

## 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.