

# THE TIMOTHIAN

NEWSLETTER for ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH of GRAND ISLAND

1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

Our Pastor: The Rev. Adam Arends

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716-773-9249



## February, 2025

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

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## From the Pastor's Desk

*"My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life. They will never die, and no one will snatch them from my hand." - John 10:27-28*

Common English Bible

February always gets me thinking about St. Valentine's Day. Valentine's day makes me think of love and gifts and chocolates and flowers. But I'm also aware that in the middle of winter it can be tough to always feel the love around us. And that reminds me of an episode of the TV show, *The Simpsons*.

In the episode, it's Valentine's Day at school and poor Ralph never gets any Valentine's from his classmates. Feeling bad about how mean her classmates are to not give Ralph a card, Lisa decides to give Ralph a train-themed valentine. When Ralph opens the valentine, he excitedly asks Lisa, "You Choo-Choo-Choose Me?!"

Now Ralph may have overreacted to getting a valentine from a classmate who feels bad for you, but I think many of us can relate to Ralph's feeling of being left out. We can feel isolated and unloved in our world. It can be easy to feel unworthy of any love at all.

This February, as the temperature is cold and friends and family can sometimes feel distant, I hope you remember that even when we feel unloved, God "Choo-Choo-Chooses" You! In baptism, God has called each of us by name and written love on our hearts.

By sending Christ into the world to teach us what love looks like: caring, healing, teaching, looking out for the lost and lonely, and self-sacrifice over personal gain, God has said to us, "I love you, and here is the Way I want for you to follow. Follow the path of faith, hope, and love. Follow the path that leads to connection and community, of doing good for one another, and having compassion even for those you disagree with – even your enemies.

Remember this month that God chooses you, and in return, asks us to choose to care for one another.

In God's amazing grace,  
*Pastor Adam*

*God chooses you, and in return, asks us to choose to care for one another.*



## Altar Guild Notes: February, 2025

We enter this month in the season of Time after Epiphany. This is a short season. It will finish this year at the end of this month.

Our vintage green paraments will remain in place. The center panel shows Christ as a shepherd with His sheep, victorious over the cross behind Him. He is watching the sheep that are with Him as His arms seem to be reaching out for more. That figure then draws us forward to meet Him at the communion rail.



Communion. We take communion.

Communion is the elements—bread and wine.

Communion is an action—giving and taking.

Communion is a sacrament made holy by God's Word.

Whether faith-filled or faith-seeking, many long to find God. There is a place where He is always found. Always. Every single time.

At the altar where the sacramental words are spoken. Jesus is there.

Body and blood in the bread and wine. Always. Every time.

For you. For everyone.

We are connected through Christ with the saints at St. Timothy and around the world!

That center panel is also a glimpse into the journey we begin next month when a new cycle begins. Hint; say and sing those Alleluias with gusto. They're leaving soon.....

Till we meet at the communion rail, keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,  
*Deborah*



## Messages From the Co-Presidents

Do any of you remember the WWJD bracelets that were popular, and worn by Christian youth groups in the 1990's...What Would Jesus Do? They were worn as a reminder to "follow Jesus." I recently learned the WWJD trend actually began in the early 1900's, following the 1896 novel, *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?*, by Charles Sheldon. At that time, it became the motto for Christians who used it as a reminder of their belief in the moral imperative in ways that demonstrate the love of Jesus through their actions. But in our complicated world with competing voices, how do we know where our direction comes from? Do we listen to too much media coverage, or to the opinion of others? There are 66 books in most Protestant Bibles. Clearly they can be "interpreted" to favor one "side" or the other.

Pastor Adam continues to lead us to the signposts along the way of Jesus. We don't have to overthink what everyone else says, but rather focus on what the Holy Scripture reveal to us. Our January visiting Pastor Hyden followed this path, preaching on the day's Gospel from John 2, and parsed out a really quite clear command.

Love one another. Share... Give... Serve... Listen... Learn... Worship... Pray.

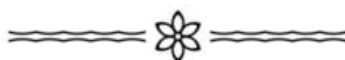
I see us working together to live this out in St. Timothy's future. I smile when I think of the first Sunday after Christmas. We arrived to worship for Lessons and Carols. We knew Pastor was away, and soon realized we had no music (Guhan was ill with a fever), and no bulletin printed with our Lessons! PRAYER can be quick and quiet. Working together in the spirit of LOVE, we were able to print the bulletin Kim had prepared for us to SHARE the reading of the lessons. Tom tuned up his cello to joyfully SHARE his gift of music to lead us in WORSHIP.

As well, this month has been full of continuing to share our bounty with Undie Sunday, and continuing to give monies toward our parking lot restoration goal. To date, we have already raised over \$23,000.

Our congregational meeting was a success with faithful friends sharing food, discussing finances, being grateful and re-energized by revisiting what we have accomplished, and looking forward to what lies ahead on our sacred journey, listening for what Jesus would have us do.

And with the youngest among us knowing "the heart is for loving," I choose hope and joy.

Love and hugs,  
*Shari Miller*



Welcome to 2025.

January is the start of our new calendar year. We held our congregational meeting where we recapped a successful year and enjoyed some lunch. Some of the highlights that I made at the meeting I've included for those who could not attend.

Our church and childcare family has a lot to look back upon and see all that we accomplished this year. Pastor Adam did another great job and led us for another year. Pastor, Athena, and the Council couldn't accomplish half as much without all our great committees and hardworking employees.

I'd like to thank all the committees, volunteers, and staff that made our church and child care center have a successful year. They prepared the sanctuary for our services. They hosted the ecumenical service, Lenten luncheon, Breakfast with Santa, chicken barbecues, trunk or treat, chili cook-off, goodies after services, and other events where we invited non-St.-Tim's people to join our family. Those never happen without planning, set up, and clean up. Karen always decorated fabulously for every occasion. They helped pick out the sanctuary carpet and helped us prepare better for emergencies. You see them as ushers, assistant ministers, counters, teachers, etc. They cut the grass, planted flowers, did cleanups to enhance our building. They fixed things, did upgrades where they could, and hired professionals to do the big jobs. They watched our finances and tried to keep our spending on track. They planned how services would go within the church calendar, and the choir and Tom on cello shared their talents. They educate our young ones. Our organization of the church and child care center could not operate without all the great members we have here that continue to give in whatever way works for them and help wherever is needed. We can always use more help. Many hands make light work.

We welcomed some new families and baptized our new children of God. We celebrated the lives of several in our family who passed away in 2024. We wished Nick success and welcomed Guhan.

Our family always rises to the occasion. We collected undies, socks, baby items, paper towels, school supplies, canned goods, funds for ELCA Good Gifts for goats, chicks, school supplies, etc. to help families support and educate themselves. Whatever was asked to help out our ministry and our neighbors was done. We collected money for much-needed repairs and did some upgrades as well.

I look forward to 2025 and the challenges and camaraderie we will share as a family.

One last thing. Please consider returning your pop bottles and cans to Bottle Junction and put the deposit on St. Timothy's account. The \$0.05 donations do add up and every little bit counts.

Regards,

*Paul Yaeger*



# Child Care Center News for February 2025!

Hello, Church Family!

As we step into the month of February, we are filled with gratitude for the continued love and support that our Child Care Center receives from each of you. Your kindness enables us to provide a nurturing environment for the children in our care, and we are so thankful for this church family.

This month we are looking forward to celebrating Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and our 100th day of school. Our classrooms are buzzing with learning activities that align with both developmental milestones and seasonal events. The children are enjoying their time exploring, creating, and growing together!

We are so thankful for those who have supported our Child Care Center in various ways – whether through donations, volunteering, or prayers. As we continue to nurture the next generation, there are a few ways you can help in February. We welcome volunteers to assist with activities and spend time with the children. If you're interested in helping out, please reach out to Tracy or myself in the Child Care Office. We are always in need of gently used books, educational materials, and cleaning supplies. If you'd like to donate, please drop them off at the center or contact us for more information. Please keep our children, families, and staff in your prayers. We rely on God's guidance as we work together to provide a loving, safe, and nurturing environment.

Thank you!  
*Athena Torain*  
*Center Director*

A look into the  
Child Care Center  
last month:



# Worship Information

Worship continues at 9:30 AM each Sunday. All are welcome! You can also watch us on our livestream at [www.sttimothygrandisland.com](http://www.sttimothygrandisland.com). Sunday School for ages 3 through 4th grade is held during the service, and care for younger children can be arranged ahead of time by contacting the office. We hope you can join us!



For those who are homebound or don't drive during the winter, we would be happy to give communion at home. Please contact Pastor Adam or the office to make arrangements.

## News and Upcoming Events

### **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is March 5th this year. Please join us for a 7 PM service.

### **Ash Wednesday Retreat at Stella Niagara**

Stella Niagara is offering an Ash Wednesday retreat from 10:30-3:30 on March 5th. It will concentrate on the abiding and surrounding love of God in our lives and how that affects us. The registration deadline is February 18th. Contact the office for information on how to do so.

### **Second Annual Chili Cook-off!**

St. Timothy is excited to host our Second Annual Community-Wide Chili Cook-off on March 8th from 4-6:30 PM! Presale tickets will be available before and after services and through the church and child care offices for \$5 and will be \$7 on the day of. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, and baked goods will be sold as alternatives and supplements to the chili, and the chili voting ticket can be turned in for this meal instead.

We're still looking for chili cooks! If you or anyone you know would be interested in making your favorite chili recipe and entering it for judging by the community, please sign up through the link below or contact the office! This link will also have current information about ticket sales and event details. <https://www.sttimothygrandisland.com/chili-cook-off>

Please help share our event! Full sized and small fliers are available in the Narthex to hang around the community and hand out to friends and family, and for those who use Facebook, we would appreciate if you could share our event there, too. Volunteers are appreciated for the day of, and a sign-up sheet will be available as we get closer.

A collection for the GI Neighbors Foundation will accompany the chili cook-off again this year to help in their toughest season and give the community a way to support their essential work.

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

For those of you who have Thrivent Choice Dollars, please designate them before the end of the March. Thank you for this additional support—it is appreciated!

## January Congregational Meeting Review

At our congregational meeting on January 26th, we received the results of our audit from Justin Reid. We were issued an unmodified rating, which is the highest possible, and there were no significant deficiencies. After a big-picture overview of the year, a report from Ryan Cummings, chair of the Finance Committee, was read. While the Child Care Center ended 2024 in the red, that was the case due to a normal third-payroll cycle that we are on track to catch up from this winter and a late payment. Enrollment is strong and stable so there is reasonable assurance for stability going forward. The Church ended 2024 with a surplus, however that includes funding for projects that have not yet been completed such as the parking lot.

A report from Pastor Adam expressed gratitude for all that people contribute—from the many special collections for outreach we hosted throughout the year, volunteering for various events, and the time, talents, and treasures people give throughout the year that makes our ministry together possible. Pastor Adam informed us that he has accepted a quarter-time position as Transition Pastor at Good Shephard Lutheran Church in Tonawanda on a one-year contract. This will not affect his time with us. His monthly Sundays away from St. Timothy will be spent leading them in worship.

Athena Torian, our Child Care Center Director, thanked everyone for their support—from Breakfast with Santa to donations of paper towels, gloves, plastic bags, and school supplies. This is the fifth year of the Mike Endres Award for leadership, professionalism, and dedication, and four of the five previous recipients were able to be with us. This year's recipient was Makayla Bender. Athena also shared upcoming events for the Child Care Center. Co-President Paul Yaeger reiterated the thank-yous expressed earlier with emphasis on all the day-to-day volunteers both visible and behind the scenes. Co-President Shari Miller reminded us that we're the little engine that could and to take the long vision.

Carl Remmes from the Property Committee spoke about the non-big-budget items that need to be done week in and week out and about the large items accomplished this year including the siding, carpet, painting, and starting the process on the bell tower roof. Paul Glassman gave an update on our parking lot project, which will mill the main lot by 1 1/2 inches and build 1 1/2 inches back up. The substrate is strong enough for what we need. We will be looking for 3-4 bids and welcome company recommendations. Terri Glassman gave us an update on our Christian Education and Sunday School programs with the curriculums being used, the teachers involved, and the plan to do VBS in the summer again. Deborah Goss explained the purpose of the Worship and Music Committee and their major accomplishments this year.

We made a final vote to adopt the Synod-approved constitution, and Duane and Phyllis Keeler were voted in as our Synod Assembly representatives for 2025. Shari Miller showed us our new AED (Automated External Defibrillator) unit, explaining that it tells you everything you need to know so anyone can use it. A training video and additional information was sent to the entire congregation so we can all familiarize ourselves with it. The unit can be found hanging by the coat room door. Mark Steck presented about the upcoming Chili Cook-off and that we could use chili cooks, volunteers, and help advertising again. Terri Glassman asked if there was interest in another insurance-reduction driver course, which needs 15 people to be able to run. No other business was raised and we adjourned.



## AED

Our AED has been hung by the coat room and bell tower doors. You can review how to use it here, with the note that compressions should stop for as little time as possible: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0lWbEBOYFk>. For additional helpful reminders, please reference the email sent on January 27th or contact the office.



## Missions

### Undie Sunday

The Rotary Club was overwhelmed with gratitude for how much St. Timothy collected for Undie Sunday this year, and they pass along their sincere thanks for your partnership in serving those in need. These undergarments will be distributed through the Community Missions of Niagara Frontier and the Homeless Task Force of Tonawanda.



## In Loving Memory

This month, we mourn the loss Jack Skinner but rest knowing he is with our Lord Jesus Christ in the church triumphant. Thank you for all the support you have given to his family and friends in this difficult time, and for the love and care you shared through the years.



# Last Month's Memories



Our kids have been keeping busy with fun, developmentally-appropriate activities like yoga, art, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) this winter. Our teachers also refreshed their CPR and Medication Administration skills, and Makayla Bender was awarded the Mike Endres Award for leadership, professionalism, and dedication at the staff Christmas party.



## Prayer Chain



Here at St. Timothy, we believe that prayer is powerful and can be incredibly helpful in our lives and in the lives of others. Our prayer chain allows you to ask others in our church community to pray for your friends and loved ones in their times of need.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain, you can call us at 773-4400, email us at [communications@sttimothygrandisland@gmail.com](mailto:communications@sttimothygrandisland@gmail.com), or contact Pastor Adam. You can also fill out the prayer chain request sheet in the Narthex at the table next to the Sanctuary entrance. Please include an address where we can send cards to those in our prayers.

We hold the following people in our prayers: Dan; The family of Jack Skinner; Joanne Marino; Michelle Ramsey; Gretchen Boyd; Mike Cutini; Diane and Brian Lind; Chris Sweeney; Bill and Nancy; April Vines; Aiden Haynes; Vanessa; Barbara Dow; Tina Cutini; Logan McKenzie; Karen Wiswall; Ronald Olson; Janet Upham; Deborah Piotrowski; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Marlene; Josh; Myles; Becky; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Nancy Gorrell; Brenda; Margaret Miller; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengaglio Richard; Joanne M.; Sylvia and Joe Smith; Lorraine Pfohl; and Cheryl Rosati.

Please note that we no longer remove people unless we have heard of their improvement or their passing. Updates are always appreciated and can be directed to the office by paper note, email, or phone ([communications@sttimothygrandisland.com](mailto:communications@sttimothygrandisland.com), 716-773-4400). Thank you.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we'll be celebrating Herb and Esther Westfall's 64th anniversary on February 4th and Mark N. Steck's birthday on February 22nd.



## Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is an important resource available at St. Timothy's. To contact Pastor Adam for pastoral care needs, you can reach him at [pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com](mailto:pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com) or at 716-773-4400.

The following are some situations in which you should call:

- ◇ In the event of a hospitalization or placement in another health care facility.
- ◇ In emergency situations of injury or illness, even if there is no hospital admission. People are often sent home under difficult circumstances.
- ◇ In times of personal crisis or struggle in which you may benefit from direct pastoral care.
- ◇ When in need of pastoral services such as baptisms, weddings, home communion, funeral, or memorial services.
- ◇ In any other circumstance where pastoral care may benefit you. When in doubt, call.

# February 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship, 9:30 AM	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Worship, 9:30 AM Confirmation, 10:30	10	11	12 Worship & Music, 5 PM	13 Chili Cook-off meeting, 6 PM	14	15
16 Worship, 9:30 AM	17	18	19	20 Finance meeting, 6 PM	21	22
23 Worship, 9:30 AM	24	25	26 Confirma- tion Class, 7 PM	27 Council meeting, 5:30 PM	28	