



THE TIMOTHIAN

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

October 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.”

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Pastor

Rev. Dean M. Hunneshagen
Home phone No. 662-6037
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Director of Music

Peter Gates

Church Secretary

Adrienne Neutz

Staff Accountant

Karen Sturniolo

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

Sunday Worship

Holy Communion
8:00 am (outdoors)
9:30 am – June 19 – Sept. 4
10:30 AM beginning Sept. 11

Sunday School

10:45-11:15 am
Resumes Sept. 11

St. Timothy Child Care Center

Phone 716-773-9249

Director

Lydia Shiposki

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

“Raw, Radical, Redemptive”

Inspired by the opening lines of the now famous “I Have a Dream” speech of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. some forty years ago, **thirteen** of St. Timothy’s congregation wrote their own “I Have a Dream” speech. They were asked to complete the sentence **“I have a dream that, one day, St. Timothy will....”**

With depth of thought and conviction, each of the thirteen cast a personal vision of the “Next Generation St. Timothy.” What an amazing and inspiring moment it was!

The statements were **raw**. Unfiltered, unscripted, straight from the heart, they expressed deepest longings for St. Timothy.

The statements were **radical**. They were “of the root.” Right down to basics. Of the core of our work and mission. Practical and essential in our end goal.

The statements were **redemptive**. That which is redemptive has the capacity to bring up from the dying and trigger new birth. It has the capacity to enliven imaginations and to inspire fresh initiatives. It has the capacity to launch a new era. These statements have the potential to do just that.

I invite you, the reader, to sit with the creations of your peers found on the following pages. Reflect upon what each is envisioning. Think about what you, given the opportunity, would envision for your faith community. Perhaps you would want to write your own “I have a dream” statement and submit it for our consideration.

St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church of Grand Island, New York is at an exciting moment in its history. I am thankful to be a part of it.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dean

THIRTEEN VOICES

In August, 2011 twenty-two people participated in a pair of workshops to start developing a fresh vision and a carefully defined mission for “Next Generation St. Timothy.” Out of the second workshop involving thirteen individuals came the following contributions. Each person was asked to complete the sentence:

I HAVE A DREAM THAT, ONE DAY, ST. TIMOTHY....

Will be a vibrant, active church where people will express to all who enter the building that “Jesus Loves You”. We will show that we are centered in Christ by the way we treat all those we come in contact with. Our programs will help others grow in their love of Jesus – from infancy to adulthood.

Will be filled with many voices, young and old, from all walks of life sharing and enjoying each other. I have a dream that one day St. Timothy will not be known just for an excellent child care center but a place where as these children grow to adulthood they will feel welcomed and want to participate in knowing and being with Christ. My dream does not mean that we have to become bigger but fuller would be a goal. I have a dream of St. Timothy being a small church doing big things.

Will survive the transition in this modern world and be able to continue to grow and provide a spiritual home for the young families in our community. (As well as the older families.)

Will be a body of like-minded people, made strong by our beliefs, able to spread the Good News of Christ with faith and hope, trusting in Christ, serving God’s will with enthusiasm, working towards the day when we will hear God’s words: “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Grand Island, New York will be a beacon to all God’s children and administer a trust in Christ.

Will be...

- Where all parishioners are positive in our outlook as a church. Positive in everything we say and do. Where there is no negativity or animosity.
- Where our youth group could grow in size; where there is weekly prayer, bible study and an opportunity to grow in faith with each other.
- Where we have a senior pastor and youth pastor.
- Where our child care center grows and brings families together in our church.
- Where each and every parishioner welcomes the newcomer and spreads our love to each other.

Believes the “Church” and “Child Care Center” is St. Timothy.

Is filled with children and “young adults.”

Has a list of adults wanting to serve in openings on the “Church Board.”

Faces and engages change to a post-modern church.

Finds the proper balance between leadership and direction.

Will have a vision.

This vision will be reflective of a thriving church which survives in a modern world.

This vision will be centered in “radical” Christian thinking.

This vision will be the key to the existence of St. Timothy’s and include both global and local acts of redemption that brings life in all its fullness.

Will know that all power in this church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, and that we are centered in Christ. The church is a people created by God in Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. That as a congregation participating in God's mission we worship God, spread the Good News, administer the sacraments, and educate our young and old, reach out to our community.

Will be a community faithful in spirit, generous in heart, and reaching out to others. We support the faith of those in our church by supporting the needs of those outside our church. May we experience the blessings of God by living godly lives. May our congregation focus on Jesus and his life, bringing strength and comfort to its members.

I have a dream... that, one day, St Timothy will still be serving the people of Grand Island, teaching the Word of God and of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

I have a dream... that, one day, St. Timothy will still be teaching the children the 10 Commandments, The Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and faith in God.

I have a dream... that the doors of St. Timothy will be open for all who wish to enter to learn of the works of God through His only Son Jesus Christ.

I have a dream! One that can be done by faith, kindness, hope and hard work.

I have a dream!

Will attract not only people in the Grand Island community but many others from the surrounding area to share in the Good News of Jesus Christ. I have a dream that all members of St. Timothy will grow and share in the living faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. The members will grow in the faith through broader Christian education at all age levels, will attend church regularly, will share their treasures more devoutly, and will help each other in time of need. I dream that in God's church we will not only recognize His will in our everyday life but we will practice our faith by truly living His will. I dream that we as believers in Jesus Christ will help each other to strengthen and support our growth in the faith.

Will be filled with people.

- who have committed themselves by a decision of faith to trust God and God alone,
- who worship Jesus Christ as Lord,
- who seek to live out the Gospel of Christ,
- who proclaim the Gospel of Christ to others,
- who teach the Word of God,
- who generously give of their time, talent, and treasure to the Church and to those in need,
- who serve others before serving themselves,
- who rejoice in the joy of others,
- who empathize with the pain of others,
- who love and trust God and give Him thanks and praise,
- who welcome new members into mutual fellowship in Christ,
- who speak to God in prayer,
- who show Grand Island and the world the joy and righteousness that comes with the love of God.



Pre K – Grade 5

Sunday School classes are held during morning worship at 10:30. There will be no Sunday school for K - 5th graders during worship on days of the Together in Faith program which meets the second and third Sunday of October, November, January, February and March, 9:15-10:15 AM. The children are encouraged to be in church with their families following participating in class. We are still planning on having Sunday school for the 3 and 4 year olds during services on Together in Faith days. We are still in need of teachers. Please contact Sarah Sweeney at 717-909-8767 if you able to help.

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

Grades 6-8

Last school year we focused on basic Bible Stories and on the subject of doing deeper into our understanding and experience of Holy Communion. This year we are focusing on more advanced Bible study and going deeper into the experience of Christian worship.

This approach takes us into two time slots. The class meets Sundays during the 9:15-10:15 time period. All participants are then expected to participate in the entire liturgy from 10:30 to 11:30.

The subject matter of the Bible Study will be the scripture lessons appointed for that Sunday. Students are being introduced to the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible as well as to the Good News Bible. Exploration before worship will increase the level of understanding and engagement in the worship service itself. As a part of the class, a Workshop on Worship will be offered by Pastor as an effort to take them deeper into the work of worship and to prepare them for more meaningful worship.

This year's leaders are Carol Kraft, Karen Rose, Jayne Webb and peer instructor Sarah Ardanan. Currently there are five girls in the class.

PARENT-GRANDPARENT MEETING

There was a gathering of parents, grandparents and teachers on Sunday, September 18. They met with Pastor, first of all, to share their "dreams" of what they would like to happen for their children here at St. Timothy. Then, they heard a presentation by Pastor entitled "What Every Parent Needs to Know (to mentor your child in Christ). Next, our plan for the 2011-2012 school year was reviewed and explained.

The group ended with a sharing of ideas, questions and discussion. One thing that came up was the suggestion that more music suited to children be integrated into the program. This has prompted us to begin to develop this idea as an integral part of the Sunday School experience, the worship hour and faith development in our homes (or as we travel about with car CD players.)

A packet with helpful information and essays was distributed. Any family who did not receive a packet may do so by contacting the church office.

SCRIPTURE WORKSHOP

(Better known as the “crash course in accessing scripture”)

It was an intense but fruitful two hours spent together.

Pastor led us through the most basic of basics of scripture to deep revelation. We practiced approaching a text with the three key steps: What does it say? What does it mean? What does it mean to me?

We learned to differentiate “dead word” from “living word.”

A delight none of the nine adults expected was having twelve year old Sarah Ardalan present as a peer mentor. What an amazing thing to see! She amazed some others as well. (Sarah had taken the course this summer with Pastor on a one on one basis. She’s a quick study!)

Pastor is looking for suggestions for other adult offerings in the future. Got any topics?



WELCA Project – Joan Buchanan will lead us in making Iris Paper Folding crosses for St. Nicholas gifts for the Lutheran Home. The date is October 3 at 7 pm in the parlor.

Little Dresses for Africa – Esther is collecting the dresses and dolls. Please have them in by October 23 as they will be shipped on October 29. There is a basket in the Narthex to put the completed dresses in. 1,767 and counting. That is how many "Little Dresses for Africa" the women in Upstate New York Synod have made. Please continue to make them & bring them to church by October 23. There are many, many little girls who benefit from receiving a clean dress. At Women of the ELCA Fall Assembly, the ones we are collecting will be added to those from other congregations in Niagara Frontier WELCA Conference.

We are making bread! On Sat, Oct. 29th, the women of the Niagara Frontier WELCA Conference will have their Fall Assembly at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Tonawanda. The theme for the day is "Living a Life of Daily Bread". Yes, we will be making & eating bread. The program will center around what we can learn about our faith by baking bread. Child care is being provided. Registration is at 9 AM. Send your prepaid \$7.00 registration to: Barb

ST. TIMOTHY CROP WALK 2011



HUNGER ON THE EAST SIDE OF BUFFALO OR HUNGER ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE WORLD IS STILL HUNGER.

You can make a difference. **First**, get connected to the people and the problem. Join us on Sunday, October 23 at 1:00 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church at Genesee and Doat on Buffalo's east side. Connect with the people by walking their neighborhood. **Second**, raise money to contribute to the Resurrection Food Pantry and to global projects through Church World Service.

How can you participate? Sponsor a walker with your donations. Be a walker and solicit donations. Pray for the walk. Find a way to be encouraging.

St. Timothy's coordinator is Karen Rose. She can be reached in person on Sunday at church, by phone at 774-1228 or through e-mail at KCRose68@msn.com. This is the second year Karen is taking us to Buffalo's east side. Participation can make a change in your life. Ask her and some who went with her last year.

ONE STEP AT A TIME

Have you ever been hungry? If you know you are going to be able to eat some time soon, it's not bad; our bodies are reminding us that it's time to refuel. But, if you don't know whether you will be able to eat at all, that's something very different. And even worse, if you don't know if you will be able to feed your hungry children, that's crushing. Imagine what that must be like. We can do something to help! The CROP Hunger Walk is coming soon and we need you. We need people to walk. And we need people to sponsor our Walkers. We need each of you. And together, step by step we can make a difference in the lives of hungry people around the world.

BASTIAN'S OIL

Peggie Bastian's oil painting, that is.

In a remarkable stroke of the brush Peggie has gifted St. Timothy with an original 28x22 oil to adorn our entrance. As the dominant image to attract one's eye upon entry, it suggests the food of life, Christ's presence in bread and wine, gathering at the table, light from on high, tone and texture of God's good earth, warmth and welcoming to all.

We have been blessed with another great piece of art (the first is a landscape/waterscape depicting Grand Island's north view of the marshes and river which hangs in the church office).

The painting was dedicated at the worship service September 25 in the context of being reminded that our true unity resides in "having the mind and heart of Christ." This painting keeps that in mind for all who enter.

ST. TIMOTHY AT A TURNING POINT

As the congregation met for food, fellowship and business on September 25 there was something in the air. What was in the air was not simply fall breezes, the Bills game and trees turning color.

What the three dozen or so present were party to may be looked back upon as a major turning point. Pastor Dean had begun his work here at St. Timothy in May, 2009. He laid out his approach: honor the past, anchor the present, launch the future “Next Generation St. Timothy.”

Until now, the future could not begin. God would have to bring us through a grueling two years before we were able even to begin thinking about launching the Next Generation St. Timothy.

Now the time has arrived!

Here’s how we know.

We listened with enthralled ears to the “Thirteen Voices” whose dreams pointed us toward the future St. Timothy. It is a future St. Timothy not a few months or years ahead, but fifteen or more years ahead...one that survives and even thrives in our rapidly changing world.

Then we heard what happens when people engage in giving to God as an act of worship, as an act of trust and as an act of stewardship of God’s work. For the first time in memory, we heard that financially we had completed the fiscal year (September-August) in the black. From a \$17,000 deficit two and half years ago, to an anticipated \$6,000 deficit only a few months ago to August 31, 2011 in the black by a little over \$2,000...it is an amazing turn around. This was accomplished, mind you, along with over \$38,000 being contributed to accelerate the elimination of our mortgage indebtedness and substantial contributions toward our \$28,000 interior renovations. We are now positioned financially to move forward into the future. We can now begin to work on becoming a “Next Generation.”

The congregation was presented a new financial model that results in everyone “winning.” It

1. Affirms the CCC ministry as an essential arm of the Church’s ministry;
2. Addresses the necessity of the Church assuming its responsibility for executive management over all expressions of its ministry (which includes CCC);
3. Asserts the Church’s responsibility for all its facilities including CCC wing;
4. Structures a fair and equitable allocation of costs between Church and CCC;
5. Is designed to free up the CCC Director from facilities issues and senior management concerns to devote more of her time to those tasks only she is qualified to perform as a Director.

Utilizing this model, the congregation was presented a balanced budget for 2011-2012 of \$580,714 which was approved. In addition there was approval for two major improvements: replacement of the sanctuary and portico roof and the installation of air conditioning in the Child Care Center wing, both of which will be paid for within the year.

Such progress comes only with real turnings in some of the ways we do our business of being the church.

Organizationally, it means adopting a new structure, with new and clear lines of authority and accountability. Toward the end, the congregation was presented a first look at a revised constitution and by-laws. A finished version will be presented for vote in January, 2012 and for a second vote in May, 2012.

These are all healthy signs of **St. Timothy being at a turning point** for the good. The real test will be whether we continue to grow spiritually as a Christ-centered faith community and whether we steward well His work of reconciling all things unto himself to bring life in all its fullness.

