration of neighbors who for the greatest safety of themselves and loved ones need to take such precautions.

Congregational Celebrations



Please join us in warmly welcoming new members Duane and Phyllis Keeler into our church community!

On Pentecost, June 5th, we'll be celebrating the confirmation of Luke Sweeney, along with the welcoming of new member Jane Seese and her affirmation of faith. On May 29th and June 5th, we'll have a card collection bin for Luke for anyone who would like to write notes of encouragement and wisdom for his faith journey.

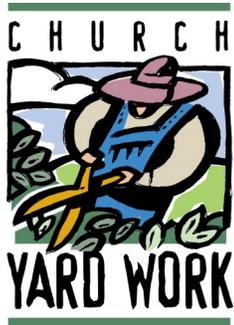
Call Committee Update

The Call Committee met with and voted to recommend another candidate to the Council. After some time discerning, they felt called to be closer to family and chose a different church to serve nearer to home. We are confident that God's plan is at work in and around us and the right person will come in God's time and way. Please continue to hold St. Timothy in your prayers, along with all those looking for calls and the synod office as they discern which candidates would be the best partners in mission with our congregation.



News and Upcoming Events

Pastor Rich will be on vacation from May 2-15. In the event of pastoral care needs during that time, please contact Pastor Mary Wolf at stpauls1827@juno.com or at 716-984-2938.



Please consider joining us for a Spring Clean-Up Day on the morning of May 14th, with a rain date of May 21st. From washing windows and cleaning up the bell tower to planting flowers, pulling weeds, and trimming bushes, we have quite a few outdoor projects to take care of and would really appreciate your help. We can also use some help inside on storage areas and files for any whose abilities are best used in those areas. Many hands make light work! We'll meet from 9 AM to noon, and food and drinks will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex so we know how much to bring!

As we prepare our lawn mowing volunteer schedule, we wanted to ask if anyone else may be interested in helping this year. Mowing is done in teams of two with a large rider and a push mower for the smaller areas, and no volunteer is given more than two cuttings in the season, which can be limited to one upon request. We could ideally use two or three more teams. Any and all help is appreciated as we work to steward our resources wisely. Thank you.



Calling all occasional gardeners! Last summer, many of our flowers died from lack of water, especially by the childcare where the sun is most intense. If you wouldn't mind watering our flowers on Sunday mornings or stopping by a few times mid-week to water, pull a few weeds, and trim bushes when needed throughout the season to keep our property welcoming, please let us know! A sign-up sheet for volunteers is in the Narthex with options for Sunday waterings and mid-week garden maintenance in preparation for a schedule. Thank you!



Our Childcare Center's Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ is coming up on June 18th! Come support them by enjoying a meal of the best chicken in the business, or volunteer to help work tickets or dish out food on the day of. Your support is greatly appreciated as always!

AMP Solar has been an awesome company for St. Timothy's since we consistently pay 10% less on our electric bill. They are offering a promotion that anyone who signs up with them through us in the month of May gets a \$50 Visa gift card and for each sign-up, they will donate \$75 to the church. The 10% discount continues to hold from the going rate of electricity. As long as you're a National Grid customer, you are eligible to buy into the solar farm through AMP. For more information or to sign up, please follow this link:

<https://community-solar.energy/st-timothys-church>

Missions



The Grand Island Neighbor's Foundation gratefully accepted your donations of 889 diapers and 30 packs of wipes out of a synod-wide collection total of 93,452 diapers to support local families with diaper need.

Your donations for Ukraine and the Eastern Europe Crisis, totaling \$355, have also been sent in to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. Thank you for your generosity.

Missions Spotlight

Where is God in the middle of a war?

Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?" (Joel 2:17)

The carnage and destruction in Ukraine is hard to watch, and it seems it will only get worse before it gets better. The Ukrainian forces and civilians are fighting back valiantly, and the courage of the inhabitants is inspiring. But one quarter of the population has been displaced and the true number of dead may never be known. It is tempting to ask, where is God in all this?

Here is the good news: God is still present in the midst of war and injustice. Nearly the whole world has condemned the brutality of the attacks, and scores of countries are stepping forward in solidarity with Ukraine. The ELCA has responded to the crisis with prayer, advocacy, and financial support through Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), and as refugees reach other countries, the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) helps them get settled. In these ways, our Church is carrying out the New Commandment we heard on Maundy Thursday to love one another as God has loved us. "They will know we are Christians by our love." Your congregations' gifts to mission support, and your individual gifts to LDR and LIRS make it happen. 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: Randy; Riley; Betty; Ted Korkuc; Chantelle and Erica Aceti; Barbara Dow; Dan, Lucy, and child; Ted; Joe Morley; Mark Brakke; Gary Jackson; Leshia Tiedaman; Richard E; Isla and Eleanor; Edna; Gloria; Ron's brother; Jeannette Tate; Brian Volo; Margaret Miller; Jack Skinner; Marianne Carroll; Linda Piechowiak; Danny Penque; Robin Bengaglio 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 Karen Rose's birthday on May 9th, Nancy Morth's birthday on May 13th, Donna Yaeger's birthday on May 15th, and Evan Steck's birthday on May 21st. 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.

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship, 9:30 AM	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship, 9:30 AM 	9 Finance Meeting, 6:30 PM	10	11	12	13	14 Spring clean-up, 9AM-noon
15 Worship, 9:30 AM	16 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	17	18	19 Worship & Music Meeting, 7 PM	20	21 Spring clean-up rain date
22 Worship, 9:30 AM	23	24	25	26 Ascension of our Lord	27	28
29 Worship, 9:30 AM	30	31  MEMORIAL DAY				