



# THE TIMOTHIAN

ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF GRAND ISLAND (ELCA)

April 2011

*“Called, gathered, enlightened and made holy by God, we strive to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through worship, education, prayer, study, outreach and our Child Care Center, we share the love of Jesus Christ with all people.”*

## Address

1453 Staley Road  
Grand Island, NY 14072

## Phone

716-773-4400

## Fax

716-773-4413

## Website

[www.StTimothygrandisland.org](http://www.StTimothygrandisland.org)

## E-mail

[StTimLC@verizon.net](mailto:StTimLC@verizon.net)

## Pastor

Rev. Dean M. Hunneshagen  
Home phone No. 662-6037  
Cell phone No. 440-7739

## Director of Music

Peter Gates

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

## Office Secretary

Adrienne Neutz

## Sunday Worship

Holy Communion  
8:00 am  
10:30 am

## Sunday School

10:45-11:15 am

## St. Timothy Child Care Center

Phone 716-773-9249

## Director

Lydia Shiposki

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

### God's Big "No"

My friend, Pastor Gary Steeves, has written a theology of mission for the emerging church he is helping birth. Taking his cue from the word "resurrection" in their name (The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection), he writes: "The resurrection of Jesus Christ: God's No to death, decay and disconnection and God's YES to LIFE."

God's "no" to death, decay and disconnection describes profoundly the heart of Easter and our evangelical faith. Death, decay and disconnection are the subplot to all of our lives. LIFE and the fullness of life are but an aspiration, a hope, a desire. Were that not so, there would be no need of a Christ, a Christianity or a church of Jesus Christ called St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church of Grand Island.

Death is blatantly obvious. We know it when we see it, feel it, experience it. The Lutheran Church has for a long time defined marital divorce as an acknowledgment that a death has occurred (the death of a relationship).

Decay is more subtle. Decay is gradual over time. Rust spots begin to show long after the rust has begun to form beneath the surface. Decay in relationships and organizations may not be noticed for quite some time but it has been present for a long time.

Disconnection may not even be associated with death and decay; yet it, among all reasons, may be the start of both. Disconnection begins at the first sign of indifference. When little things that are important do not get tended to, disconnection is beginning. Disconnection is the first sign that trouble is afoot.

All of us have experienced death, decay and disconnection. All of us have contributed to it. Therefore, all of us can recognize it. The question is: what do we do about it? Better, what can God do about it?

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God can infuse our lives with His resurrecting presence. Being connected to Jesus can push back on death, decay and disconnection. Repentance and turning to God can allow for the miracle of God's intervening Spirit. We can say "no" to death, decay and disconnection by refusing to participate in it. When we do this, it is a sign that God's big "no" is beginning to take hold in us.

Easter faith, resurrection faith taps into God's "no." Resurrection living draws its strength from Him who overcame the big "no" of death on the cross and who raised Jesus from the grave. God's big "no" opens the way for us to live God's big "yes."

Love,

Pastor Dean



Worship  
Schedule  
*For* Lent  
& Holy Week

Lenten Lunch Series at Trinity UMC - Noon

Wednesday, April 6, 13

Evening Lenten Series at St. Timothy - 7pm

Wednesday, April 6, 13

Music, Prayer and Message based upon Themes of Lenten Luncheon Series

Passion Sunday - April 17<sup>th</sup>, services at 8:00 am, 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday - April 21<sup>st</sup>, service at 7:00 pm

Good Friday - April 22<sup>nd</sup>, service at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday - April 24<sup>th</sup>, services at 8:00 am, 10:30 am

**Grand Island Ministerium Lenten Luncheons 2011**  
**"Conversion Moments"**

**April 6 - Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**Pastor Dan Stinson of Live Laugh Love Ministries**  
**"Seeing the Light" - John 3:1-36**

**April 13 - St. Martin's Episcopal Church**  
**Father Earle King**  
**"The Irrestible Call" – Matthew 4:18-22**

Cost of lunch is \$4.00  
Lenten Luncheons begin at noon  
Trinity United Methodist Church 2100 Whitehaven Road  
There is child care available



**Twins!! We welcome Lennon Andrew and Logan David twin sons** to David and Melissa Miller, brothers to Mason, and grandsons to Janis and Dave Miller. Logan and Lennon were born on Wednesday March 9, 2011. They will be baptized on May 22.

**Baptisms**

Nash Harland son of Joshua and Lisa Geartz will be baptized on August 10 at the 8:00 am service. Nash was born February 14, 2011. May God continue to love, bless and keep him always.

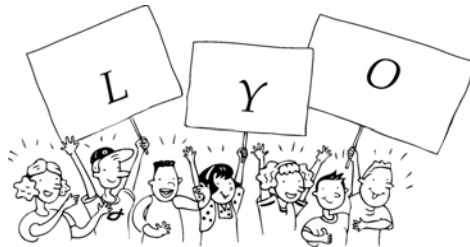
## **Congregation Council**

At the February and March meetings, The Council devoted a considerable portion of their time processing policy recommendations brought by the Finance Committee. Ryan Cummings and Mike Endres presented the following:

Code of Conduct Statement  
Fraud Non-Tolerance Policy  
Use of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church of  
Grand Island, Inc.'s Name  
Use of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church of  
Grand Island, Inc.'s Federal Tax Identification Number  
Opening and Closing Bank Accounts  
Banking Relationship  
HSBC Bank Accounts  
Signatories on Bank Accounts  
Signatories on HSBC Bank Accounts  
Maintenance of Reserve Fund  
Non-Budgetary Expenditures  
Processing Payables  
Conditions to Hire  
Document Protection Policy

These were approved and are being implemented. Copies of these are available to anyone in the congregation by contacting the church office.

## **St. Timothy Lutheran Youth Organization**



### **LYO Updates:**

It's been quiet this past month with the LYO as our youth have been busy with other extracurricular activities. Our graduating high school seniors have been working on college and scholarship applications while other youth have been active in their sports or have enjoyed vacation time with their families. I have been busy selling on eBay and Craig's List during the down time, so thank you to those that have donated items for us to sell. Until next month

## Interior Renovations

Bill Kemp, Stu Savory, Jerry Peete, and Carl Remmes have been repairing, replacing, and painting as the renovations proceed. Shortly the Narthex carpet will be replaced.

Planning is beginning for the Sanctuary renovation as well as the restrooms.

Tables, credenzas, seating and lamps are being planned for the Narthex. Speak to Carolyn Doebert or Esther Westfall to determine how you can help. Right now, funds are needed for these purchases.

## The Paint Appeal

Thanks to all who contributed to the paint appeal. We received \$1210 out of the goal of \$1280. We have spent to date \$730. The balance will be used for the sanctuary and restrooms.

## Volunteers for grass cutting

Please consider volunteering to help with grass cutting at St. Timothy this year. The church office is preparing schedules and teams for summer 2010. If you can help, please contact Adrienne in the office, or Ron Kraft at 773-6115.



### News from Women of the ELCA

**Niagara Frontier Women of the ELCA will meet for Spring Assembly Tuesday evening April 5th at St John's, Lancaster.** Registration begins at 6:45 PM. Our speaker for the evening is Elizabeth McIntyre from victim services at the International Institute of Buffalo. Her topic is "Human Trafficking: A Form of Modern Day Slavery". If you attend this meeting, you may wish to bring one of the following personal care items: toilet paper, soap/shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, sanitary napkins, bath towel/washcloth. The items collected will be given to the speaker to distribute as needed.

The Synodical Ingathering project this year is "Dress-A-Girl Around the World". At Spring Assembly, we will have a display of these easy to make dresses that will be sent to little girls in under privileged countries. These dresses are important because a little girl in a nice dress looks well taken care of and has less chance of being abducted or assaulted.

Conference coming events include Day Apart June 11th at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora. This mini retreat has time for learning, socializing and being alone with your thoughts in a beautiful setting. There will be more details on the day in the May Timothian.

Nancy Morth



## Niagara Power Collegiate Baseball League

**Host families needed:** The Niagara Power, is an expansion team in the New York Collegiate Baseball League (NYCBL) and is an Affiliate of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), a national, faith-based ministry. FCA partnered with Cal Kern (Grand Island, NY) and the city of Niagara Falls to establish the Niagara Power in 2007. Your player(s) will stay with you from June 1<sup>st</sup> to approximately July 31<sup>st</sup>. All you need to provide is a bed, breakfast and a sack lunch. You do not need to provide transportation. The FCA will provide that. If you are interested you can call Cal Kern at 773-1748.



Do you know of anyone looking for a church home?  
Contact Pastor Dean at 716-773-4400

*Need a  
Ride to church?*



Please contact the office at 716-773-4400.

# THE EMERGING CHURCH

by

Pastor Dean M. Hunneshagen

March 29, 2011

*(This material was first presented at St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church of Grand Island, NY in March of 2011. My work there is organized around honoring the past, anchoring the present and launching the future (next generation St. Timothy). While anchoring the present has involved several significant changes, the next generation vision has not begun to emerge. It is with that need in mind I prepared this material.)*

We live in a world in transition. The church that survives this transition has not yet been born. At best, it is just emerging.

Nobody knows what will survive of the institutional church as we know it. It is estimated that 50% of Americans who attend worship do so in 10% of America's churches. That tilts in favor of the large, even mega, churches. Will they remain dominant? I have my doubts. Already since 2005 there are signs that they have peaked in attendance and are in decline.

The emerging church that not only survives but thrives, will, I predict, have three major characteristics. These characteristics are **The Three "R's": Reflective, Radical and Redemptive.**

## REFLECTIVE

The world in which we live is in transition. This transition has been variously described. Some would label the eras of civilization as pre-modern, modern and post-modern. We Americans live in the transition from modern to post-modern. Others would name the eras as pre-critical, critical and post-critical. ("Critical" is used in the sense of what is known as "higher criticism" like that used in the study of literature or the methodology of science.) Many theologians who have been immersed in the "higher criticism" have come up short and are looking for more. They are in transition. Theologian Ted Peters refers to the three eras as naïve world-construction, critical deconstruction and post-critical reconstruction. The latter involves "thinking of faith not as faith in an object, but rather faith in that which transcends all objectivity. Relationship to God is discerned not through the world but solely through a decision of faith, a decision to trust God and God alone." (Peters. *GOD-the World's Future*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 1992) Those who think this way have transitioned from modern to post-modern. The point of "naming" these eras is not to presume to capture all that is, but to suggest that there are ways of thinking and doing that impact the people with whom we practice our faith and with whom we expect "to do church." We cannot hope to succeed at our task and to have a church that survives, let alone thrives, unless we take seriously these factors. That leads me to conclude:

**The emerging church will be reflective**, will intentionally examine and seek to understand these eras so as to apply the findings to their emerging form and content.

**The emerging church will be reflective**, getting in touch with its "gut" so as to identify and be in tune with where its people are in the continuum of the three eras.

**The emerging church will be reflective** in developing and cultivating an action-reflection model for its life in community and its ministry in the world.

## RADICAL

The dictionary definition of radical is "**of the root.**" I use it here in that sense.

The brand of Christianity that will make it into the emerging church will be more and more "**of the root.**"

It will major in what is major to the faith, not in what is minor to the faith. How many angels can dance on a pinhead will be irrelevant...as well as anything extraneous "to the root" (i.e. extraneous to the core).

**Radical** Christianity will center itself in the life and ministry of Jesus. It will be characterized by living "The Way" as disciples of Jesus. It will listen carefully to sections of the New Testament that reveal "the other side" of Jesus like in Luke 9-18 (the so-called Travel Narrative).

**Radical** Christianity takes very seriously the biblical doctrine of man, will find redemption in the grace of God in Christ, will reflect a biblical worldview and will espouse joining God's mission as its reason for being.

**The emerging church will be radical**, not in the sense of throwing bombs, but in the sense of being of the root, in the sense of being of the core.

## REDEMPTIVE

God's mission is to reconcile all things unto Himself to bring LIFE in all its fullness (*John 10:10 TEV*).

This mission will drive the existence of the church that survives the current transition and comes out

thriving. It will be the stewardship of God's mission that is at the forefront of the life and ministry of the emerging church.

**The emerging church will be mission driven and therefore redemptive.**

Ends, not means, will be key. A certain style, the latest successful program, one more "fix" will not be key. Faithfulness, intentionality, focus on the end for which the church exists will determine what survives and thrives. It always has and always will.

Conversion, transformation, change will be the emerging church's hallmarks. "Repent and turn to God" (*Acts 3:19*) and "You must be born from above" (*John 3:7*) will be taken seriously by all.

Salvation from God and in us, not inevitable progress or *liaise faire* drift, is adequate for the world's needs. Hope rests in God's activity. **The emerging church will be redemptive because it is God's instrument through which He redeems.** If it is not, it will go the way of other "bubbles"...like the .com bubble of a few years ago and the more recent housing bubble.

Finally, the mission field of the emerging church will be primarily local. Like the motto of the environmental movement to "think globally and act locally," **the emerging church will be most redemptive when it thinks globally and acts locally.** All that it is, both radical and redemptive, will grow best in the fertile soil of the local scene.