

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