

THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our Pastor: Kris Bjerke-Ulliman

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Our Vision:

*Christ Being the Cornerstone of
Grand Island*

Our Mission:

Sending Forth Disciples of Christ



April, 2020

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

- ◇ *The Screwtape Letters* Excerpt
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The Screwtape Letters Excerpt

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis are written from an older, much more experienced demon to a younger demon as he goes through his first job tempting. This scenario proves quite helpful in exposing the many forms temptation comes in, so we are looking to Lewis's commentary on plagues to keep ourselves from being drawn away from God during these times.

My Dear Wormwood,

Plagues are a most effective weapon given to us by our father below. Normally, Christians are quite comfortable in receiving the dreaded sacraments and gathering in their prayers and other heinous Arts. But if you can stir up a hysteria by means of a plague so that they cut themselves off from our enemies gifts to them, the torment of isolation will drive them to despair and season them quite deliciously much to our delight.

Get them to forget about their usual practices of prayer, fasting, and alms giving and encourage them to become gluttons, slanderers, and lose all regard for their neighbor thinking only about themselves and their immediate needs. Storing up treasures which we can send moth and rust to destroy further sweetening their torment.

If you can, help them to redefine their usual words like "church" and "fellowship" and "ministry" so that they feel comfortable cutting themselves off from our enemies care and they can be tempted all the more.

Yes, Wormwood, a plague is a tried and true method of taking their eyes off our enemy and getting them to worship their own bodies. A most desirable position for we tempters. Never let a good crisis go to waste!

Your Affectionate Uncle,
Screwtape

Beware of the trap set before us. Choose today whom you will serve. Decide on at least one thing that will keep you on the right path. Continue your offering and spiritual practice, alone or with family: send cards, call congregants, be a prayer warrior, join Facebook live streams and Zoom worship services, watch the videos on our website, or do a devotional with your family and friends. Commit to something and let us know [here](#) (link on website, too) so we can hold each other to it.

From the Pastor's Home Study

Why is this happening to us? Why are so many people suffering and struggling, physically, emotionally, and economically? In a nation with high-tech medical technology and financial resources, why isn't an end in sight?



I cannot answer these questions. What I can answer is this: How are we Church - St Timothy Church - in a time like this? Our faith is not based on our situation or circumstance, but entirely on our belief that Jesus Christ died so that we would never be separated from God and God's love. Our sins are forgiven. Our God is alive and in our lives, walking with us every step of the way.

So let's be St Timothy Lutheran Evangelical Church without a building! Let's share the good news of Christ through live Facebook prayers, cards, phone calls, YouTube videos, and the church website. I would imagine the early Christians were excited to share God's love, mercy, forgiveness, and healing to others even when death was a constant companion.

Why am I pressing forward with outreach, evangelism, prayer, and worship? We are connecting with one another - on many different levels and through various forms of communication - AND we are together in this. We are the CHURCH with Christ as our Cornerstone.

During these uncertain and difficult times, my job is to keep the fire of faith burning brightly into the darkness of fear. Separation from one another will not have the last word. Economic struggles will not be our final epitaph. Nothing will separate us from the LOVE of GOD.

Peace,

Pastor Kris Bjerke-Ulliman



I HAVE LOVED
YOU WITH AN
EVERLASTING

Love....

JEREMIAH 31:3

Quiet and Peaceful Meditations With God

How many of you take time out of your day to walk with and talk to our Heavenly Father? I bet you find it extremely difficult to fit even 15-20 minutes each day to commune with your God. With the pressures of our daily schedules, to-do lists, and the busyness of life, all takes its toll on this very important and meaningful part of our lives.

Our Heavenly Father, with His abiding love for us, is waiting patiently to commune with us. We just need a quiet place and time to share with Him our most intimate thoughts and concerns. When we do this, we will find peace that goes beyond all human understanding. Our lives will be so much richer, filled with the creative purpose that our Heavenly Father desires for each and every one of us.



Find your quiet place wherever that may be and the time of day (the best time is early in the morning), use a good daily devotion book or booklet to inspire you, and read your Holy Bible for wisdom and direction for your life. Meditate on what God desires you to become, pray to Him with all your heart, and listen quietly with your heart and soul to His response.

In the short essay of practical living “Desiderata,” the first line states, “Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence,” and one of the last lines says, “Therefore be at peace with God whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul.”

If you follow these thoughts along with your time and quiet place, you will be well on your way to open communications with our Creator. By depending on God’s strength and His endless love for you and not your own strength, you will accomplish far more for a purpose-filled life. Follow the light for your life in Proverbs 3:5&6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Anonymous

Altar Guild Notes: April, 2020

Sing with me. You know this one: I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together. We will add a line: we are the church separately together!!

Yes. We are. A global virus is changing our world right now. But, it does not change the liturgical calendar. It most certainly will not separate us from God.

Worship and church attendance is a physical way to join us together as a community and church family. The sanctuary filled with the Word of God. Familiar colors and symbols remind us where we are in our church year. Seeing, hearing, and feeling the liturgy reminds our heads and our hearts what our souls are worth. They are worth the unconditional love and sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Circumstances are keeping us from being in the same physical space. However, we are still in the same spiritual space. Let's review.

Hosanna!
HOSANNA!
Hosanna! Palm Sunday is still going to crash into Lent on the first Sunday in April. Jesus processes into Jerusalem in a waving of palms. Quite a start to a drama-filled week.

Maundy Thursday is next. Washing feet reminds us to be servants to one another. Jesus words at His last Passover meal are instructions that bring Jesus alive in our bodies, hearts, & minds for all the ages to come.



Good Friday follows. Black and still. Quiet and uncertain. Jesus dies on the cross.

Holy Saturday. Waiting. Wondering. Why. Why.



Easter! He is Risen! Alleluia! That's why!

The rest of April is spent continuing the season of Easter. We are reminded again and again that we are Easter People. Christ made us worthy for eternal life.

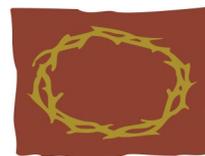
This year all these days will still happen! We will be separately together as children of God. Mark these days wherever you are dwelling.

Talk about what day it is. Read a devotion together. Pray together. Use what is on hand to bring our faith to life.



Put a few stones in a small bowl of water, a reminder of your Baptism.

A family march around the room to hail Jesus on Palm Sunday.



Wash each other's feet on Maundy Thursday.

Pray. Sit quietly from 12:00-3:00 on Good Friday.



Wait on Holy Saturday.

Celebrate on Easter Sunday! Greet each other with an Alleluia, Christ is Risen!



Call your family and friends with that joyous greeting! Make the day special in your own family's way.

Continue to gather everyone in your house to devote time every Sunday to praise and thank God. The Word of God promises that He is there.

Open your heart to let God in during this time of struggle and uncertainty.

May you have Faith, not fear. Peace be with you. Amen.

Your sister in Christ,
Deborah



The Lord is Risen!

A Note From the President

Dear family and friends of St. Timothy Lutheran Church and Child Care Center,

As pastor Kris said in a previous email, we are walking through uncharted territory right now with this COVID-19 virus. God knows the circumstances we are facing. He is our source of peace. He is the light to our darkness. I pray that we be anxious for nothing, take a deep breath and come to God in prayer. We know that God will take care of every detail, so help us not to worry but to bring our fears to Him. I pray that through this, we can fully realize what really matters..... family, friendships, neighbors, strangers, love, kindness, giving, sharing, caring, time, and above all, God. It's time we as a nation fully come back to Him.



For the time being, we will not have worship services in church until it is safe to do so. Worship and devotions will be posted for you to watch on our website and Facebook page. As financial resources will be reduced during this time, please consider electronic giving or mail in your support.

In the meantime, if there is anyone who is in need of absolutely anything, please contact Pastor Kris, myself, or the church office and we will get what you need.

Remember, we can do all things through Christ. He is our strength. He is our light and He is our peace in the midst of all of our storms.

In peace,

Karen Rose

Social distancing Easter egg hunt help!



The CCC is asking for donations of mini chocolate eggs, mini candy bars, and mini bunnies. They're looking to fill about 200 eggs and would like them by April 5th. Thank you for helping make this fun activity happen!

Youth Lock-In

Our Youth had a blast at the lock-in, helping sort the donations for Mats for a Mission and participating in other fun activities.



Fellowship

All in-person fellowship activities are cancelled until further notice due to social distancing. In the meantime, we highly encourage you to self-isolate in physical distance only. Please continue the important practice of fellowship remotely as best you can.

If you would like suggestions for remote fellowship, please visit the Fellowship page on our website. Here is a brief overview:

- ◆ Call your neighbors and check up on them.
- ◆ Create gatherings over voice or video chat programs for anything from Bible studies to coffee and conversation, prayer groups, and art therapy.
- ◆ Play games! There are some you can adopt to the circumstances and quite a few you can play with friends online, including battleship, chess, air hockey, monopoly, and card games like canasta, rummy, and spades.
- ◆ Create a chat room on Facebook for St. Timothy's or subgroups within where you can support each other.

We understand that not everyone is tech-savvy here, and we see it as a great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship. Connect with a younger family who is willing to help out and who can direct you over the phone to help you set up and learn these programs.

Please use our interest sign-up sheet [here](#) (also linked at the bottom of our Fellowship page) so you can see who else is interested in the same kind of fellowship as you and so you know whom to contact. If anyone is in need of an updated directory to reach out for virtual fellowship, please contact sttimothygrandisland@gmail.com.

To get us started with remote fellowship, we have scheduled a Zoom meeting for coffee and conversation on April 4th at 2 PM! Please see our Fellowship page for a link when it gets closer.



Coffee Fellowship

We're Still Worshipping!

While we will not be holding in-person services until it is safe to do so, worship will still be happening! Join us at 3 PM on Sundays through Zoom, a video chatting service. You can find the link on our website under "[Worship](#)" and follow along in the bulletin. If you'd prefer to call in, dial 1-929-205-6099 and use the Meeting ID# 247 671 110. Please see the "Holy Week" section below for information on special services.



Pastor Kris is also creating YouTube videos a few times per week which you can find on our website under "Worship" or by typing "Kris Bjerke-Ulliman" on YouTube to access her channel. She is also livestreaming a short talk and prayer time every day at 3 PM on Facebook which you can watch after, too.

We have provided suggested devotional resources for individual study from the ELCA (<https://www.elca.org/Resources>), Upstate NY SYNOD (<https://upstatenysynod.org/devotion-resources>), and Home Touch Ministries (posted on our website). The YouVersion Bible App, which can be accessed on your smartphone, tablet, or on the computer via <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans>, also has many great devotionals to choose from.

The quarantine will not stop us—let us grow instead!

Online Giving

We humbly ask you to continue your faithful spiritual practice of giving while we are unable to meet in person through Give Plus or Tithe.ly.

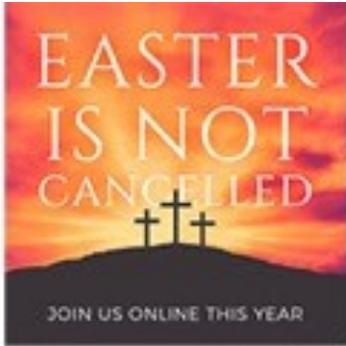
Give Plus through Vanco makes giving easy through recurring donations that can be set up and adjusted through their app (Give Plus Church) or website. To watch videos on how Give Plus works and for the button that will take you directly to their website, please visit our [Stewardship](#) page.

Through Tithe.ly, you can do one-time giving or set up automated giving. You can find the Tithe.ly button on our website as well.

If you would feel more comfortable doing so, you may also mail in your support.

Thank you for helping us continue our mission through these tough times.

Holy Week



Services for Holy Week will still be happening! Join us for Maundy Thursday, April 9th, and Good Friday, April 10th, at 7:15 PM, and choose between the 8 AM and 10:30 AM services for Easter morning. The link and ID are the same for each of these. You can follow the link on our website or call in by dialing 1-929-205-6099 and using the Meeting ID# 747 041 7274.

Stained Glass Challenge

Join us for a stained glass challenge to prepare your hearts for Easter. This will culminate in a car tour of our windows. Please sign up and let us know your address so we can come check them out [here](#)! (The link can also be found on the main page of our website). Thanks to Karen for the idea!

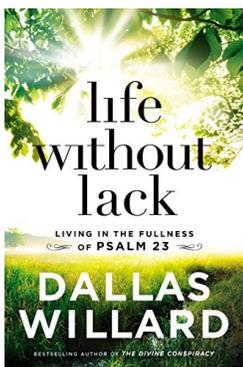
Here are the materials you'll need:

- ◆ Washable children's paint
- ◆ A drop of dish soap (to mix into the paint)
- ◆ A paint brush
- ◆ Green frog tape or freezer tape
- ◆ Your imagination!



We look forward to seeing all the awesome stained glass!

Remote Book Study



Join us for a remote book study as we read *Life Without Lack: Living in the Fullness of Psalm 23* by Dallas Willard to help us find contentment, peace, and security in the Lord in spite of all that's going on. This will be held on Zoom on Tuesdays at 2PM and 7 PM starting April 14th and will last for four weeks. Please let us know if you would like to participate!

Mission Work

In February, Habitat for Humanity Buffalo gave us a presentation to initiate our partnership with them. While builds are held off until it is safe to resume, we can still participate in praying for them and prepare a list of those who are interested in helping with builds in the future. We have created a sign-up sheet which you can access [here](#). This is also on our website's Missions page if you would like to access it from there.



Don't forget that Thrivent is also matching donations for Habitat Buffalo so you can double your impact. If you're interested in donating, please find the link on <https://www.habitatbuffalo.org/faithbuild/> and contact Stephanie at slawson@habitatbuffalo.org with any questions.

Other Opportunities

Many of us have a hard time fathoming doing mission work without being able to physically go and help out or gather items for those in need. While donating is always an option, there are ways to make an even greater impact right from your home. Here are a few of the platforms from which you can help:

- ◆ [Catchafire.org](#). Professional skills are needed in non-profit organizations. Choose your cause area, skill set, and time commitment to help with their needs. Some require only a one-hour phone call while others are a longer-term commitment, so you can find what fits best with your work and home schedules.
- ◆ [Create the Good](#) by AARP. There are a variety of opportunities available to do from home, which you can find by using the box on the left to filter by home/remote opportunities. You can further filter your results by category to choose anything from children and youth to community and health and wellness.
- ◆ [OnlineVolunteering.org](#). This is run by the United Nations to enable people like us to take part in furthering sustainable development goals around the world. Find projects from teaching to translation, editing, and software development.
- ◆ [7cups.com](#). Emotional support is always in need. Be there for people to talk to in their mental health crises after taking an active listening course.
- ◆ [Zooniverse](#). This is an awesome citizen science website that gives you small, simple tasks to help with monumental projects. Help advance medicine, the social sciences, nature, and language among others. There's an app, too!

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 email us at sttimothygrandisland@gmail.com, call us at 773-4400, or contact Pastor Kris. Please also include an address where we can send cards.

Here are the people in need of our prayers right now:

- Carol Glaiser, Lorraine Pfohl, Jane Goris, Mason V, Judy Bassette, Wanda Cutini, Jerry Peete, Deb Goss, Ren Trietley, Tamara Proctor, Makenzie Cardwell, Phil Geraci, Cheryl Rosati, Robin Aronica, Rosaria Phillipone, Robin Bengaglio Richard, Jen Ming Luo, the Maris Family, Sylvia and Joe Smith, Jean Anstett, Debra Saura, and Charlene Faleski.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is an important resource available at St. Timothy's. Pastor Kris can be contacted at any time at 773-4400 or 715-965-5940. The following are some situations in which you should call:

- ◇ In the event of a hospitalization or placement in another health care facility. These institutions do not notify churches and pastors, so Pastor Kris will not know unless you call.
- ◇ 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.



April 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4 Coffee and Conversa- tion 2 PM
						
5 Palm Sunday! Worship at 3 PM on Zoom	6 Finance Meeting 6:30 PM	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday, 7:15 PM	10 Good Friday, 7:15 PM	11 Holy Saturday
12 Easter! Worship 8 and 10:30 on Zoom	13 Board Meeting 6:30 PM	14 Book Study, 2 and 7 PM	15	16	17 	18
19 Worship at 3 PM on Zoom	20	21 Book Study, 2 and 7 PM	22 	23	24	25 
26 Worship at 3 PM on Zoom	27	28 Book Study, 2 and 7 PM	29	30		