

THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our Interim Pastor: Rev. Thomas Glasoe

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Our Vision:

*Christ Being the Cornerstone of
Grand Island*

Our Mission:

*Sending Forth Disciples of
Christ*



October, 2021

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

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From the Pastor's Study

BITTERSWEET ANNOUCEMENT

Writing this article is bittersweet for me as I announce to you that starting in November, I will become the interim pastor at a congregation in Erie. While it has been a great pleasure and honor to be your interim pastor, I need to take a position that will allow me to be closer to home and family.

Since 2013, I have served six interim positions even while serving as a called pastor at two other congregations during that time. The extreme shortage of clergy in our denomination and in mainline churches has made me go into interim ministry, a professional move I never thought I would do. Doing interim ministry has taught me a lot of about anxiety and stresses in congregations during times of transitions and crises. However, of the total of seven interims that I have led since I was ordained twenty years ago, my time with you has yielded the greatest blessings and the best lessons.

As a congregation, you all have been such blessings. Despite the ongoing pandemic crisis and the departure of your called pastor, the level of anxiety has been very low. While our time together has not been ideal due to shutdowns and mask mandates, our ministry was able to move forward in productive and meaningful ways.

The greatest lessons I have learned from my time with you comes from our mutual work in the day school. Ever since the director departed in May, the leadership of the congregation and I have had to learn how to lead a ministry that was dealing with deeply concerned parents, high levels of anxiety from parents and staff, and the challenge of finding new staff.

We have had to listen to boisterous parents who told us how to run the school to manage outbreaks of illnesses (COVID and regular infectious illnesses that occurs in a dayschool). We have had to learn how to be nimble and adaptable to evolving demands of the school. Personally, I have had to learn about federal food programs, school management software, and financial matters that I figured I would never need to know intimately.

Yet, through it all, with great support from our congregation council and finance team, we have been able to rise above the challenges and meet it with unified leadership making rational decisions that have helped us progress. Today, we have grants to help us make our facility better and give our school staff better pay.

I pray that St. Timothy will be sent a pastor that will continue the great ministry that has been occurring here and bring the congregation to a new season of growth and deep spirituality. I pray that this congregation will not succumb to the ravages of COVID and its demands. I pray for humility and patience as the Call Committee continue their work in discernment and interviewing the next pastor.

Regardless of how everything turns out, I know that I will always have a spiritual home at St. Timothy's and that I will always have the warmest of feelings for this place and I will continue to include you in my daily prayers.

I am grateful to be your pastor and God bless you always.

Pastor Tom

The Blessing of the Animals

On the first Sunday of October, a procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses, is led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Animals. This custom is conducted in remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey.

Francis wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for Saint Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her little cat!

That there are today over 62 million cats in the U.S. attests to the continuing affection we have for our furry, feathered or finned friends. We've even had a cat called Socks in the White House. Other popular presidential pets range from Abraham Lincoln's Fido to Lyndon Johnson's beagles, named Him and Her.

For single householders, a pet can be a true companion. Many people arrive home from work to find a furry friend overjoyed at their return. Many a senior has a lap filled with a purring fellow creature.

The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye-to-eye, a man and his dog, or a woman and her cat, are two creatures of love.

At Franciscan Catholic churches, a friar with brown robe and white cord often welcomes each animal with a special prayer. The Blessing of Pets usually goes like this:

"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen." As the prayer is offered, the pet is gently sprinkled with holy water.

Usually the Blessing of Animals is held outdoors. But I remember it rained one year, and all were invited inside. It was quite a sight to see pairs of creatures—one human, one animal—sitting in the pews. The pastor joined right in with his beagle. Noah's Ark was never like this!



This year, St. Timothy's will hold our first ever Blessing of the Animals on our back lawn on Sunday October 3, 2021. Join us!

Altar Guild Notes: October, 2021

The weather has changed. But the season remains the same. Wait. What? Yep, it's Autumn outside. Outside the colors are changing. We hear the wind rustle the dry leaves. We add a sweater to ward off the chill. But inside St. Timothy the season of Time after Pentecost continues! Green still dominates the sanctuary. The sounds of prayer and praise fill the air. We are warmed by our gestures of peace during community reconciliation.



The long green season of Time after Pentecost will last four more Sundays. The sanctuary remains a tranquil place of worship. However, the "church" is a beehive of activity. Sunday school, faith formation for kids is underway. Bible study is offered for adults. Committees and council are meeting. Mission work gets planned and underway. We are doing all this under COVID cautions.



There is a fifth Sunday in October. Now we're going to shake things up! Reformation!!

Green is gone. It's all red, red, red. It is the same red used for Day of Pentecost. Once again we invoke the power of the Holy Spirit. For this celebration the Holy Spirit "reforms" our focus on Christ's love and our redemption justified by faith. And it's our delightful tradition to wear red on this Sunday.

Reformation Day

Our worship and activities may look a little different as we navigate life with COVID. The triune God is still here. Be filled. The Eucharist meal is here or can be brought to you. Worship here or livestream. Partake where and how you can.

Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah

Call Committee Update

The Synod is still in the process of finding candidates for us. Please continue to hold St. Timothy in your prayers, that God may lead us to the most wholesome partnership for His glory and kingdom, even if it takes some time to come together.

Please see the below letter we received from the Upstate New York Synod Office for Candidacy and Mobility in early September regarding the search for a pastor in this time.



Fall Conference Ministerium Report

Greetings, siblings in Christ of the Upstate NY Synod!

The past 18 months of the pandemic have caused a sea change in the Transitions and Mobility processes in our Synod.

One of our pastors presciently asked me in April 2020, “Will we see lots of retirements and other rostered ministers leaving churches because of this pandemic?” At the time, I wondered the same thing, and for the first few months, it didn’t matter to our Synod personally, as our churches were not heavily in transition.

But then the retirements in our Synod began in earnest, many of which had already been planned prior to the pandemic. Rostered ministers all over the ELCA found that they didn’t see eye to eye with their leadership about Covid practices, whether it be masking or social distancing, Zoom or in person worship. And many pastors simply felt the tug of the Spirit to move elsewhere.

You might expect the by-product of this to be a glut of pastors for our churches that are open; but the opposite is true. While there are quite a few pastors looking for a call, the number of open churches across the ELCA is large. I have referred to it, crudely, as a buyer’s market for rostered ministers. Add to that the (relatively) new pull to live near family that the pandemic has created (or exacerbated), and these pastors are extremely choosy about where they want to move geographically as well.

We have adapted our strategies to continue to find the right pastors for our congregations. We have acknowledged the realities and are working hard to help our transitioning congregations understand how long they may need to wait. And we are encouraging these congregations to work on vision and mission during this time, so that when they are ready for that pastor, the work can begin.

God is working in these times, making all things new. Our response will be one of faithfulness, courage and joy, even in the midst of anxiety and the frustration of not knowing what the future holds. Please continue to pray for those discerning calls, our churches in transition, and that the Holy Spirit will move in every call process to work for good in Christ’s church. Thanks be to God!

In Peace,

Julie Grindle

Assistant for Candidacy and Mobility



A Message From the President

As I write this month's article, I can't help but feel several emotions all going on at once. Each day has a new challenge, yet many days there's excitement. This past month it was so exciting to see the children and youth back in church. Although our Rally Day cookout was smaller than most years, it was great to have the youth lead our service and see their smiling faces. Please welcome them, encourage them, and thank them for joining us. They are the next generation of St. Timothy's and need our patience, guidance, and mentoring.

As for challenges, Amanda is struggling to find and retain quality teachers in our Childcare Center. With the abundance of jobs now offering higher pay than normal and a new Kinderkidz childcare center opening on Grand Island, many are bouncing from job to job. We thank Amanda for her hard work and dedication to find us high quality teachers we hope will be here for years to come. Thank you, too, to our assistant director, Tracy, for her unwavering dedication and the hard work she does for our center. And last, thank you for our parishioners who have volunteered to help in big and small ways. This is what God's work is all about....teamwork. We are so blessed.

These next two months, we look forward to teaming up with our Childcare Center staff and parents. On October 23rd from 3-5pm we will have our annual Trunk or Treat in our parking lot. Please come join us, decorate your trunk if able, and enjoy the fellowship while we give out candy. It has been so much fun and a great success in the past, so come enjoy the cute kiddos in costumes. We will also be collecting coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and winter footwear (new or gently used) for the less fortunate. Our youth will be teaming up with Kenmore Alliance Church to deliver these to the shelterless on November 27th from 10am-2pm. If you wish to join us, kindly let me know.



On a happy note, we would like to welcome Debbie Bastian as our accountant in training. Debbie has a business degree (as well as her numerous musical talents) and has expressed interest in learning the accounting position. Thank you to Karen Sturniolo who continues to keep us financially organized. We are so happy to have her back in the office and enjoy her wit every day we work with her. Karen is extremely excited about training Debbie. Please welcome Debbie "home" and thank Karen for everything she has done these past few months.



On a bittersweet note, Pastor Tom has announced that he has accepted another interim pastor position much closer to home. His plan is to be with us through October. We thank him for his guidance, support, leadership, and friendship during our difficult transition time. He has been such a blessing to us and we wish him all the best. Please watch for more details as we prepare to say goodbye to him with our blessings.

In closing, thank your time, patience, financial support, and prayers as we continue to navigate these unsettling times in our church and childcare ministry. Pray without ceasing. Have faith. God is in control.

In peace,
Karen Rose

St. Tim's Child Care Corner

Hello, Families!

Happy fall! Last month the children enjoyed learning about back to school, feelings, farm animals, and apples. We have had a great month testing our enrichment programs as well. Step-In-Time dance studio will be taking over dance class on Tuesdays throughout the school year; the children absolutely loved Miss Debbie! Yoga with Miss Ashley has also been a hit. October will be filled with learning about fire safety and prevention, autumn, pumpkins, and Halloween!



We are looking forward to a fun and eventful month! After a trip to the Great Pumpkin Farm for the KinderReadiness kids on October 21st and Trunk-or-Treat for the community on October 23rd, St Timothy's will hold it's annual Halloween parade on Friday, October 29th at 10:30 am. Parishioners are invited to come to the parade and pass out a treat as the children trick-or-treat around the parking lot in their costumes.

Thank you,
Amanda Weir
Center Director



Fellowship



Join us for Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 23rd from 3-5 PM! We're excited to see what fun and creative trunks there will be this year and to see all our young friends in costume. Please spread the word about safe trick-or-treating here at St. Timothy's and at Trinity Methodist Church, which will be held at the same time. We hope to see you there!

Trunk or Treat

Giving

Thank to all for your generous support that keeps our ministry up and running, we couldn't do this without you. For those that use Vanco for your online giving, please note that they now have a new app, designed to be more user-friendly; instead of GivePlus Mobile, it is now called Vanco Mobile. The old app will stop working on the first of October, so you will have to find the new one in the app store. For those that use just the web browser to manage your donations, there aren't any changes to worry about. Thank you again for your support that makes ministry happen!

Worship Information

Our services will continue to be held at 8 and 10:30 AM, with the late service streamed for anyone who is more comfortable worshipping online. We ask that masks be worn indoors for the time being at the recommendation of our Bishop. Thank you for understanding.

Congregation News and Upcoming Events

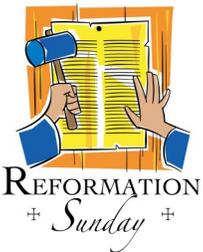
The Blessing of the Animals

On this coming Sunday, October 3rd, we invite you to bring your furry friends to church! Both services will be held outdoors to accommodate. The first Sunday in October is always the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis. As you may already know, St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the poor. Thus, on the first Sunday of October, congregations around the world celebrate St. Francis by having a service of the Blessing of the Animals.

While you are welcome to bring any of your pets or large animals, Pastor Tom will not touch any animal that slithers or has more than 4 legs. You may bring them but Pastor will bless those animals from a distance.

Educational Opportunities

Pastor Tom will continue offering an adult study at 9:15 on Sundays between services on the Biblical texts used for that Sunday in worship for the remaining weeks that he is with us. The link for Zoom participants can be found on our website under Educational Opportunities.

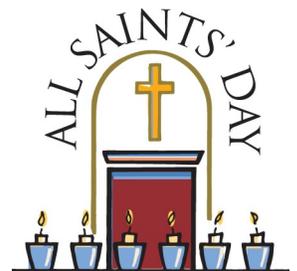


Reformation Sunday

Don't forget to wear red for Reformation Sunday! This falls on October 31st this year. It will also be Pastor Tom's last day with us; details will follow soon as to how we will be saying goodbye.

All Saints Day

All Saints' Day is coming up on November 7th. Please tell us the name of the loved one who has died, the date of death, and who they are remembered by no later than Tuesday, November 2nd. You can turn in the upcoming bulletin insert form, call the office, or send an email to communications @sttimothygrandisland.com to add a name. Please only include loved ones who have died between November 1, 2020 and November 1, 2021.



Thanksgiving Service

Plans for a Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service are in the works, and the Grand Island Community Chorus is set to sing on November 21st at 7 PM here at St. Timothy's. If we can find a safe way to have our dessert smorgasbord, details will follow next month.

Mission

Winter Wear Collection

Starting October 24th, we'll be collecting winter wear for the less fortunate in Buffalo through Kenmore Alliance Church and Mats for a Mission. They're especially looking for adult coats and footwear, but warm socks, hats, gloves, and scarves are also gratefully welcomed; these can be new or gently used. Our youth will be delivering these items on November 27th.



Lutheran Charities

Join Lutheran Charities at Resurgence Brewing Company for their Crafty Brew Bash on Thursday October 14th from 5:30 to 8:30 PM! \$35 per person includes two drink tickets and hors d'oeuvres. Basket raffles too! All proceeds benefit Lutheran Charities agencies. Visit wnylutherancharities.org, call 716-632-2623, or email info@wnylutherancharities.org to register.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Golf Classic! The basket action alone raised over \$1,700 for Lutheran Charities agencies offering education, nutrition, health care, and social services to our underserved neighbors. They are so grateful for your support.

Missions Spotlight

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Most everything has been harvested from the vegetable garden by now. But in the southern hemisphere, it is spring and time for planting. In Chile, Maria Carrasco has worked since 1985 with a program, founded in 1982 by an ELCA missionary, called Educacion Popular en Salud (EPES). Supported by ELCA World Hunger, EPES trains students, public officials, health and education workers, and women from vulnerable communities to advocate for the rights to health care and sustainable food. As a response to Covid-19, EPES proposed to start community gardening workshops online. The problem is, in Maria's neighborhood, there are very few green spaces for gardening. But she learned how to improve soil quality and reduce waste by composting, and to work with natural light and the space she had. Soon, arugula, chard, and spinach were growing in the 6-foot walkway to her front door.

In Chile, as in many other countries, people experiencing poverty are especially vulnerable to illnesses caused by poor nutrition. Add to this the pandemic, and food has become expensive and difficult to access. Cultivating community gardens gives families greater autonomy and assures them access to fresh produce. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make all this possible. Thank you!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

Marcia Brown, ELCA Mission Interpreter

ELCA News

Dear Siblings in Christ,

“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!” (Ps. 118:24)

These words from an ancient psalmist are how I’ve greeted the communities I’ve served every Lord’s Day. “This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice!” It is a statement of faith and a proclamation, a witness to God’s love active in the world.

Some days these words sound foreign; as when I have used them to greet an assembly gathered to commend a beloved one into God’s eternal care; or on the day after 9/11, or in the midst of a pandemic. But these words are no less true, even when the “earth should change, [and] the mountains shake in the heart of the sea” (Ps. 46:2).

God is with us. God has been with us all along. The Divine continues to walk with us, alongside us, feeding us (that’s what all of these “bread” Sundays have been about after all) and leading us forward, together.

I am privileged, humbled, excited, and just a bit fearful, as we begin this call together as church and servant-bishop. I look forward to learning about God’s love made present in the world from you. I look forward to growing with you, activated by the one who has created us in an image of loving-kindness, and set free to do the liberating work of the gospel.

I know that the pandemic has been exhausting in many and various ways. This can’t be overstated. I believe as God’s people, saved and transformed by the sacrificial love of Christ and his death on the cross, we are raised up to new life, to be the church for such a time as this. I also believe, that as we come through the pandemic together, we do so with heightened needs for community and connections, for relationship and real purpose in being together. Our intentions have been focused and we are collaborating in new ways for the sake of our siblings. This is an incredible time to be the church!

I look forward to connecting with you this Fall as we begin our ministry together and renew our relationships throughout our synod, which is Christ’ church, together. Join me at your local conference Fall Assembly where we’ll have some time to meet and listen to one another. Join me as well in praying for all God’s people, for our communities throughout the Upstate New York Synod, our ELCA, the Lutheran World Federation, and for all people in need everywhere.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. Thanks be to God for the ways that love activates us in the world to do justice and share in the joy of Christ!

“This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Lee Miller II

Bishop, Upstate New York Synod

Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge Lectures

The annual Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge is an endowed theological lecture series that seeks to enliven the biblical engagement of the whole church by encouraging the development of faithful, innovative and effective ways to teach and learn Scripture. Every year, one student from each ELCA seminary is invited to develop and present a class or series for people both familiar and unfamiliar with biblical texts. The students are then invited to report their findings.

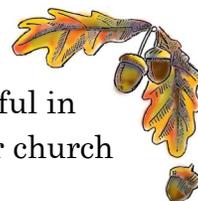
This year the challenge will comprise four online events:

- Kaylie H. Ines from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., will present "Hope Remains: A Creation Care Faith Study" on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 1 p.m. Pacific time.
- Aneel Trivedi from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, will present "Return to Baptism, Return to a New Normal" on Friday, Oct. 22, 2 p.m. Central time.
- Katrina Steingraeber from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago will present "Looking at Today's World Through the Psalms" on Thursday, Oct. 28, at 10 a.m. Central time.
- Melissa J. Harris from United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa., will present "Environmental Stewardship: Reconsidering the Creation Narratives in the 21st Century" on Friday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m. Eastern time.

The Rev. Dr. Diane Jacobson will serve as online host. The public is invited to attend these free online events, but registration is required for each of them. Registration information can be located on the ELCA website.

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 Tom. Please also include an address where we can send cards.

We hold the following people in our prayers: Christine Stepien, Dick Welte, Jim, Skip, Robert Miller, Jennifer Buchanan, Elizabeth Glasoe, Jeffrey Cole, Norine Taylor, David Goodemote, Kathleen Maraldo, Siobhain, Joyce Zimmerman, Danny Penque, Dan Kramer, Brian Volo, Margaret Miller, Myrna Milani, Mike, Ray Romaleski, Renee, Joanne M., Dottie Roehrig, Sylvia and Joe Smith, Lorraine Pfohl, Cheryl Rosati, and Robin Bengaglio Richard.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Nancy and Art Morth's anniversary on October 15th, Tina Cutini's birthday on October 9th, and Kim Yaeger's birthday on October 12th. Please let us know if you'd like to add your birthday and anniversary to our celebration list!



October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM	11	12	13 Finance Meeting, 5:30 PM	14 Worship & Music Meeting, 7 PM	15	16 
17 Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM	18	19	20 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	21	22	23 Trunk-or- Treat! 3-5 PM
24 Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM	25	26	27	28	29 Halloween Parade, 10:30 AM	30
31 Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM Reformation Sunday, Pastor Tom's final day						