

**ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH MOUSE
DECEMBER 2023**



Sunday, December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

Worship in Church or Drive In With Communion 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

Sunday, December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

Sunday, December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Worship in Church or Drive In With Communion 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

Sunday, December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

Combined Advent/Christmas Eve Service

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

Sunday, December 31, 2023

1st Sunday of Christmas

Worship in Church or Drive In with Healing 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin



***Join us for indoor worship or in the church parking lot for
the Drive In service***

PASTOR'S PONDERING- By Pastor Ivy

The advent season marks the beginning of a new liturgical cycle. Each of the four weeks of Advent are in December. Our Advent preparation for our Lord culminates at our Sunday morning, December 24 service. The service will mirror our Advent anticipation beginning in Advent and transitioning to Christmas Eve.

We will have a year of readings from Mark's gospel, interspersed with John's gospel. Mark's gospel was the first gospel written, and it's the shortest. It is similar to a Reader's Digest version.

The Advent wreath helps us countdown the weeks until we can light the Christ candle. Something I learned from our pastor in the Holy Land, was the symbolism of each candle:

First Sunday in Advent

The readings for the first Sunday in Advent relate to the Old Testament patriarchs who were Christ's ancestors, so some call the first Advent candle that of **hope**.

Second Sunday in Advent

The readings for the second Sunday concern Christ's birth in a manger and other prophecies, so the candle may be called the "Bethlehem candle", the **"way candle"**, or the **"prophets' candle"**.

Third Sunday in Advent

The third Sunday, called *Gaudete* [joy] Sunday after the first word of the introit (Philippians 4:4)... The readings relate to

John the Baptist, and the [third] candle may be called the “joy candle”, “**Mary candle**”, or “**shepherds' candle**”.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

The readings for the fourth Sunday relate to the annunciation of Christ's birth, for which the *Magnificator* “Song of Mary” may be featured. The candle may be known as the “**angel's candle**”. (Rev. Tilman Bergman and Wikipedia).

Advent is counter-cultural. All the advertisements coming from all directions are going to catch our attention and then try to mold us into their image. Our heart rates accelerate as we worry about being so far behind with all of our Christmas preparations.

I hope you will take the time to thoughtfully prepare the way of the Lord. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity” (Romans 12:2, *J.B. Phillips New Testament*). Amen!

St. Timothy Church Council

President– Kristie Bloomquist

Vice President - Marty Hunt

Secretary – Marcy Saar

Kathy Carlson Bob Pecuch

Linda Milks Pastor Ivy Gauvin

Treasurer – Julie Bihler

Financial Secretary – Kathy Carlson

Do you have questions or ideas for Council? Feel free to share them with any council member or write them down and leave in the office.

NOVEMBER 2023

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 & 2 Packing is well underway. Now packing 868 bags each month. If you want to help, please contact Kathy, Kristie or Gale. Donations are always appreciated.
- We donated \$525 to the BPMC Food Pantry for the Thanksgiving meals they gave out this year.
- The Evangelism Committee is still looking for volunteers. They especially need help with the Card Ministry. If you are interested – see Marty or any council member.
- Council continues to keep an eye on all finances. The budgeting process for next year is continuing. We would truly appreciate receiving “**Estimates of Giving**” to help us plan our 2024 budget.
- The Annual Meeting date is set for Sunday, January 28th after worship. A brunch will be provided. Members and non-members are all welcome!
- Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will combine the 4th week of Advent with Christmas Eve and have just one service – at our normal 10 AM worship time.

*****Advent Fest** Sunday, Dec. 3 Join us for an expanded Coffee Hour and decorating the church for Christmas.

PRAYER REQUEST

Prayer Requests: Ann Saar, Kay Marker Magneson, Roy Pihl, George Balcom, Thom Shagla, Nancy Purcell, Pastor Gerry Zimmerman (Bethel, Portville and Shepherd of the Valley, Wellsville), James Dieter, Bob Lindberg, Lianne Edborg, Karen Brown, Marty Wittstrom, Sarah VanStaalduin, Joe Gauvin, Emerson Allaby, John Gingrass, those serving in the military and law enforcement and their families, including Christine Kaffka, Sean Pecuch, and Ben Wickerham, those caught up in violence and war who have no safe home in which to live.

5 Loaves & 2 Fish Backpack Ministry

We continuously collect food items for the 5 & 2 Ministry. Bring your donations and place in the black bin in church narthex. Lists detailing items needed are also available in the narthex. Monetary donations welcome! Contact Gale-Svenson-Campbell for details

gales1949@gmail.com

ONLINE GIVING at St. Timothy for Debit/Credit cards

Three ways to give:

- Go directly to our website at www.sttimothybemus.com.
- Use our QR code with the QR reader on your smartphone.
- Download the app 'GivePlus Church'. Create an account.

For further information, see Kathy Carlson on Sundays or call her at 485-1316.



Advent Bible Study

*****Advent** begins Sunday, Dec. 3. We will be having an Advent Bible study beginning at that time. Each session of the study explores one way we encounter God, from revelation to proclamation.

The four sessions are:

Week 1-Revelation

Week 2—Invitation

Week 3-Vocation

Week 4-Proclamation.

It's an excellent study and we look forward to gathering together. Please join us. We will be meeting after fellowship.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Thomas (TJ) Bihler

22 Stephanie Shagla

5 Lyn Harris

25 Ray Gauvin

5 Karen Johnson

28 Mark Wickerham

6 Bob Pecuch

30 Jamie Carlson

16 Katie Castro

30 Linnea Goebel

18 Avis West

MONTHLY READINGS

December 3, 1st Sunday of Advent

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 64:1-9](#)

Prayer that God would come with power and compassion

[Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#)

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

[1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end

[Mark 13:24-37](#)

The sudden coming of the Son of Man

December 10, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

Good news of God's coming to a people in exile

[Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13](#)

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

[2 Peter 3:8-15a](#)

Waiting for and hastening the day of God

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

John appears from the wilderness

December 17, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Reading and Psalm

[Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11](#)

Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden

[Psalm 126](#)

The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

[Luke 1:46b-55](#) (alternate)

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](#)

Kept in faith until the coming of Christ

[John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

A witness to the light

December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent

Readings and Psalm

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#)

The LORD's promise to David

[Luke 1:46b-55](#)

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

[Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26](#) (alternate)

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

[Romans 16:25-27](#)

The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ

[Luke 1:26-38](#)

The angel appears to Mary

December 31, 1st Sunday of Christmas

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 61:10--62:3](#)

Clothed in garments of salvation

[Psalm 148](#)

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

[Galatians 4:4-7](#)

Children and heirs of God

[Luke 2:22-40](#)

The presentation of the child

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The Asheville Hewes Center has a new project brewing - a **Food/Clothing/Hygiene Closet!** Whether it be a basic need for these items, an upcoming job interview, an upcoming school or personal event, a dress code concern, or a need for appropriate work attire for our vocational programs - we will have these resources on hand for all our students on the Hewes Campus to have their basic needs met. The students will create and vote on a name for the closet and make it their own! It will also be run by the students as they learn basic work skills. Alissa Rinaldo is our contact person here at St. Timothy, as well as the representative for the Hewes Center for 5 & 2 Ministry and Packing.



Below is a list of items they are requesting. For clothing, please keep in mind that these are middle/high school students ages 14-18 and what they would wear. Any donations can be brought to church and placed in our bin or hung on the Fellowship Hall coat rack. Alissa will pick them up when she comes to pack for the month. THANK YOU.

- Mens & Womens Clothing- casual, business & workwear
- t-shirts
- sweatshirts
- sweatpants
- leggings
- winter necessities- coats (casual & business), hats, gloves
- jeans - work jeans
- shoes & boots - casual & work footwear
- scrubs
- work outerwear - flannels, work coats, work gloves

- business apparel for job interviews or formal school & personal events
- womens and mens undergarments

deodorant

- toothbrushes & toothpaste
- shampoo & conditioner
- body wash and soap
- hair brushes & combs & hair products
- lotion
- laundry detergent - preferably pods or smaller bottles to be sent home
- laundry stain remover
- feminine hygiene products
- reusable shopping bags
- backpacks
- travel bags (bags are for students to bring items home, discreetly)
- cosmetic bags
- clothing hangers

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Dear Love INC Family,

On December 12, 2023, our long-time Love INC volunteer, and Furniture Ministry Coordinator, Dan Swenson will be retiring from 15 years of service with Love INC. We will miss Dan greatly yet we are excited for him and his wife Shirley with their retirement plans of travel and grandson playtime.

Dan’s dedication to the ministry will leave a huge void. He has given many hours to the ministry and his spiritual leader’s shoes will be hard to fill.

We are asking you to be in prayer over this ministry.

We are open to reworking the ministry to fit the church or churches involved, but with no leader to take the reins, it will impair our ability to meet the needs for furniture for our neighbors in need in our community starting December 13, 2023.

The furniture ministry is approximately 75% of the work we do to love our neighbors in need with the love of Christ.

Needs: -A Volunteer Furniture Ministry Coordinator to set appointments and possibly select furniture for delivery.

-Team Leaders/ Members willing to possibly use their vehicles to the tow trailer, move furniture, and lead the team and neighbors in need in prayer. (I believe some of the current volunteers will continue to serve.)

Please help us spread this prayer need by sharing this email with your congregations, friends, and family.

If you or someone you know would like more information don't hesitate to get in touch with me, at 716-338-9828 ext 104 or email susan@loveincsc.org.

Thank you for your prayers concerning this need.

Susan L. Justham | Executive Director
Love In the Name of Christ of SCC
Helping Churches to Help People
Phone: 716.338.9828
loveincsc.org

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DECEMBER 24.....

When the fourth Sunday of Advent occurs on December 24th, what do we do? Do we forget about the fourth Sunday of Advent and just rush full on into Christmas? Do we all go to church twice in one day—oh my!

The Service will begin as Advent 4 and then throughout the service it will transition to Christmas Eve. It’s like a Christmas version of the Easter Vigil—beginning as one service, yet ending as another—each transforming from dark to light.

I do not yet know their plans, but I’m sure at least one of the area Lutheran services will be that night.



DECEMBER 2023
WORSHIP AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
AT ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

	DECEMBER 3	DECEMBER 10	DECEMBER 17	DECEMBER 24	DECEMBER 31
Assistant Liturgist	Trish Pecuch	Kristie Bloomquist	Tammy Haas	Sarah Goebel	
Ushers/Greeters	Ginny Sloan Linda Milks	Marty Hunt Linda Milks	Ginnie Sloan Marty Hunt	Ginnie Sloan Linda Milks	Linda Milks Ginnie Sloan

St. Timothy Lutheran Church 716-386-7280
Church Email: sttimothy2015@gmail.com
Website: www.sttimothybemus.com
Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/sttimsbemus>

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 am Worship w/Communion Advent Feast Bible Study TJ Bihler	4 Healthy Bones 9am	5 Lyn Harris Karen Johnson	6 Healthy Bones 9am Bob Pecuch	7 Tai Chi 9:30am & 12pm Choir 5pm	8 Ellery Senior Citizens 11:30 am	9 Dog Evaluations noon
10 10:00 am Worship Budget Meeting 11:00 Bible Study	11 Healthy Bones 9am	12 5 & 2 Setup 5 & 2 Packing 7pm	13 Healthy Bones 9am	14 Tai Chi 9:30am & 12pm Choir 5pm	15	16 Katie Castro
17 10:00 am Worship w/Communion Church Council 11:00 Bible Study	18 Healthy Bones 9am Avis West	19	20 Healthy Bones 9am	21 Choir 5pm	22 Stephanie Shagla	23
24 10:00 am Worship Advent/Christmas Eve 31 10amWorship w/Healing 	25  Ray Gauvin	26 	27	28 Choir 5pm Mark Wickerham	29	30 Jamie Carlson Linnea Goebel

26 Kwanzaa Pray for our African-descent neighbors and siblings in Christ who celebrate Kwanzaa, a weeklong observance of African culture and traditions that emphasizes family, community and shared principles. Give thanks for the rich and enduring practices of our African-descent siblings and the global African community.

27 Give thanks that the gift of grace found in Jesus Christ is both deeply personal and for all humankind. “Of what benefit would it be to me if Christ had been born a thousand times, and it would daily be sung into my ears in a most lovely manner, if I were never to hear that he was born for me and was to be my very own?” (Martin Luther, 1522).

28 Christmas may have come and gone, but we carry into every day the joy of Christmas and the birth of the Christ child, the manifestation of God’s love for humanity. Give praise and thanks to God!

29 Lift up prayers of relief and thanksgiving for God’s mercy, which is fair and generous and is never swayed by our actions or words, no matter how good or well-intended.

30 Share with God your hopes, concerns, uncertainties and aspirations for the year ahead. Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our faith in God’s concern for us and in God’s attention to our prayers — spoken and silent.

31 New Year’s Eve Our baptism with water, the word of God and the blessings of our siblings in Christ marks us as children of God and followers of Jesus, loved, forgiven and made new every day of our lives. Alleluia!

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 World AIDS Day Remember in prayer all who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS, and pray for the work we do together through the ELCA’s HIV and AIDS Ministry — building awareness, serving people who live with HIV and AIDS, advocating for change, and supporting effective, affordable prevention, treatment and care globally.

2 The United Nations estimates that 90% of wartime casualties are suffered by civilians. Pray for an end to the violence, loss of life, suffering and injustice caused by war and conflict in the world, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

3 First Sunday of Advent Praise God, source of our hope, strength, healing and new life, and Jesus Christ, who lived among us to reveal God’s grace.

4 Approximately 15% of the world’s population lives with some form of disability, including about 42.5 million people in our country. Pray for the Spirit to sustain our commitment and guide our efforts to welcome, respect and fully include people with disabilities in every aspect of society and the church. Give thanks for the work and resources of ELCA Disability Ministry, the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association and the Lutheran Services in America–Disability Network.

5 Pray that we will not lose heart when we read stories of the church in decline or hear fewer people expressing faith in Christ. Ask the Spirit to strengthen our trust in God’s unwavering presence and work in the world and to help us bring the gospel to those still yearning for hope, healing and good news. “Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight” (ELW 241).

6 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving alongside our global companions and churches around the world. Give thanks for communities of faith where our mission personnel worship and celebrate their faith with siblings in Christ.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101.

Telephone: 800-638-3522.

7 Hanukkah Pray for our Jewish neighbors around the world who are beginning their eight-day celebration of Hanukkah — the Festival of Lights.

8 Remember in prayer people for whom the Christmas season stirs depression, loneliness and grieving. Promise to welcome these struggling people into our communities of faith and to connect them with new friends and siblings in Christ who will offer care and support during the holidays and throughout the year.

9 Reflect prayerfully on the symbolism of the Advent wreath and candles, which help us anticipate and celebrate God's boundless love and the promise of eternal life fulfilled in the birth of Christ — a light that breaks through the darkness of the world and changes everything.

10 Pray that we will be faithful and enthusiastic witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ for all people in every circumstance of life.

11 Give thanks for our church's commitment to service, generosity, justice and ending hunger and poverty for the sake of our neighbors in need. Pray that the ELCA Good Gifts catalog and the ministries of the ELCA will help us understand the needs of our neighbors and how we can work together to make a lasting impact in the world.

12 Praise God for the diverse Advent and Christmas traditions of the Christian church around the world, traditions that enrich our faith and understanding of how Christ has impacted communities, cultures and nations.

13 Pause during the busyness of the holidays and pray for our neighbors in need, especially those experiencing suffering, poverty, war, recovery from disasters and displacement from their homes. Pray that they will find relief, hope and renewed strength in the certainty of God's attention and love, evidenced in the gift of Jesus Christ and reflected in our concern, response and advocacy.

14 Give thanks for the seasons of the liturgical year and the Scripture, colors, symbols, prayers, music and rituals of faith that help us live in the rhythm of life as children of God and siblings in Christ.

15 Ask God to help us reflect on those who are not present whenever we gather and to remember that these children of God bring unique voices, gifts and life experiences to the worship, activities and gatherings of our congregations.

16 Las Posadas Give thanks for the tradition of Las Posadas, which recalls Mary and Joseph's Nativity journey and is observed in parts of Latin America and in some Latino communities in the United States.

17 Pray that we will have the humility, honesty and boldness of John the Baptist, who did not shy away from expressing his faith in Jesus Christ even when challenged and threatened.

18 International Migrants Day Pray for those who, with great risk and uncertainty, have left their home countries and familiar surroundings to seek welcoming communities where they feel safe, respected and free to reestablish their lives and raise their families.

19 Give thanks to God for the assurance of life eternal in the kingdom of heaven and for the Spirit equipping us to embody God's compassion in the world while we await the return of Christ.

20 What stirs joy in you today? Give thanks for the people and experiences that bring joy into your life, even if only briefly. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

21 Winter solstice As the days of the Northern Hemisphere grow shorter, pray that we will be guided and reassured by the light of Christ, which illuminates God's love, mercy and truth in our lives and in every corner of the world.

22 Praise God for this time of remembrance, anticipation and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, a birth that changed the world and our lives in ways that exceed our imagination and comprehension.

23 Give thanks for those who serve our communities during Christmas, including people in health care, elder care, law enforcement, the hospitality industry, emergency services and the military.

24 Christmas Eve Shout "Glory to God in the highest!" The good news of the birth of the promised Messiah and Savior for all creation and humankind has been made known to us and is the foundation of our faith and life.

25 Christmas Day Lift up shouts of thanksgiving and praise for all to hear! God lives among us in the birth of Jesus Christ and pours hope and joy into our lives to fill their voids and mend our brokenness.