

# 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:*

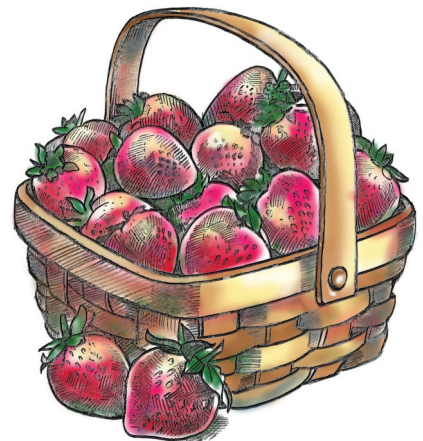
*Sending Forth Disciples of  
Christ*



*June, 2021*

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

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# From the Pastor's Study

Grace and peace to you from our Lord, Jesus Christ,

We are now into the season after Pentecost. We have gone from white to red to green. Our lives are expanding further into the world as the warmth of the sun returns and the pandemic subsides (we hope and pray). What I have learned in life is that we are always living in transitions. Right now, we are transition from spring to summer, from Easter to the time after Pentecost, from social distance to gatherings and hugging again.

Some of the transition come expectedly and almost without our giving much thoughts while some give us fits and frustrations. For the congregation, we are in the midst of such a transition. None of us expected a pastoral transition when the pandemic hit but now, you have bald guy leading worship each Sunday morning.

Compounding the uncomfortableness of the pastoral transition, we now have another transition upon us with our child care center. Lets be honest, none of us saw these coming days before it happened, but it did happen and we are left with questions, concerns, and ponderings about the future of the congregation, child care, and ministry in general.

As a seasoned interim pastor, I have realized that some of the greatest challenges that come to a congregation tend to come during a pastoral transition. It is a time of grieving but also a time of renewal and starting over.

Staff that the last pastor has hired often take the opportunity to start new also. The leadership of the congregation tends to become more aware of what the Lord is calling the congregation to become and will find ways to live out that new calling. That often means new staff and leadership.

I acknowledge that these transitions are not easy, but it does provide for a fresh start for the congregation and the new pastor. This allows for visioning, new ideas, and new beginnings for the congregation, the members, and the community.

Leading a congregation through a transition is often stressful and full of challenges, but with key staff people leaving, the challenge becomes much greater and the stress is heightened. Yet, I have been in awe of the congregation and primarily of the congregation's leadership.

**TRANSITIONS** ➡

Challenges

**Fresh Starts**

Your leaders have stepped up and owned the changes around the transition and have made this place alive again.

It was the leadership that helped us bring back in-person worship.

It was the leadership that sought to provide every means possible for the ministry of the congregation to continue

It was the leadership of the congregation that worked with the synod to bring in an interim when there weren't many around.

It was the leadership that worked closely with me to handle the events of Joelle's departure.

It was the leadership that made all the difference in guaranteeing the amazing success of the child care chicken BBQ.

It is the leadership that are working overtime to find a new director, accountant, and with other leaders, to find a new pastor.

I could keep focusing on the leadership, but the leadership is more than just those on Council and committee. The leadership is really a reflection of the entire congregation and the sense of calling that this congregation has.

I am grateful to be working with such faithful disciples of Christ, and I am thankful to be a part of a faith community like St. Timothy's (albeit only for a short time) where spirit of the Christ is active and working.

God bless you all and may He continue to bless the congregation.

*Pastor Tom*



## Worship Notes

Have you ever wondered how the liturgical worship service was originally organized? It started not long after Jesus ascended into heaven. The remaining disciples took many elements of the Jewish worship and incorporated into them the Christian teachings. However, as the church grew within the first couple hundred years of Christ's ascension, there was no uniform liturgy and format for Christian worship. Each location (church) had their own way to worship the Lord.

Finally, Justin Martyr shared with a friend in a letter dated back to the second century about worship in Asia Minor (today's Turkey). We learned from his letter that worship contained two major parts. The first part was called Service of the Word. During the Service of the Word, readings of Scriptures and commentaries were shared by the priest along with prayers and hymn singing. At that time, the vast majority of the people did not own a printed copy of the Bible so this was the only time people got to read and hear the Scriptures and get instructions in it. Therefore, the Service of the Word was often lengthy, lasting for hours.

During this particular part of the worship, everyone was invited to participate and it was extremely crucial for those who were learning about the faith to prepare them for baptism (the fore-runner of today's Confirmation process). When the Service of the Word was finished, those who were not baptized were dismissed in preparation for the second half of the worship experience.

The second part of Sunday worship was called Service of Holy Communion. It was started with a kiss of peace, not a handshake. After the kiss, the wine and bread was brought forth to the presiding pastor by someone in the congregation who had provided it from their vineyard or kitchen.

After a series of prayers, a Eucharistic prayer was prayed over the communion elements (wine and bread). The Eucharistic (communion) prayer usually invoked the saving acts of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. A special blessing was given. After the blessing, the bread was broken and shared and a common cup of wine was passed and the worship service would conclude with a benedictory prayer.

This act of communion must have been very powerful because it was done in homes where people through the course of their church life together knew one another intimately. These people must have shared the same trials and tribulations along with joys and wonderful moments together. In all of this, to share it with Christ at the center of one's gathering in one's intimate setting must have been very powerful and sacred.

May you find the same sacred experience in Christ through the act of worship and communion with one another and with God.



## OREMUS!

Simply put, *oremus* (*oh – ray-moose*) is Latin for “Let us pray.” It is one of the most ancient term of worship in the Christian church. It dates back to the founding of the church with the disciples James, John and Peter.

This term is used regularly to begin prayers in the Coptic (Egyptian), Eastern Orthodox, the Roman Catholic, and liturgical Protestant Churches. In all these churches, it originally was pronounced in Latin, and not long after the Reformation, the vernacular of the people worshipping in each congregation began to adopt their linguistic version.

For mystics and early church nomads, it was a source of comfort as everyone in the European continent, regardless of nationality, understood what the term meant and reacted accordingly. For mystics, it became a term for a life of prayers and a metaphor for the constant readiness to commune with God.

Today, this term is used only in the Latin mass in Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. For the most part it has been relegated to the scholars who study topics that are associated with Latin and the Church.

It is still a good term for all of us to know for it reminds us in three simple syllables of a posture that all Christians should have: one of constant readiness to converse with our Lord.

May you live in constant readiness to converse with our Lord and to serve Him always.



## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee held two more meetings on May 5th and 25th, and our next meeting is scheduled for June 13th. We have received results from the survey asking for your feedback regarding the characteristics of our ministry, the five most critical tasks you believe our next pastor should focus on, and the ministry gifts that our next pastor should possess.

On May 18th and May 23rd, the Committee hosted discussions regarding those survey results and: (1) ways in which Grand Island has been challenged by change and transition in the last five years, (2) trends within St. Timothy's in the last five years, and (3) identifying St. Timothy's gifts and how they are being used. Thank you to those who attended the discussions. We have tabulated the results of the surveys and the feedback from those small group discussions and we will incorporate them into the Ministry Site Profile ("MSP").

We are now in the drafting phase of the MSP. Our expectation remains that by the end of June, we should be in a position to present a draft of the MSP to the Church Board for consideration. Again, that would mean that we should be in a position to post the MSP in July.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Call Committee. And please continue to pray for Christ's grace as we proceed through the discernment process.

Yours in Christ,  
*Ryan*



## Altar Guild Notes: June, 2021

The green Sundays have begun! The liturgical season is Time after Pentecost. The green paraments are used to signify the life of the church with the Holy Spirit and recall the tree of life that is Christ among us.

It is the longest season as it lasts until Advent. There are no recurring festivals, although this year we will celebrate Mary, Mother of Our Lord as it falls on a Sunday in August. These Sundays are counted. We use the system of counting each one after Pentecost Sunday, helping us to keep the discipline of weekly assembly. (FYI, there are 25 Sundays this year in Time after Pentecost!)

You will also see our green banner on the wall. Pastor may wear green vestments. We will use green plants and accents to emphasize the season. And, I say it every year, nature is an amazing accent for us! God has created so many shades of green!! I don't know yet if outdoor services will be held this year. But all of outside is available for individual devotions or prayer time.

You may notice that the Paschal candle remains extinguished during this season. It will only be lit for baptisms and funerals.

Immerse yourself in this season of the church.

You are the church. Be nurtured and filled by the Word. Worship with your community of believers at St. Timothy. Then we are enriched to go out to love and serve others in God. Thanks be to God.

Your sister in Christ,  
*Deborah*



# A Message From the President

Welcome to June!

This past month has been one of the busiest months for the leadership of our congregation. It seems like the board, finance team, call committee, and Pastor Tom have seen and spoke with each other more in May than we have our own families! Thank you to Kim Yaeger who has kept us all up to date with all of the constant changes we have had. I would like to thank everyone who has stepped up in big and small ways when our CCC director resigned, and thank you all for helping make the CCC's Chiavetta's BBQ a great success. Thank you to the Boy Scouts, our childcare teachers, our church youth, and our congregation who helped make it the best one we've had thus far. It was amazing to see so many hands and hearts working together!

In addition, the board, along with Ryan's help, have been in contact with the teachers and parents to keep everyone calm and up to date as we search for our new director. As of last week, the board (after interviewing candidates for two days) brought the final two candidates back for a second interview. The board unanimously voted on our next childcare director, who will be announced once the paperwork goes through. We hope to officially welcome her to church in person in the next week or so. Please watch for details and help us welcome her into our church/childcare family. More details to follow.

Now that the nice weather has arrived and a good majority of us are now vaccinated, we look forward to seeing more of our congregants faces that we have missed for so long! As we move forward with intention, please continue to pray for us, our church, our leadership, our childcare center, and our community.

In peace,  
*Karen Rose*





## Youth

After volunteering at the barbecue, our youth enjoyed playing pickleball and heading back to the church for some quality time together and a sleepover. Many thanks to Karen Rose and Terry Glassman for being awesome chaperones!



Our youth will be getting together again outside of their usual educational gatherings to have a bonfire on July 31st in celebration of Bella and Evie Pagoada and their time with us as their family prepares to move away.

## Fellowship

Tentative plans are in the works for a bonfire later this month. Keep an eye out for an announcement at our service and through email with a date and time.



# St. Tim's Child Care Corner



## LET'S CELEBRATE GRADUATION!



We're excited to celebrate with our 4-year-old class as they graduate from St. Tim's on June 16th! After many hours of growing, learning, and playing here, they're ready for the next stage of their journey. We pray that God bless their steps as they go on their way.

On Sunday, June 13th, please take a moment to sign cards for our 11 grads to help them know how much we care about them and their journey.

## TRANSITION OF DIRECTORS

As many of you know, our Child Care Center Director, Joelle Waters, resigned in early May. We wish her all the best in her endeavors and are grateful for all she has done for our kids and the Center in her time with us!

We are excited to announce to you our new director, which we should be able to do in the next week or so after all the paperwork in our organization and at the state level has been completed. She will be prayed in at one of our services soon, and you will be able to meet her then.

## ENRICHMENT AND FUN

Our kids have been happily playing outside in the last few weeks, have witnessed the wonder of planting seeds and watching them grow, and have, as always, been nurtured by our amazing staff. Our Kinder-readiness class is getting ready for a trip to the Zoo soon, and all are looking forward to summer!



## CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER

We wanted to express our appreciation once more for all that helped make our BBQ a great success! From the Congregation members putting in many hours to make everything work smoothly, to the Child Care Center teachers and parents who planned, donated and prepared the baskets, and advertised, to the Boy Scout troop that showed up and did an awesome job taking orders, running, and directing traffic for us, and to all the people from our community that came to support us, we had a truly blessed collaboration for which we are so thankful!



# Worship Information

Worship continues at 9 AM each Sunday, and all are warmly welcomed back! Come join us in-person or over livestream, which can be accessed from the front page of our website. We appreciate the continued use of masks during worship for those who feel more comfortable coming with that extra protection in place.

Fellowship is offered over Zoom for our livestream friends about twice a month, depending on Kim's availability. We encourage you to join us for a few minutes after the service!

## Congregation News and Upcoming Events

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please stay after the 9 AM service on June 6th for a 5-minute congregational meeting to discuss changing our terminology back to "Council" from "Board" and making the resultant change in our constitution.

### ACCOUNTANT SEARCH

We are sad to announce that our accountant, Melissa Miller, will no longer be with us as of the first week of June; she has chosen to move on from here and we wish her all the best in whatever lies ahead! Interviews are currently being held to fill her position, and we hope to have a new smiling face in the office soon.

### FIRST COMMUNION TRAINING AND CELEBRATION

Pastor Tom is leading a First Communion training for youth older than 10 years old. His curriculum is heavily interactive and invites the youth to physically engage in the acts of learning as opposed to just passively learning about the sacraments (sitting).



Pastor focuses on the 4 Means of Grace, methods of grace that we employ to experience God's grace; The Word, Confession, Baptism, and Holy Communion. Through the Means of Grace, Pastor gives insights and provides a deeper understanding of the act of Holy Communion.

The class will be on June 6th after worship and will last until 2PM with a pizza lunch in between. The pizza will be provided by the church, so sign up!

The youth's First Communion will occur the following Sunday, June 13th, in worship.

### GRADUATION CELEBRATION

After we honor our 4-year-old St. Tim's grads on June 16th, we'll take a day to celebrate our congregation's graduates on July 11th. Please let us know of any family members that are graduating high school or college if you haven't already so we can celebrate with them!

## HYMN SUGGESTIONS



Do you have a favorite hymn you are longing to hear sung? During the summer months of June, July and August, Pastor Tom is requesting you to give him your hymn suggestions. Reply to this email or email [Pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com](mailto:Pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com) with any suggestions you have.

Pastor is open to hymns from all seasons of the church calendar. Feel free to suggest Christmas carols, dirges, rousing Easter songs, and of course anything from Martin Luther. You are free to select hymns from the ELW (current red hymnal), With One Voice (skinny blue hymnal), the LBW (green hymnal), or The Service Book (old red hymnal). If you suggest an obscure one, please make sure we know where we can find the music and lyrics for it.

Pastor Tom will use as many as he can fit. If you don't suggest any, Pastor will pick and it could get ugly. He is really into Gregorian Chants these days.



## LUTHERAN CHARITIES EVENTS

Save the date for Lutheran Charities' Twenty-Third Annual Golf Classic on Monday, August 9th. It will be held at the Glen Oak Golf Club in East Amherst this year. For those who'd rather support them by enjoying a Chiavetta's chicken BBQ, head over to St. John's Lutheran Church in Williamsville on June 23rd. Presale tickets can be purchased at [wnylutherancharities.org](http://wnylutherancharities.org).

## Missions



Our partnership with Habitat for Humanity Niagara has resumed! Save the date for St. Timothy's Faith Build on September 18th! We'll be building from 10 AM to 3 or 4 PM, although you're not obligated to stay for the whole time. Further details will follow as we get closer.

In the meantime, we hope to have a few smaller events throughout the summer. If you're interested in volunteering with a small group of parishioners over the next few months, please let the church office know your preferred days of the week. If you'd like to volunteer on a more regular basis on your own time, you can register for a virtual volunteer orientation on Saturday, June 12th from 10 AM-12 PM or Wednesday, June 16th from 6-8 PM by contacting [mnotaro@niagarahabitat.org](mailto:mnotaro@niagarahabitat.org). We look forward to building with you this summer!

## Missions Spotlight

**Peace Not Walls** is the name of the branch of the ELCA Advocacy ministry that works for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel. In the news lately, you have undoubtedly seen the renewal of hostilities between the two. Regardless where your sympathies lie, the ELCA accompanies both to promote respect for human rights, reconciliation, and peace. ELCA's primary companion in this work is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the two church bodies are members of the Lutheran World Federation.

In recent weeks, the Israeli government has made plans to remove Palestinians from their own homes in East Jerusalem so Israelis can live there. Even though Israel has made very positive progress on COVID vaccinations, very few Palestinians have had the opportunity to get it, and COVID deaths in Gaza and the West Bank have been disproportionately high. During the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Israeli security forces impeded access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and even attacked worshippers. Rockets have destroyed entire neighborhoods in Gaza, while Israel's sophisticated defense system prevents most of the damage from Palestinian weapons.

These events are in addition to the decades-long military incursions, restrictions on movement, limited access to worship, health care, education, farmland, and clean water. Of course, there has been damage and death on the Israel side too, but significantly less.

ELCA Advocacy brings these situations to light so that we can express our concern to our elected officials, so that we can pray for solutions, so that we can knowledgeably discuss the issues. Peace Not Walls exists because of your mission support. *Thank you!*

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

*Marcia Brown*, ELCA Missions 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](mailto: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: Kelly Claus, Abbie K., Myrna Milani, Siobhain, Jennifer Buchanan, Mel and Joyce Zimmerman, Danny Penque, Dan Kramer, Brian Volo, Charlene Faleski, Margaret Miller, Ren Trietley, Phil LeFevre, Mike, Olivia Williams, Matt Stzaba, Ray Romaleski, Murray Chesbro, Renee, Lauren P., Joanne M., Robert Miller, Dottie Roehrig, Sylvia and Joe Smith, Lorraine Pfohl, Cheryl Rosati, and Robin Bengaglio Richard.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Esther Westfall's birthday on June 5th, Lauren Steck's birthday on June 7th, and Karen and Ron Rose's anniversary on June 16th! Please let us know if you'd like to add your birthday and anniversary to our celebration list!





# June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 	3	4	5
6 Worship, 9 AM Congregational Meeting Communion Class, 10-2	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship, 9 AM First Communion Call Committee	14	15	16 4-year-old Graduation Ceremony, 6 PM	17	18	19 
20 Worship, 9 AM 	21 Board Meeting, 5:30	22	23 Worship and Music Meeting, 7 PM	24	25	26
27 Worship, 9 AM	28	29	30 Call Committee, 5:30 PM			