

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*



September, 2021

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

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From the Pastor's Study

LOVE – A COUNTER-CULTURAL IDEA, STILL

Like most pastors I know, I do a lot of reading and I am currently reading about the evolution of political theories from Plato and Aristotle to contemporary theorists. I am constantly struck about how cut-throat politics was in history and how it continues to be today.

Initially, politics was not so bad, but Machiavelli, the great Renaissance writer, brilliantly pointed out how vicious politics can become. I don't need to tell you how horrible our political landscape looks today from municipal to federal levels.

Basically, politics is about who has power, who's trying to attain power, and who's try to usurp power. This brings out the ugliest side of humanity. Yet, our Christian faith goes directly against that very idea. In Christ, we strive to be compassionate, loving, and gracious. As Christians, we work toward a cohesive community rooted in Christ, uplift everyone in our community, and humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord. And since the Lord is emblazoned each of us, we are ought to be humble when engaging our neighbors.

I saw a meme a few weeks ago that said, "Real men carry guns and weak men are gentle." This meme was on the Facebook account of a person who proclaimed he loves Jesus. I shook my head in a moment of despair.

Somewhere along the evolution of the Christian faith, we have confused Christ's sacrificial love and selfless grace to be weak and have made the faith to be about strength and power. Yet, a careful reading of Christ's teachings is far from what that meme is trying to say.



What is interesting is that Christ is on to something.

A man died a few years ago in Illinois. He was a recluse and no one in town would ever speak to him or about him. He lived alone and wore old, patched clothing. He was scary looking to the town's children and adults kept their distance. He was the Boo Radley (of *To Kill A Mockingbird* fame) of that town. At his funeral, the church was overflowing with grieving townsfolk. The funeral went on for hours as hundreds of people stood up to speak about the generosity and love that this recluse shared with people in the town. Due to his appearance and mannerism, no one dared to talk about him lest they worried others might judge them. By the end of the service, those in attendance learned that this man spent much of his time ministering to people and sharing his millions that he had saved throughout his life. One person said that he did more to bring out the basic tenets of the Christian faith than any priest in town.

The late Richard Dawkins, the famous and controversial atheist, wrote in one of his great books, The Selfish Gene, that while the gene that is about protecting itself is long lasting, the gene that does not engage in selfish behavior tends to be the one that survives the longest and



I am constantly reminded that society over years and history tends to admire those who are selfless and caring over military heroes and the most powerful. The people that we admire most tend to dedicate their lives to bring about greater life for others. We think of Mother Theresa of Calcutta, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr., Florence Nightingale, and even Fred Rogers.

It is not a surprise to anyone that the Christian faith is dying in America. It's been mostly dead in Europe since Nietzsche. This fact depresses me as I am still convinced that the local congregation and Christians are still the best hope for our American society.

Why?

Because if we live by the basic tenets of Christ's teachings, we will love our neighbors and care for their safety, livelihoods, and families. We are gracious to all because we share in the same fate living on this planet and because we are incomplete and are part of a fallen humanity. Lastly, it is because we all need each other. Christ's message of being in relationships rings loudly when we remember Jesus saying, "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there."

The survival of humanity is very much dependent on how altruistic we are to each other and how much we care about our neighbors.



I know I am "preaching to the choir" in this newsletter as so many members of St. Timothy are gracious and generous, but I invite you to extend your grace and love of neighbor further so we can bring about hope, faith, and love.

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

Pastor Tom

WHATEVER IS *true*,
WHATEVER IS *honorable*,
WHATEVER IS *just*,
WHATEVER IS *pure*...
IF THERE IS ANYTHING
worthy of praise,
THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NRSV

Altar Guild Notes: September, 2021

The long season of Time after Pentecost continues. The sights and sounds feel so familiar. We are still immersed in green. Symbols of grapes and wheat, fish and bread show food freely given for our bodies and souls. The open book of Scripture illustrates the Word, the Gospel that takes away our sin. Candles are flaming, lamps are lit. The light of Christ is here. Our eyes lock on the cross behind the altar. This means of death is empty as Christ rose from the dead and ascends to the Father. These mysteries of Faith are imprinted on our hearts.



We react with gestures and postures of faith. We stand and kneel. We make the sign of the cross. We pass the peace. Our hands fold in prayer. We recite prayers of contrition, pleadings, and praise. Our voices resound in songs of praise. We listen to ancient words, the old covenant, and then the gospels that reveal the new covenant with God through Christ. We hear the Holy Spirit through words of the sermon. Look to the right and left to see yourself as one of a community of believers, a community of followers of Christ.

Yes, the green is the same. The symbols are the same. We gather here to be fed with the Word and the body of Christ, to find strength together.

Now we are sent out. We are ambassadors of Christ to the world by our words and actions outside the church.

May we carry Jesus in our hearts for all to know Him.

Your sister in Christ,

A Message From the President

It's hard to believe August is coming to an end. I hope you have enjoyed your summer and are ready for the fall season. September is the time for schools to start, our childcare center to begin its new year with new faces and talented, dedicated teachers, and our Sunday school classes and acolytes to resume. The kickoff to our church classes will be on Sunday, September 19th with our youth hopefully leading both services. We will have our Rally Day picnic following the 10:30am service that day, so please join us. Also, thank you to all who gave of your time to help, cook, and attend our first church and childcare cookout on August 13th. It was wonderful to see over 70 smiling faces get together for food, fellowship, and fun. We hope to make this an annual picnic.



Last month I began cleaning out unnecessary, outdated files in our church. Thank you to Ryan who has guided me through what needs to be saved and what does not. A big thank you to those who have helped burn outdated papers we no longer need to save on shredding expenses. A few

weeks ago, we had a surprise visit from Pastor Scarafia. He brought us a box of pictures from his time here, so please come look through them and enjoy the memories.

On another note, on Friday, September 3rd, the childcare teachers will be setting up their classrooms for the upcoming school year. We have been asked if we would help go through the toys and items in the fellowship hall that day. What a great opportunity to work together with our childcare to consolidate, organize, and make better use of the space in that room for all to use. Please join us if you're able to help in any way.

We have also been in contact Julie Grindle, assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Mobility. Our MSP is in their hands and we're patiently waiting on a candidate. We will keep you up to date as we are able. Please continue to pray for discernment for the right pastor God has planned for us.

Thank You On a bittersweet note, I would like to thank Jennifer Minet for her short time with us as Director of our Childcare Center. With regret, Jenn found that full time work is not in her cards just yet. Having three children five and under, she feels she is unable to give her family 100%, nor the childcare center the same. Jenn has chosen to homeschool her daughter and raise her twins, and has offered to be a mentor to us and our new director. We will truly miss having her here in person but look forward to continuing our relationship in behind-the-scenes ways.

On a happy note, we would like to welcome Amanda Weir as our new Childcare Director. Amanda is a returning face at St. Timothy's. She left St. Tim's for a director's position and is now excited to come back and work with us yet again! Amanda and Jenn are already brainstorming ways to make our center the best on Grand Island. Please thank Jenn for her commitment and stop by, introduce yourself, and welcome Amanda back to our ministry.



In closing, thank you for your prayers, volunteering, financial support, and patience as we navigate through Covid and this unsettling time in our church and childcare ministry. We are here to do God's work in the world starting with our children and the children in our community. It is the council's intention to make St. Tim's the best Christ-centered childcare center on Grand Island while helping our own church youth grow in their faith. That only comes with time, prayer, persistence, and teamwork from all of us working together.

Thank you for being part of our amazing St. Timothy family and team.

In peace,

Karen Rose

St. Tim's Child Care Corner

Hello, I am Amanda Weir, the new Director of St. Timothy's Lutheran Child Care Center. I was the Assistant Director here in 2017 and come back to St. Timothy's with more years of experience as a Director. I was the Daycare Director at Aspire of WNY for almost 2 years, and before that I was a Director for a CAO Head Start School. I have my BA in Childhood Studies and Administration. In my free time, I spend my time with my husband and 3 children; Elliot is 17, Zander is 11, and Jillian is 6.

I'd like to thank Jennifer Minet for her guidance and mentorship which has allowed me to have a smooth transition into this position, and for her continuing support as she graciously agreed to help as needed while taking care of her two-year-old twins and homeschooling her five-year-old daughter.

I'd also like to congratulate Tracy Marrs for her recent promotion to Assistant Director after working at St. Tim's for four years, being the lead teacher in the Ones classroom, and being a true blessing to the Center by all accounts. Tracy received the Mike Endres award last year and is currently studying for a certificate in early childhood education and a degree in human services at Niagara County Community College. I'm excited to work with her again!



With September quickly approaching, we are very busy planning, preparing, and cleaning. Some exciting enrichment programs will be starting, and STEM club is coming back! On top of all that, we have purchased a Christian curriculum that will be used in all of our classrooms. Each age group has their own kit. Our Lead Teachers have been assigned for the 2021-2022 school year; you can learn more about them and our Teachers Assistants by checking out our introduction wall.

On Friday, September 3rd, our teachers will be preparing their classrooms. For anyone that is able to come, starting around 10 AM, we would appreciate help sorting through and organizing toys in the back of the fellowship hall so we can make better use of the space.

I look forward to working with the teachers, staff, and families here at St. Tim's and watching the children learn and grow. If you ever have questions, concerns, or good feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Thank you,
Amanda Weir



Baptism

On August 1st, we welcomed Olivia Ann Fabrizi into our family at St. Timothy's! We celebrate with parents Ashley and Antonio Fabrizi, sponsors Melissa and Alex Nesselbeck, and grandparents Dorine and Mike Fabio, and we look forward to seeing Olivia grow with us!



Fellowship

We had a great time at our joint Church-Child Care cookout this past month! The bounce house, sand box, rock painting, and chalk were all huge successes with the kids, we enjoyed some delicious food and good fellowship, and the breeze made it a pleasant evening to be outside. We're looking forward to making this a tradition in the years to come!



Join us for Rally Day to celebrate the start of Sunday School on September 19th! Details for a special service and activities are still in the works, however we will have a potluck with hot dogs following the 10:30 service, so please sign up in the Narthex to bring a dish to pass!

St. Timothy Sunday School Enrollment Form, 2021-22

Please fill out one form per family and include children from birth to grade 12.
Here at St. Timothy, we capture the imagination of kids of all ages by bringing the Bible to life! Come join us this year!

Full Name of Child(ren)	Age and Grade. Any medical concerns (such as allergies)?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Parent / Guardian Name:
Relationship to Child:
Phone Number:
Email Address:
Youth phone number and email address:

Select the class(es) that your child(ren) will be attending:

- ☐ Faith Beginnings: Infant to Toddler
- ☐ Faith Basics I: Age 3 to Grade 1
- ☐ Faith Basics II: Grade 2 to Grade 4
- ☐ Communion Track: Grade 5
- ☐ Faith Foundations: Grade 6 to Grade 8
- ☐ Faith Maturity: Grade 9 to Grade 12

Thank you! We're looking forward to an awesome year of Sunday School!

Worship Information

Starting **September 12th**, our services will change back to our normal **8 and 10:30 AM** times to accommodate the Education Hour between services. Until then, they will stay at 8:30 and 10 AM, with the 8:30 service outside by our pavilion. On September 26th, we will have a single 9 AM service with the Congregational Meeting following.

Services continue to be streamed for anyone who is more comfortable worshipping online. We ask that masks be worn indoors again due to the infection potential of the delta variant and the recommendation of our Bishop. Thank you for understanding and keeping your neighbors healthy.

Congregation News and Upcoming Events

Congregational Meeting

The Congregation Council has called for the annual Congregational Meeting on **September 26th following a single 9AM service**. The purpose of this meeting is to approve our budget and get updates on our child care center ministry, the call process, and other ministries of the congregation. For those more comfortable attending online, the meeting will be streamed through a separate YouTube link, accessible from the front page of our website, but voting only counts if it is done in person per our constitution.



Educational Opportunities

Starting September 19th, Pastor Tom will be offering an adult study between services on the Biblical texts used for that Sunday in worship while the older youth meet for classes. This will be held at 9:15.

Milestone Ministry Begins in October

Pastor Tom is starting Milestone Ministry while he is still with us. Through in-person family gatherings and tools for the home, we believe that Milestone Ministry is essential for faith formation. It works on the researched-backed understanding that faith begins in the Home. Thus, along with experiences at church, the various features of Milestones Ministry help us provide resources and know-hows for parents to nurture the Christian faith, strengthen relationships, and create the kind of bond that promotes meaningful memories for years to come. More on this in next month's newsletter.

Clean-up Day

On Friday, September 3rd, we will be helping to go through, consolidate, and organize the toys and items in the fellowship hall to make better use of the space. Please join us if you're able to help in any way. The start time will be 10 AM.



Sunday School, Rally Day, and the Blessing of the Backpacks

September 19th brings the start of the 2021-2022 Sunday School year at St. Timothy, and to celebrate, that Sunday will be Rally Day with a special service, a potluck, and other activities. Kids and youth are invited to bring their backpacks for a blessing for the start of the school year as well. Registration forms for Sunday School are available on the next page and in the Narthex and can be turned in either in the office or the information sent by email to communications@sttimothygrandisland.com. Let us know if you're interested in teaching Sunday School, too!

Blessing of the Animals

On October 2, we invite you to bring your furry friends to church. 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 far distance.



Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

After running into permit issues on the house we were supposed to be working on, Habitat Niagara had to postpone volunteers until November and December. Because of uncertainty of where we'll be at that point, upcoming planned mission projects around that time, and lack of enthusiasm about building in the cold, we'll be holding off on participating in the Faith Build until next year. Individuals and small groups are always welcome to volunteer on their own though and can contact Marco Notaro at mnotaro@niagarahabitat.org.

Missions Spotlight

FROM ASHES TO NEW LIFE

Again, the Western states of the US are on fire. The smoke from them can be seen from satellites it is so dense. Entire towns have been wiped off the face of the earth. Whole hillsides of trees have burned, leaving them vulnerable to mudslides. Complicating the situation, of course, is the continuing pandemic. How can people safely rebuild their lives, go to work, and attend school when all their possessions have been lost?

Lutheran Disaster Response is always at the ready to determine the best ways to respond, from immediate needs like food and shelter, to long term emotional and spiritual support. LDR also

has helped the fire departments by purchasing generators for volunteers who have lost their homes, and by starting a tool lending program. Children have been helped through the trauma by attending summer camp sponsored by Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

Your generous gifts of mission support to the Synod, and direct gifts to LDR, have shown people impacted by these disasters that you care for them, whether through long-term recovery projects or something as simple as a generator. Thank you!

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

Marcia Brown

ELCA Mission Interpreter

ELCA News

ELCA mourns death of Vice President Bill Horne

CHICAGO (August 17, 2021) – William "Bill" Horne II, vice president of the ELCA, died Aug. 14 of a suspected heart attack. Horne was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Clearwater, Fla. He served as city manager of Clearwater since 2001.

"Bill was a man of absolute integrity and a deep, living faith in the grace and love of Jesus. Bill embodied the Lutheran understanding of vocation as husband, father, and city manager," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Horne was elected vice president by the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The position is the highest a layperson can hold in the ELCA, and in this role Horne presided over the ELCA Church Council. In his reports to the council, he often spoke of his practice of meditating on the Sunday lessons "to hear what God is up to in my life, and how I might apply the word to my work vocation and daily walk with my congregation, family and neighbors."

Horne loved Christ's church. He was invited by a Lutheran Air Force chaplain to be part of the community and never looked back. He was active in his congregation and sang in the choir. He also had served as the vice president of the Florida-Bahamas Synod and on the ELCA Church Council as a member and, these past five years, as the ELCA vice president. "Bill was energized by being the churchwide representative to synod assemblies. His leadership was strong, thoughtful and wise," Eaton said.

Following his election in 2016, Horne told the assembly, "Brothers and sisters, I love this church. I love you. We have a lot of work to do, and I know that our dedication and our commitment to each other and our hard work will make the ELCA what God wants us to be."

Services were held on Saturday, Aug. 21 at Calvary Church in Clearwater, Florida.

Presiding Bishop issues response to DACA ruling

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

Dear church,

Jesus taught us that when we welcome the stranger as a person made in God's image, we also welcome God. Our lives, ministries and congregations have been blessed by many immigrants and refugees over the years — from many of our ancestors to those we welcome among us today. Our faithful witness as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is enriched by people who are recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Earlier this month, a U.S. district judge ruled to end the DACA program on July 19. Finding it unlawful, the judge's order suspends the acceptance of any new applications while keeping intact the protections for current DACA recipients. The long-awaited decision strikes a blow against the 2012 program, which has provided relief from deportation and the opportunity to pursue an education and start careers for thousands of young people whose remarkable contributions benefit our children, our families, our communities and our church. While these important protections may continue for current recipients, this is little solace to those who may not be able to receive DACA status in the future. We lament the anxiety and turmoil this ruling is causing in our communities. We pray for all who may suffer due to the end of this program. We grieve this potential loss to our church and to the communities in which we serve.

As a church we will continue to welcome all people, regardless of their documented status, seeking to ensure hospitality and safety for all. Bishops and synods are encouraged to find ways to support congregations working with newcomers and existing vulnerable individuals and communities. We also continue our advocacy through the ELCA's AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) and by urging our elected officials to enact legislation such as H.R. 6: the American Dream and Promise Act (or "Dream Act"), which provides a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and other undocumented immigrants with deep ties to this country. We will also pray for the wisdom and courage to welcome the stranger, and in so doing to receive our Lord.

Lord Jesus, as you were taken as a child to Egypt by your parents seeking refuge, you know what it means to be the stranger. By your love, you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by welcoming the stranger as we bear your creative and redeeming love to all the world. Amen.

In Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



A prayer for Covid times from the Rev. John S. Macholz, Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod

Let us pray. We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season. We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences. We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them. We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of the virus. We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds. As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide, may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us. Amen.



Prayer Chain



IN NEED
OF PRAYER

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: Elizabeth Glasoe, Charlene Faleski, Robert Miller, Albert (Babe) Strassburg, Jeffrey Cole, Norine Taylor, David Goodemote, Kathleen Maraldo, Siobhain, Jennifer Buchanan, Joyce Zimmerman, Danny Penque, Dan Kramer, Brian Volo, Margaret Miller, Myrna Milani, Mike, Olivia Williams and family, Matt Stzaba, Ray Romaleski, Renee, Joanne M., Dottie Roehrig, Sylvia and Joe Smith, Lorraine Pfohl, Cheryl Rosati, and Robin Bengalio Richard.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Robert and Shari Miller's anniversary on September 14th and Alyssa Yaeger's birthday on September 23rd. Please let us know if you'd like to add your birthday and anniversary to our celebration list!



September 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3 Clean-up day, 10 AM	4
5 Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM	6 	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM	13	14	15 Finance Meeting, 5:30 PM	16	17 	18
19 Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM Sunday School start, Educa- tion Hour, and Rally Day	20	21	22 Council Meeting, 5:30 PM	23	24	25
26 Worship, 9 AM Congregational Meeting	27	28	29 	30		