

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

What Defines Us

We have a name: **St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church of Grand Island**. But what is in a name? Does the name describe us? Does it reveal anything about our character? Does it embody something of our hopes and dreams? Why was the name selected in the first place?

Answers to these questions could be important. On the other hand, maybe they mean little. Someone needs to tell me.

A church's identity can be a powerful resource. It can serve as a beacon in stormy times and in fair weather times. It can be the measuring stick against which important decisions are made and future directions are formed.

What actually defines a church is only partially what is stated explicitly. A better indicator may be the informal "word on the grapevine" about St. Timothy that exists outside the organization. This "word on the grapevine" is generated by the outcomes that flow from the congregation's daily workings. Thus, if God's work of reconciling all things unto himself is substantially realized because St. Timothy is around, then some version of that will be "out there." If a vibrant community life within St. Timothy is exhibited to strangers, then that will be "on the grapevine." If numerous families on Grand Island are positively impacted by a caring ministry of St. Timothy, that too will be spread on the grapevine.

What we are known for is what defines who we are.

I would invite the congregation to think upon these things as we move forward into becoming "the next generation St. Timothy."

Love,
Pastor Dean