

THE TIMOTHIAN

Newsletter for St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Grand Island, NY

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Meeting Needs with



May 2026

Great things are happening at St. Timothy's!

Here's what's inside:

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From the Pastor's Desk

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." – John 13:34-35

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments..." – John 14:15

It has always been clear from the Gospels that Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, to show compassion to one another. Sometimes we read these verses and think, who is my neighbor though? My next-door neighbors are doing just fine, and don't seem to need my help. Who should I be helping? Sometimes we reach out to nearby city centers where there are people in need. Sometimes we collect funds for people around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Our neighbors are near and far. Jesus made it clear in the story of the "Good Samaritan" that our neighbors include people we like, as well as people we find it difficult to love.

I am glad to share with you that the ecumenical group on Grand Island: St. Timothy Lutheran, St. Martin Episcopal and Trinity Church, are working together to create an opportunity for enacting Christ's mission here on the Island. The pastors of each church as well as representatives from each congregation have been meeting over the last several months to put together a ministry for our neighbors nearby. Trinity Church has a building on their campus (formerly a second parsonage) which has become available for use. Pastor Kevin Slough reached out to our ecumenical group, including Father Nicholas Evancho, and suggested we utilize this building for ecumenical ministry. Together with our committee, (St. Timothy's representatives being Shari Miller, Kathy Freer, and me) we have decided to work towards making this a clothing ministry, where people can come to "shop", at no or minimal cost, for clothing for their families. We are still working on the details of how all this will work, and have not set a date for donation collection or for a start date, but we are getting closer with each meeting. While we will start with clothing, we may also include distribution of hygiene products and/or dry food goods in the future.

The name for this ministry will be "Bridge of Grace Outreach Center", reflecting our location on the Island and our Christian mission of sharing in grace. The idea moving forward is that each congregation will commit to support this ministry financially, with donations, and with volunteers.

Keep an eye out for updates in the coming months, and talk with me, Shari, or Kathy if you have questions or would like to help. Let's heed Christ's call together with our Christian siblings on Grand Island!

In God's Grace,
Pastor Adam



Messages from the Co-Presidents

As I write this, I am waiting to board a plane to come home from a visit with my college roommate..a woman I have know for 62 years. Paul has been kind enough to detail the important congregational events of the last month. All I have to offer is my version of “what did you learn over summer vacation.”

I spent time meeting my roommate’s friends, now my new friends. We watched grandchildren play softball, and volleyball, had a family dinner and played Mahjong. We went to a jazz club where an artist sang, and played 13 different woodwind instruments. We drove all over..into the Hill Country and to a “Lake” which is really the result of a dam of the Colorado River, and rode on Sandy’s son’s pontoon boat, with the water temperature at 80 degrees...not a bad problem to have. We worshipped at Community First Village, the brainchild of a multimillionaire who has conceived of a way to support the lives of homeless persons by building micro mini and tiny homes...and helping them move onto a campus of 51 acres, with services to support their healing. It was interesting to learn that the City of Austin spends \$34,000 per year for each homeless person when they are on the street. This offers no permanent solution. Community First Village supports them and relocates them into their own “forever home” for \$5400 per year!! It is a huge endeavor...and I tell you I was so happy and proud to tell them about what we are beginning to do on Grand Island...pooling our resources and coming together with like-minded believers to create “community” ...Bridge of Grace. And Pastor...they must have been listening to you! They often talk about Community and sharing food in the same sentence.

Why am I telling all of you about my few days away from home? We all take trips and come home to regale others with our stories. I realized something while I was gone.

While I was there, the war between Russia and Ukraine continued. The war in Iraq has now cost \$25B and, we know not how many lives. The Middle East is unstable. The Straits of Hormuz are closed, open, mined... and there were more shootings in the USA, and of course the dramatic one in Washington over the weekend.

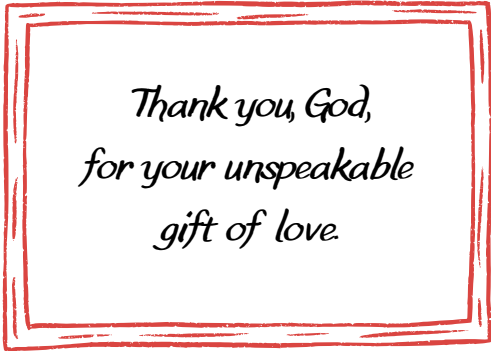
And Layne, Ellie, Lincoln, Liam, and Lyra all heard that Jesus will never forget them. And a beautiful baby was born on a Delta airline flight, with total strangers coming to the aid of the Mother. God has been busy!

The same good God who has brought us this far will not desert us now.
The Church of Jesus Christ will go on forever.

And no matter where we are, God is in the midst of it.

Thank you, God, for your unspeakable gift of love.

Shari Miller



*Thank you, God,
for your unspeakable
gift of love.*



Hallelujah! Jesus is risen. What a way to start the month but with Easter. The flowers were beautiful, attendance was good, and the message was great. Jesus is risen! Let us pray for the end of all the conflicts and wars that are ravaging now and spread peace instead.

Five of our young friends took their first communion last month. Congratulations to those who received first communion and their families.

This spring is off to a good start. We are already cutting grass and starting to spread some top soil. I would like to thank everyone in advance who will be donating their time and energy to cutting and trimming the grass to keep St Timothy's Lutheran Church and Child Care Center looking good. Our spring clean up was delayed a week because of rain. I hope to get good participation for whoever is available the first Saturday of May to help do some work around the church.

Upcoming May events:

Confirmation will be on Pentecost, May 24th

The Child Care Chicken BBQ & Family Fun Day is May 30th

We continue to stay on top of larger repairs and maintenance done by contractors, including:

Roof repair

2nd boiler cleaning

AC tune up

Church entrance window glass replacement

Fire suppression updates

Regards,

Paul Yaeger



“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” - John 14:15-17

Altar Guild Notes, May 2026

Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The 50-day Easter season continues in May. We can keep using the celebratory Easter greeting for 3 weeks of May!

Did you notice something different in the sanctuary? Something familiar yet new here..... There is an additional white drape under the altar parament as well as white banner adorning the cross.

We were blessed to obtain some liturgical linen from a closing church. With some reworking, repairs, and whitening we are pleased to use them.

Notice the lovely lace inserts and edging embellishments. They have a significant meaning as well. The lace brings to mind the nets the fishermen made and used! A visual reminder of Jesus' command to be "fishers of men."

Ascension of our Lord is celebrated on Thursday, May 14th. Luke's gospel tells us that Jesus leaves His disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit. So.... How's that gonna work?!



Pentecost!! Ten days later the Holy Spirit comes roaring in to a group of disciples and believers. Described as a rushing wind, there's tongues of flame, even understanding all the babble of different languages among them. The Holy Spirit is poured out upon them, us! Descends to them, us! It is an event! The sanctuary marks this event with red paraments, red roses, flame colored cross banner and more!

There is a fifth Sunday this month. It marks another change in church!

It's Holy Trinity Sunday. We celebrate the mystery and the majesty of the Holy Three-in-One. The white paraments return to help us contemplate.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,

Deborah

Child Care Center News for May 2026!

Hello Church Family!

May is here, and with it comes sunshine, celebrations, and exciting events for our children and families! We are looking forward to a fun-filled month as we wrap up spring and begin preparing for summer.

We begin this month by recognizing our amazing staff and teachers for teacher appreciation week May 4th to May 8th. Our teachers go above and beyond each day to nurture, teach, and care for our children. Their dedication, patience, and love do not go unnoticed, and this special week gives us the opportunity to show just how much we value all that they do. We end the week with National Provider Appreciation Day on May 8th, honoring the essential role our child care providers play in supporting children, families, and our community each and every day.

We will be hosting our annual Chicken BBQ May 30th from 3pm-6pm! This is a great opportunity to come together as a community while supporting our center. Tickets go on sale Monday, May 4th! Please let the child care office know if you'd like to volunteer for this event. We hope to see many of you there!

Thank you!

Athena Torain
Center Director

A look into the childcare
center this month:





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 age 3 through grade 4 is held during the 9:30 AM service through the end of May.

News and Upcoming Events

Clean-Up Day

Our clean-up day has been postponed to May 2nd from 9-11 AM. We would appreciate your help filling in our parking lot edges with topsoil, weeding our gardens, and taking care of a few miscellaneous items. Thank you!

Lawn Mowing Volunteer Request

If you'd be willing to volunteer twice throughout the season to help us mow the lawn and are not already on our volunteer list, please see Paul Glassman or Kim. Trainings for the zero-turn lawn mower will be held May 3rd and 17th after church. Thank you!

Bible Study

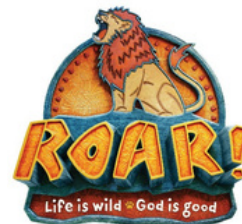
Bible study is resuming on Thursday, May 7th at 1 PM and will run for 6 weeks. All are welcome!

Cards for our Confirmand

Lennon Miller will be confirmed on Pentecost, May 24th. If you would like to write a card for Lennon as he continues on the next stage of his faith journey, a gift bag will be available to place cards in starting May 10th.

Vacation Bible School!

We're excited to host another Vacation Bible School this summer with the theme "Life is Wild, God is Good!" It will be held the week of July 20-24 from 6-7:30 PM. All kids age 4 to grade 4 are welcome! More information and registration details will come soon.



Parlor use in the coming school year

Between a temporary community need for additional care and the number of kids we have in our care currently that will be in the preschool age group and would like to stay with us, the Council has voted to convert the parlor into a classroom for the 2026-2027 school year. With advanced notice, the room can still be used for church functions. We have many grateful parents that are glad to have their kids in the safe, loving environment our child care creates. Thank you for helping us provide that service and a good foundation for these kids going forward!

Missions

Child Care Center BBQ Fundraiser

Our Child Care Center's Chiavetta's BBQ and Family Fun Day fundraiser is coming up on May 30th! Tickets will be available before and after services and through the Child Care Center office and are \$17 for a meal of a half chicken, coleslaw, macaroni salad, and roll with butter and \$8 for a kids meal of hot dog, chips, and drink. Kids' fun pass wristbands for the bounce houses, balloons, cotton candy, and other kid-friendly entertainment will be available the day of. Volunteers are appreciated, and if you'd like to help contribute to a basket for their raffle, a collection will take place on May 11th & 18th. Thank you for your support!

Ride for Roswell

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church & Child Care Center Ride for Roswell Team is up and running! Donations to riders of your choice are appreciated to help them reach their fundraising goal; these can be given directly to them or given via the QR codes online. Thank you!



Last Month's Memories



Thank you to the Altar Guild and everyone who ordered spring flowers for making our sanctuary celebratory and especially beautiful for Easter!



On April 11th, we celebrated the First Communion of Ellie Timmerman, Layne Lucas, Lincoln Frost, Liam Frost, and Lyra Rogan.



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: Sarah & Richard Domster; the family of Lynda Reeves; the family of Keith Horn; Bonnie Peete; Dale Marrs; Nancy Morth; Fred Ertel; Louise Pratt; Rob Fraser; Sister Terri; Erik LaVassuer; Kalene Best; Marge Skinner; Charris Kiener; Paul Schwandt; Terri; Michael Briggs; Rob Cornelius; Mike Seguin; Matt Rowe; Esmaeil & Fariba; Dana; Jerry & Sharon; Eliana & Lilly; Jay; Dan; Michelle Ramsey; Mike & Tina Cutini; Diane & Brian Lind; Aiden Haynes; Vanessa; Logan McKenzie; Karen Wiswall; Ronald Olson; Janet Upham; Deborah Piotrowski; Mike Gueli; Josh; Myles; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Brenda; Marlene; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengaglio Richard; Joanne M.; Sylvia & 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 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.



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.

May 2026

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|---|----------------------------------|------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Spring Clean-up Day, 9-11 AM |
| 3 Worship, 9:30 AM | 4 | 5 Confirmation Class, 5 PM | 6 | 7 Finance, 9 AM Bible Study, 1 PM Worship & Music, 6:30 PM | 8  | 9 |
| 10 Worship, 9:30 AM Mother's Day | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Bible Study, 1 PM | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Worship, 9:30 AM | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Bible Study, 1 PM Council meeting, 5:30 PM | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Worship, 9:30 AM Pentecost & Confirmation | 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 Bible Study, 1 PM | 29 | 30 CCC BBQ & Family Fun Day! 3-6 PM |
| 31 Worship, 9:30 AM | | | | | | |