

# 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)

Our emails: [communications@sttimothygrandisland.com](mailto:communications@sttimothygrandisland.com),  
[pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com](mailto:pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com)

Our phone number: 716-773-4400

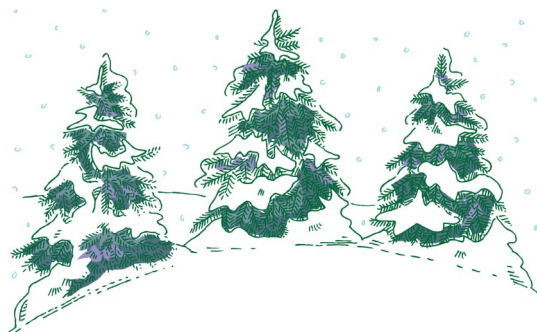
Our Child Care Center:  
716-773-9249



## January, 2025

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

- ◇ From the Pastor's Desk
- ◇ Altar Guild Notes
- ◇ Messages from the Co-Presidents
- ◇ Child Care Center News
- ◇ Worship Information
- ◇ News and Upcoming Events
- ◇ Missions
- ◇ Last Month's Memories
- ◇ With Appreciation
- ◇ Prayer Chain & Pastoral Care
- ◇ Calendar



## From the Pastor's Desk

As our calendars turn to a new year, I look back with so much gratitude on what we've done together at St. Timothy Lutheran Church.

We've praised God for all our blessings, we've mourned and wept together for those now in God's care, and we have impacted the lives of those in need through what we have collected and given together.

We continue to support our child care ministry through gifts and collections of paper towels (still being accepted!).

We collected diapers, wipes, clothes, and toys for kids in Buffalo.

We purchased gifts and animals for those in need around the world through the ELCA's Good Gifts Program.

And we made incredible improvements to the building where we gather and recognize God's love for us. The new carpet, new kneelers, new paint, and upcoming new parking lot will continue to make St. Timothy a welcoming place for years to come.

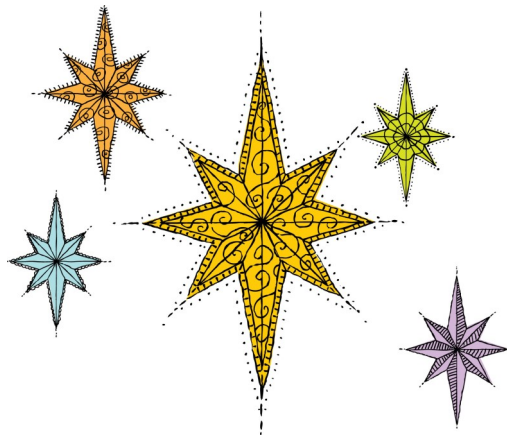
Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you've done this year in Christ's name.

And a personal thank you for all the cards and sweets you've given to me this Christmas season!

I am excited about what this generous, loving community will do together in 2025 so that Christ's love and peace are known to all.

Happy New Year!

In gratitude,  
*Pastor Adam*



# Altar Guild Notes: January, 2025

It's cold and dark. But there is a light shining in the darkness!

We enter January at the conclusion of the Christmas season. The first Sunday is the second (& last Sunday) of the Christmas season. We will celebrate The Feast of Epiphany because January 6 is the very next day. The Christmas paraments are still in place as Epiphany is represented on the pulpit panel hanging on right side. You see the three kings following the star. The Gospel reading tells us the magi returned to their home countries with the good news of the Infant Christ. Jesus is the glory revealed to all nations! Now let's look above the altar panel



to see the veil covering the chalice. Notice the Jerusalem cross embroidered there. The four crosses in the corners surrounding the cross of Christ represent the four corners of the earth, an illustration of Christ revealed to the world!

The second Sunday looks dramatically different. Trees, decorations, extra candles are gone. Today the baptismal font is front and center. Paraments are changed, but they are still white. It's another festival, The Baptism of our Lord! The readings today bring us to meet Jesus at the River Jordan. Jesus enters the water to be baptized when God speaks, naming Jesus his beloved son. Water and the Word combined as a sacrament continues to be used at every baptism as we are named child of God.

Third Sunday, another change. Green paraments in place, font is returned to the side, different banners appear. It's Time after Epiphany for the following six Sundays. Jesus is made manifest among us. His time is spent preaching, teaching, and proclaiming a message of love.



Fourth Sunday, time to settle in as we are greeted again with the same green surroundings inside even as the outside world is gray and nippy. Eyes and hearts were opened then (epiphanies...) as Jesus incarnate walked His winding road towards the cross. We are still listening today.

May His light burn bright in us & our faith community to bring out to the world now. Keep Jesus in your heart.

Your sister in Christ,  
*Deborah*

## Messages From the Co-Presidents

In 1969, I was given a “thought for the day” calendar for inspiration. This was the thought for January 1st.

The New Year lies before you like new fallen snow.  
Be careful how you walk, for every step will show.

Ah, yes, at that time I was a very young woman, with a lot of fairly easy living behind me... and I thought this was quite a profound statement. Be accountable, live your life carefully! Over the years, with a bit more of the living of “real life” behind me, it became an ominous warning, born of guilt, sounding like this. “I will make a mis-step, and my shame will show.” Am I enough? I will make a wrong choice.

This past year, some of our homes, our community, and yes, the world has been distracted by anger, discord, and the feeling of separation. At times, all of us feel powerless. “There is nothing I can do, I am only one.” There have been too many days when the world feels like it is on fire. I’m pretty sure we needed our Advent Journey this year: Words for the Beginning. I found it rich and meaningful. I think a loving God wants us to remember.

We are blessings  
We can’t go alone  
Do the good that is yours to do  
Hope is worth the risk  
LOVE KNOWS MY NAME...YOUR NAME

As beloved children of God, we gathered for worship, Bible Study, quilt making, after service coffee making. We gushed over the peppermint cookies. We sang in the choir and Community Chorus, decorated the sanctuary, and helped plan for the CCC Breakfast with Santa, (which, by the way, was a booming success with tremendous support from both the CCC and Church side). We continued to support the fundraising for the new parking lot. We had an Oscar-worthy Christmas Pageant, requiring no more preparation than Mary had before birthing the baby Jesus! It was good! We prayerfully work to define our next involvement in continuing our part of God’s mission, God’s work, our hands. And as always, we continue to depend on Kim for everything!!

If I could make a suggestion to my younger self, concerned about taking steps in new fallen snow, I would encourage this. Make sure the snow IS clean, take a friend by the hand, and copy Josh Allen... make a snow angel. Sing carols, make cookies, even if they aren’t perfect... and share them. Be tolerant, patient, give from the heart. Take time to Be Still and Know. All will be well. I choose Joy.

Love and hugs,  
*Shari Miller*



Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Jesus had good times and bad times, you can always look back in the Bible to see some of your favorite stories and see this is so. I hope the year 2024 had some good times you want to remember, let us hope that the year 2025 has many good times that you will want to look back upon as well.

In December we had the main event of Christmas. While the presents and lights seem to be the big show, here at St Tim's we know the real reason for this season is Jesus birth. The Christmas pageant always puts a smile on our face as we hear the story from our own young and young-at-heart. Thanks for everyone who helped put on this event. We are blessed to have such a wonderful Church community that is always willing to help. Our Christmas Eve candlelight service was beautiful and well attended. I hope to see some of the not-quite-so familiar faces come back in the year 2025 and join us on Sundays to listen to the word, sing\listen to some beautiful music, and enjoy fellowship.

We hosted the Grand Island Community Chorus for a surprise afternoon concert reschedule due to the Bills' late game. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed the music. We also celebrated two congregational births with roses on the altar—Dorine and Mike Fabio's grandchild, Emma, and Karen and Ron Rose's grandchild, Stella. Roses complements of Flower-A-Day Florist.

The breakfast with Santa is always a fun event. Karen did her amazing job of decorating. We had lots of volunteers when it initially appeared we were going to be short, thank you for everybody who helped or came and participated by enjoying some wonderful pancakes, fruit, and sausage. We were serving some big pancakes and we had a lot of satisfied customers.

God bless and peace be with you.

*Paul Yaeger*



# Child Care Center News for January 2025!

Hello, Church Family!

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, we want to take a moment to reflect on the past year and express our heartfelt gratitude for all the support, dedication, and love you've shown. Whether you are part of our church family, child care community, or both, we are so grateful for your presence and involvement.

We want to extend a special thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our Breakfast with Santa fundraiser. Your generosity helped make this event a huge success, bringing joy to families and raising funds for our ongoing programs. Whether you donated your time, resources, or simply came to enjoy the festivities, you played an important part in making this event memorable. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces! We truly appreciate all your efforts and support!

As we begin this new year, we are filled with hope and excitement for what lies ahead. 2025 promises to be another great year of growth, learning, and connection. We have several exciting plans and events coming up, and we look forward to sharing them with you. From educational programs to enrichment for our families, we are committed to nurturing a vibrant, loving community.

Thank you!

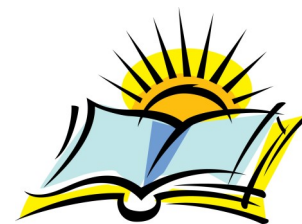
*Athena Torain*

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

### January Congregational Meeting & Potluck Brunch

Our winter congregational meeting and potluck brunch will be held on January 26th after the 9:30 AM service. At this meeting, we'll receive the results of our audit, hear reports from our committees, and take a final vote to approve the updated constitution now that it has gone through the synod process.

We are looking forward to gathering during this time for some fellowship as well! As you are able, please bring a dish to pass and join us afterwards for a light brunch meal and some conversation. If you forget to bring something, please come anyway! We would love to have you with us.

### Poinsettias

If you purchased poinsettias through the church to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve, please feel free to take them home with you to enjoy in the coming weeks! Thank you for helping make our sanctuary so warm, welcoming, and festive this year!



### Automated External Defibrillator

Our AED has come in! It will be hung shortly on the wall across from the office door, next to the sanctuary windows. This unit gives instructions to the user; you can also watch this tutorial here to familiarize yourself with how it works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0lWbEBOYFk>

### Winter Weather Closure Preparation

In the event of unsafe winter weather, please check your email, Channel 7, or Channel 2 for our closure notices. If necessary, we will hold services via Zoom to keep everyone safe. If you are not a computer user and would like a phone call with Zoom dial-in information when the decision is made, please contact the office.

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

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

# Missions

## Pancake Breakfast

Thank you to everyone for your support of our child care center at their pancake breakfast fundraiser! It was a wonderful morning filled with excited kids, delicious food, and Christmas spirit. Thanks again to all who volunteered, donated, decorated, and came to enjoy the event!

## ELCA Good Gifts

Thank you for your generous Good Gifts donations this Advent and Christmas Season! The people of St. Timothy have given \$674 to the ELCA's World Hunger ministry, including two parts of an irrigation system, four sets of honeybees, a water filter, school fees and uniform for a girl, a pig, a goat, and \$244 where needed most. Each of these helps create long-term economic stability and food security for families and communities globally. Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ to our neighbors in need!

## Ambulances for Zimbabwe

St. Timothy collected \$1,300 towards a \$40,000 ambulance for the people of Zimbabwe in the communities of our partner Synod this Advent.

## Quilts for Oishei Children's Hospital

Many of the women in our congregation joined together, inspired by our Advent theme of quilts, to create several, both to remind us of this theme—the comfort of these words wrapped around us as we begin again—and to donate to Oishei Children's Hospital to provide this comfort and warmth to those going through hard times.



## Undie Sunday

St. Timothy will once again be joining the Rotary Club of Grand Island as a drop-off location for their annual Undie Sunday community project from January 12th to 27th. They are seeking the basic needs of new and unused underclothing and socks for less fortunate and homeless men, women, and children. These items provide personal dignity, comfort, and warmth and are so much appreciated by them. They are in particular need of warm socks; T-shirts of all sizes; men's underwear sizes Large, Extra Large, and XX Large; and all women's undergarments. Thank you for helping provide these essentials for those who need them most.



**Undie Sunday!**



# Last Month's Memories



## With Appreciation

As we look back at this year, we are filled with gratitude for each and every one of you—you are a part of what makes St. Timothy the community that it is. The love and support that each person has for each other, expressed in so many different ways, is a testament to the strength and beauty of this community. We are church together.

We are so appreciative of the many people who have given their time and talents with generous hearts and enthusiasm throughout the year: the Altar Guild, Council, Finance Committee, Property Committee, Sunday School Teachers, Ushers, Counters, Worship Assistants, Music and Worship Committee, Emergency Preparedness Committee, Chili Cook-off Committee, Fundraising Committee, Carpet Committee, Prayer Chain, musicians, those who help with maintenance, hospitality, lawn mowing, fundraiser and event volunteering, baking, decorating, cleaning, trimming hedges, pulling weeds, managing recycling, running errands, researching, consulting companies, overseeing projects, helping in our child care center, organizing, making and sending cards, helping us reach compliance with safety standards, and stepping in for whatever needs to be done. You are all a blessing and we are grateful to have so many hands making the work of the church and the upkeep of our property lighter work.

Thank you to all as well for your generous contributions towards each of our missions collections: Undie Sunday for the Community Missions of Niagara Frontier; food, toiletries, and funds for the Grand Island Neighbors Foundation; socks for the shelterless through the Niagara Gospel Mission; Ride for Roswell; baskets to raffle for Lutheran Charities and the Child Care Center; school supplies, paper towels, and gloves for the Child Care Center; baby items for families in poverty through Harvest House; Thankofferings to support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA; financial gifts for food security and economic wellbeing through ELCA World Hunger and Good Gifts; contributions toward ambulances for the people of Zimbabwe through the Upstate NY Synod. Each of these really does make a difference in the lives of others, and we are grateful to be able to support these essential missions through your gifts.

And last but not least, we are always grateful for your continued financial contributions, which have allowed our ministry to thrive, grow, and adapt; for the special collections that have enabled us to do a refresh of our sanctuary and purchase an AED and which have gotten us a long way towards our goal of a newly resurfaced parking lot; and for the many off-the-books item donations—from a video doorbell for improved security, first aid kits and fire blankets for emergency preparedness, and lawn mower gas, to altar guild items, printer paper, pancake mix, and plates and napkins.

Your generosity—of heart, hands, and finances—makes everything at St. Timothy possible. Thank you!! We look forward to another great year spent with you in worship, fellowship, and ministry.

## 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: The family of Mary Lee Gillam; the family of Cheryl Frailey; Michelle Ramsey; Gretchen Boyd; Mike Cutini; Jack Skinner; Diane and Brian Lind; Chris Sweeney; April Vines; Bill and Nancy; Aiden Haynes; Vanessa; Barbara Dow; Tina Cutini; Joan Buchanan; Karen Wiswall; Ronald Olson; Janet Upham; Deborah Piotrowski; Mike Gueli; Lynda Reeves; Josh; Myles; Becky; Alex; Kathy Wright; Colin; Gary; Nancy Gorrell; Brenda; Margaret Miller; Marlene; Randy; Betty; Riley; Joe Morley; Richard E; Edna; Gloria; Marianne Caroll; 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 Shari Miller and Kevin Wilson's birthdays on January 15th, Joan Buchanan's birthday on January 16th, and Diane Wilson's birthday on January 25th.



## 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.

# January 2025

| SUN   | MON   | TUE | WED  | THU  | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|-----|--|--|-----|-----|
|   |   |     | 1<br> | 2  | 3   | 4   |
| 5<br>Worship,<br>9:30 AM  | 6<br>    | 7   | 8  | 9  | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br>Worship,<br>9:30 AM   | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16<br>Finance<br>meeting,<br>6 PM  | 17  | 18  |
| 19<br>Worship,<br>9:30 AM   | 20<br> | 21  | 22   | 23<br>Council<br>meeting,<br>5:30 PM   | 24  | 25  |
| 26<br>Worship,<br>9:30 AM<br>Congregation<br>Meeting,<br>10:30 AM | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30<br> | 31  |     |