

# 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

Our website: [www.sttimothygrandisland.com](http://www.sttimothygrandisland.com)

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Our phone number: 716-773-4400

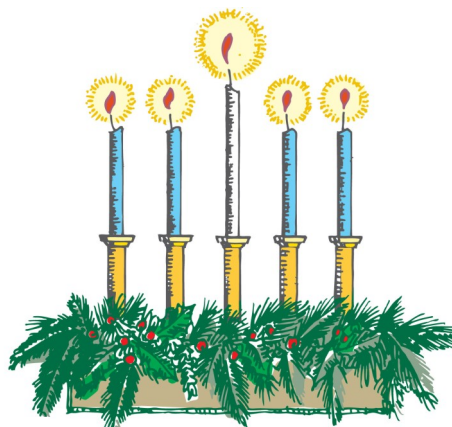
Our Child Care Center:  
716-773-9249



## December, 2024

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

- ◇ From the Pastor's Desk
- ◇ Altar Guild Notes
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## From the Pastor's Desk

“What are you waiting for?” This is basically the question that changed the direction of my life. While we were hanging out in his backyard around a fire one night, I had a friend say, “I know you have been thinking about going to seminary for a long time. What are you waiting for?”

This question led to me thinking more about seminary, to discussions with my wife and family, to researching different seminaries and becoming ordained in the ELCA.

What are you waiting for?

Advent is often referred to as the season of waiting. We wait for the celebration of Christ coming into the world as a human baby: Christmas. We wait for Christ to come into the world again to fully usher in God's kingdom. We wait in Advent.

And at the same time, Advent is a tricky season because Christ HAS come into the world, and Christ's reign has begun ever since Jesus' resurrection, ascension, and sending of the Spirit at Pentecost. God's kingdom has begun, and is not fully realized. And in Advent we wait.

And what are we waiting for?

This Advent season we will once again be utilizing A Sanctified Art's liturgy. The theme for this Advent series is “Words for the Beginning.” It reminds me that while we do wait with anticipation for Christmas, while we do wait with anticipation for Christ to return, the beginning of the ministry of Christ can begin at any time. Our relationship with Jesus and his love may begin, and begin again, and deepen any time we pray, or read about Christ's love for us, or sing together in worship. We can take these first steps now. We don't have to wait! There are people in need near us. We don't have to wait for Jesus to help, we can begin now!

As we move through this month of waiting and preparation for Christ, let's keep asking ourselves, “What are you waiting for?”

In Christ's Peace,  
*Pastor Adam*



# Altar Guild Notes: December 2024

A fresh start. New beginnings. A new day dawning.

Advent! The season of Advent begins a new liturgical year.

Advent means “coming.” It is a season of preparation and anticipation.

We anticipate Jesus birth in Bethlehem.

We anticipate Christ’s coming and abiding in our hearts now.

We anticipate the glorious second coming of Christ.



The sanctuary is bathed in blue paraments, banners, flowers.

All to help quiet our minds & prepare our hearts for Jesus once more.

An Advent wreath stands in front to help us mark the time. Five candles sit among a wreath of greens. This unbroken circle of evergreens is a victory wreath of everlasting life. Three blue candles and one pink candle are nestled in the evergreens.

The first Sunday in Advent a blue candle of Hope is lit. It is also called the Prophecy candle in remembrance of the faithful promises of the prophets. The second Sunday a blue candle of Peace is also lit. It’s called the Bethlehem candle. We are reminded that peace was found in a lowly stable when no room was found for Jesus’ birth. The third Sunday the pink candle of Joy is lit as well. It is called the Good News or Shepherds candle as we remember the Good News the angel brought to the shepherds. The fourth Sunday the last blue candle flames to join the circle. It is called the Wise Men candle as it signifies the Wise Men on their journey to find & worship the Christ child. It is sometimes called the Angel candle or Love candle.

It’s Christmas Eve! The white Christmas embroidered paraments have replaced the blue ones. Trees & more decorations are in place. Poinsettias abound. Now the center white candle will blaze in the midst of the other four burning candles on the Advent wreath! This Christ candle marks the culmination of our anticipation, the birth of Jesus. This one true light radiates amid the darkness. The wreath of greens is now a crown of our true Lord & King, our source of everlasting life! More candles are blazing behind the altar, down the pews and in our hands by the end of the service!

The fifth Sunday (yes, there are 5 Sundays this month) is the First Sunday of Christmas. The Advent wreath will be gone. The large white Christ candle near the Baptismal font will be set alight each Sunday of this season. Time to sing our favorite Christmas carols and hymns!

Christ has come. Christ will come again.

Keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,

*Deborah*



# Quilts

What's with the quilts everywhere??

We will be using “Sacred Arts in Liturgy” during this Christmas cycle. This includes the 7 Sundays starting in Advent through Epiphany. The art of quilts is the connecting theme. They are not only providing beauty and symbolism, but also an opportunity to serve.

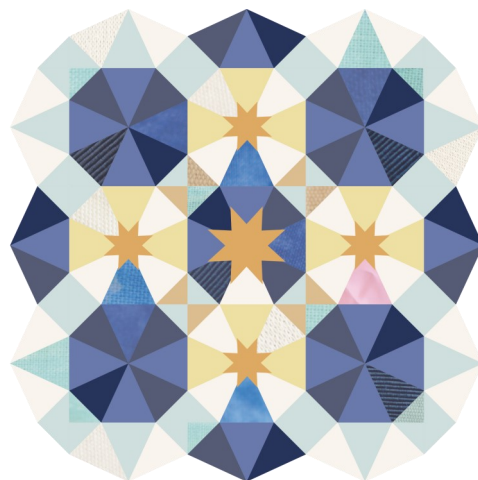
Notice the small child quilts throughout the narthex. They have been made to donate to Oishei Children's Hospital. Perhaps you are inspired to make one! We will gladly add yours! The more the merrier!

Why a quilt theme? The creators of A Sanctified Art explain: “We were inspired by the visual concept of quilting because this series feels like a blanket wrapped around you, providing warmth and comfort as you begin again. Like a quilt formed by scraps of old fabrics and meaningful family items, this worship series stitches together the ancient scriptures and reminders we need to hear again and again. The medium of quilting is an ancient craft (dated as far back as 3400 BCE), but it is seeing a modern day resurgence. Quilts have been used for physical protection, comfort, ceremonies, abolition, family heirlooms, advocacy, and more. Quilting is a medium that transcends countless cultures, regions, and time periods, but is a craft rooted in community and storytelling.

“In the logo, the main icon is inspired by a design called a “kaleidoscope” quilt. It is formed by basic shapes: triangles, squares, and circles. The simple shapes are similar to the weekly reminders in this series—they are basic lessons we teach to children but they remain essential building blocks of our lives as adults. Kaleidoscope quilts are formed by symmetrical designs that often create star patterns. The five stars at the center of the quilt become like an Advent wreath encircling a central candle. In the design, circles are emphasized, as the Advent season will be filled with endings and beginnings, which roots us in the cycles of time.

“In the typography, “Words” is stitched together as if part of the quilt. We wanted to emphasize that the words and reminders in this series are what we want to hold close. Like a quilt, the words provide protection and warmth. They stitch us to the history of generations. They tell our stories.”

Keep an ear open for stories and metaphors of quilting throughout the season in artist statements and commentaries, available in the Advent Devotional booklet available in the Narthex and electronically by request.



## Messages From the Co-Presidents

A heart full of gratitude arrived right on time! The month of Thanksgiving is the perfect time to ponder. What are you thankful for?

As a congregation, we have celebrated the joy of community, with our effort to hug “everyone.” We completed the refurbishing of our sanctuary with paint and carpet. We accepted contributions for the WELCA ThankOffering. We completed an amazing Bible Study where we studied the Forgotten Luther, and learned in depth of the beginnings of our Lutheran faith, and not only our responsibility to live our lives as Christians, but the joy of doing so! We have spearheaded the parking lot fundraiser and have amazing gratitude for the anonymous donor who is willing to match the commitments we make! And just this morning we learned that we have already received \$10,000 in pledges. Yikes.. that it is a lot to take in...a lot to be thankful about!

Our congregation has responded to the call for donations of paper towels and gloves for the CCC, with an appeal to “keep up this good work.” And the theme of children continues. Volunteers with the special talent of creating in cloth, will make quilts for the babies of the Children’s Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery, the tiny ones born too soon. Each stitch will contain a prayer, cuddling the wee ones in love and comfort. I can promise, the love expressed in these gifts will never be forgotten.

And how can we not be grateful for this morning, as Lyra was baptized. It is easy to hear the joy in Pastor’s voice as he “loves on” a family in this way, not focusing on the ritual, but the reality of this gift from God. Focusing on God’s love for this child. Is it not worship in the most special way?

We have worked together to successfully accomplish so much! And that is to say, that our “jobs” as Christians will never be done... our joy as Christians lives in us everyday, as we start anew. “Here I am, Lord. Send me. Use me.” We have more love to give, more goodness to share. And when energy runs low, we can rely on each other!

So tell me... What are you grateful for?

Love and Hugs,  
*Shari*



Hi Everyone,

This was our last month of the Church calendar year and it was a busy month. We started with All Saints Day, had the WELCA Thankoffering Service, then a baptism, and we ended with our Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service with the Grand Island Community Chorus and the Dessert Smorgasbord afterwards. There were three Island Churches participating in the ecumenical service, the message was nicely delivered, and we raised over \$700 for the Neighbors Foundation. The music was outstanding as usual. The desserts were as awesome as they have been in the past, too. The food table looked outstanding. I'd like to thank everybody who baked, served, set up, and cleaned up—it made for a successful evening. The Church was full. If you were unable to attend you're in luck, it was live streamed so you can watch it on our YouTube channel and we'll be taking leftover desserts out of the freezer to serve for a few Sundays.

The church looked great with the new rug, the finished kneelers, the fresh paint job, and the Altar Guild's hard work. I heard comments from somebody after the service that the church looked very nice, so our updates and the Altar Guild's work was noticed.

Mark your calendars for December as we have the Christmas pageant the Sunday before Christmas, Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 p.m., the Pancake Breakfast with Santa the Saturday before Christmas, and the Good Gifts tree is already up. And the Grand Island Community Chorus will be doing a holiday concert on the 15th at 2pm.

I hope everybody enjoyed their Thanksgiving.

Regards,  
*Paul*



# Child Care Center News for December, 2024!

Hello, Church Family!

This past month we've been reminded of the warmth and support that fills our child care center. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the church for their ongoing support of the center. Thank you for the many donations of gloves and paper towels that continue to pour in from our church families! We cannot express our gratitude for this contribution.

As we approach the end of the year we are filled with gratitude for each of you. We want to thank you all for December is a month of reflection, celebration, and community, and we're excited to share some of the special moments we have planned for our daycare and church families. We have Parents Night Out scheduled for December 13th at 5:30pm. This event gives parents an opportunity to finish up last minute tasks, grab dinner, or just relax for a few child-free hours all while their children enjoy holiday movies, crafts, and dinner during a pajama party! Another scheduled event we have coming up is our Annual Breakfast with Santa on December 21st. We have two seatings at 9am and 11am. Tickets go on sale December 4th, so make sure to get yours before we sell out! We are still looking for donations and volunteers for this event. Please let me or Tracy know if you would like to participate in any way.

Your involvement and kindness makes our community a special place, and we are grateful for each one of you. May this season bring peace, joy, and love to you and your family. We look forward to celebrating with you and creating beautiful memories in the days ahead.

A look into the past month at the Child Care Center:



Thank you!  
*Athena Torain*  
Center Director



# Worship Information



Worship continues at 9:30 AM each Sunday and will be held at 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve. All are welcome! Can't make it in person? You can also watch us on YouTube or livestream our service at [www.sttimothygrandisland.com](http://www.sttimothygrandisland.com). Sunday School meets during the service for kids ages 3 through grade 5.

## News and Upcoming Events

### Advent Series: Words for the Beginning

This Advent, we'll be using the liturgy and media from A Sanctified Art titled, *Words for the Beginning*. About this program, they explain: "Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown... As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning."



### Advent Devotionals and Bible Study

The Advent resources from A Sanctified Art include accompanying devotional booklets, which are available to pick up in the Narthex or electronically by request. A Bible Study using this devotional will be held on Wednesdays at 1 PM in the Parlor starting December 4th. We will not meet Christmas week.

### Hanging of the Greens

Help would be appreciated on December 8th after church to decorate trees and hang the greens, and again on December 22nd to set up for Christmas and place the poinsettias. Thank you!

### Poinsettia orders

Poinsettias will once again grace our sanctuary on Christmas Eve, and the flowers can be taken home after the service to enjoy. Choices are red, white, and pink blooms and are \$11 each. Please have your orders in by December 8th and let us who they should be designated in memory or honor of. This commemoration can also be done with a donation to ELCA World Hunger in lieu of poinsettias. Thank you!





## WELCA Christmas Gathering

The annual Christmas gathering of the women of St. Timothy will be held on Monday, December 16th, 6:30 PM, at the house of Carolyn Doebert, 665 South Colony Road. Bring an appetizer or a dessert to share and a “white elephant” for gift exchange. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

## Grand Island Community Chorus Concert

The Grand Island Community Chorus’ Winter Concert will be held at St. Timothy on Sunday, December 15th at 2:00 PM. Come enjoy an afternoon of festive music!



## Special Services for Christmas

Join us for our family-friendly Christmas Eve service at 4 PM on December 24th! On December 22nd, we’ll hold our annual Christmas Pageant with congregant participation, and December 29th will be a lessons and carols Christmas service. We hope you can join us for each of these celebrations!

## Lunch with the Pastor

Pastor Adam would like to continue getting to know the folks in our congregation better and invites you to schedule a time with him to grab lunch or coffee. You can call 716-773-4400 and choose his line, email him at [pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com](mailto:pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com), or talk to him after the service one Sunday to make arrangements.

## Parking Lot Fund

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations towards our parking lot fund—they are much appreciated and we are excited to see the fund for this essential project grow! Our collection continues for anyone who is still planning to contribute. Thank you!

# Missions

## WELCA Thankofferings

Thank you for your contributions of gratitude made towards the ministries of the Women of the ELCA as part of our Thankoffering Service. A total of \$403.25 so far has been given, which will be sent to churchwide in the second week of December.

## Grand Island Neighbors Foundation Ecumenical Service Offering

A collection for the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation was taken at the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service, totaling \$708 in support of those with food insecurity on Grand Island. The GINF is always very grateful for help in their ministry and is thrilled with this generous offering! Thank you!



## Child Care Center Support

A huge thank-you for your donations of paper towels and gloves for our Child Care Center! A total of 101 rolls of paper towels and 12 boxes of gloves have been given and are greatly appreciated to help with all the messes and diaper changes and to stay on budget!

Save the date for our Child Care Center's Breakfast with Santa on December 21st! Tell family, friends, and neighbors to grab tickets for the 9 or 11 AM seating, come for a fun Christmas sing-along at 10, and grab a photo-op with Santa in between.

Volunteers are much appreciated, and donations of sausage links, orange & apple juice, single-serve coffee creamers, and Christmas plates would be wonderful! A tentative freewill offering pancake breakfast and fellowship event is being considered for December 22nd following the service, pending child care volunteers to cook and serve. Thank you for your support!

**St. Timothy**  
LUTHERAN  
Child Care Center  
& Preschool

# BREAKFAST With Santa

St. Timothy Lutheran Child Care Center  
1453 Staley Road Grand Island, NY 14072

**Saturday, December 21, 2024**

TWO BREAKFAST SEATINGS AVAILABLE:  
Seating 1: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Seating 2: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
UPK & Preschool Holiday Sing-A-Long at 10:30 AM

Breakfast includes Pancake, Sausage, Fruit, and Coffee or Juice.  
Adults: \$11.00  
Children 3 and older: \$9.00  
Children 2 and under: FREE

Tickets go on sale December 4th (Pre-Sale only)  
To purchase tickets stop by STLCCC main office or call 716-773-9249  
Cash or Check made payable to STLCCC

## ELCA Good Gifts ornaments

In the Narthex, you'll find an Advent tree with ELCA Good Gifts ornaments on it. These can be the perfect Christmas gifts for those among your family and friends who have a big heart and aren't in need of more things, or they can be a gift from your own heart in response to the spirit of the season. Among the options are livestock to help a family with food security and economic wellbeing, water filters and school supplies to improve lives, vaccines for children to protect against deadly illnesses, and meals at a soup kitchen. To find out more about each gift and how

**ELCA  
GOOD  
GIFTS**



they help lift families and communities out of poverty through the love of Christ, check out the Good Gifts catalogue in the Narthex or on their website. Offerings for this can be designated as the label on the chosen ornament and placed in the offering basket or put in the church office. Feel free to keep the ornament or turn it in blank for use in future years.

## Last Month's Memories

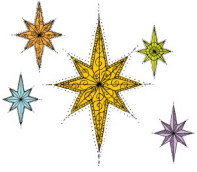


We were thrilled to welcome Lyra Edith Rogan in baptism on November 17th! We celebrated with parents Jeff Rogan and Erica Daningburg, sponsors Trisha Daningburg and Robert Michaels, and a wonderful group of supportive family members. Welcome, Lyra!



Thank you to everyone who planned, polished, shopped, set up, decorated, baked, sang, served, cleaned up, and attended our Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service and Dessert Smorgasbord! It was a wonderful evening and we received several complements and thanks from the community. We appreciate all your help making it happen!

# Prayer Chain

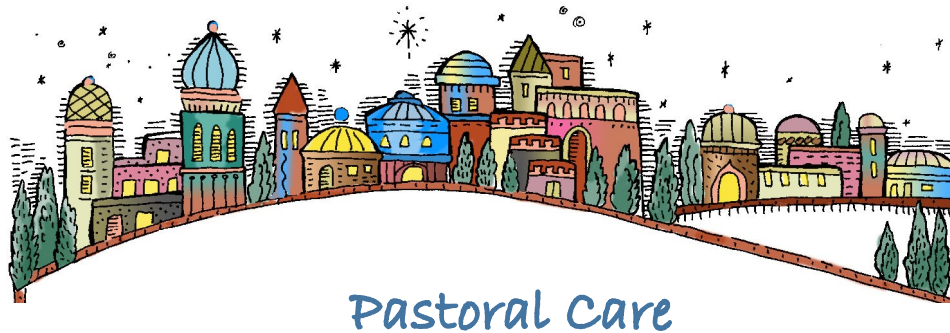


Here at St. Timothy, we believe that prayer is powerful and can be incredibly helpful in our lives and in the lives of others. Our prayer chain allows you to ask others in our church community to pray for your friends and loved ones in their times of need.

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: Diane and Brian Lind; Chris Sweeney; April Vines; Bill and Nancy; Joan Buchanan; Aiden Haynes; Vanessa; Barbara Dow; Tina Cutini; Jack Skinner; Karen Wiswall; Deborah Piotrowski; Ronald Olson; Eric Alexander; Janet Upham; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Deb; Myles; Becky; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Nancy Gorrell; Brenda; Margaret Miller; Marlene; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Alex; 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.



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.

# December 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship, 9:30 AM	2 	3	4 Bible Study, 1:00 PM	5	6	7
8 Worship, 9:30 AM	9	10	11 Bible Study, 1:00 PM Confirma- tion, 7 PM	12 Finance meeting, 6:30 PM	13	14 
15 Worship, 9:30 AM GICC, 2 PM Confirma- tion, 7:30 PM	16 WELCA Christmas Gathering, 6:30 PM	17	18 Bible Study, 1:00 PM	19 Council meeting, 5:30 PM	20	21 Breakfast with Santa! 9 & 11 AM
22 Worship, 9:30 AM	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship, 4:00 PM	25 	26	27	28
29 Worship, 9:30 AM	30	31				