

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH MOUSE
December 2021



Sunday, December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

Worship With Communion 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Worship 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship With Communion 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin

Sunday, December 26, 2021

First Sunday of Christmas

Worship 10:00 am

Pastor Ivy Gauvin



Pastor's Ponderings – by Pastor Ivy

Are there any of us who have not traveled by car with small children, whether they are our own or someone else's? What is the one thing you repeatedly hear from the back seat? "Are we there yet?" Children don't always have a good sense of time, do they? How about those of us who are adults? Are we much better? We become impatient in traffic, with family members and with God.

Why doesn't God answer my prayers? However, God always answers prayer with, "Yes, no or not now." We cannot see all the ins and outs of what is happening in our world to know how God answers our prayers. Sometimes it is obvious, as is the case with my daughter's management of her narcolepsy, but the three years of experimentation until they found the most effective medicine was long and hard for her and all the family.

In the church year, Advent is a time of waiting. Our waiting is two-fold. We await the arrival of the Christ child, born in Bethlehem. We also await our glorious Lord's return in judgment and as the reigning Lord of Lords and King of Kings. But the waiting isn't easy. Throughout the generations since Jesus' ascension to heaven, people have tried to figure out when Jesus would return and have set dates for it. When that date came and passed, they set another date or claimed that Jesus came in secret and we didn't see it. Never mind Revelation 1:7 says, "Look! He is coming with the clouds; **every eye** will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen."

Doesn't the excitement of children sometimes spill over onto us? The lights, the carols, the tree! Last year, I was just getting home from the hospital the week of Christmas. Our granddaughter, Grace, was particularly concerned about how bleak the house would look, so she and my daughter decorated for Christmas. I came home to beautiful lights and decorations! I felt a bit like a kid.

Can we be in such awe of all that God has done for us in Christ: in his birth, ministry on earth and his death and resurrection? Can we just stop for a minute, push aside the busyness we impose upon ourselves and spend a few minutes thinking about "What Wondrous Love is This?" I particularly like the second verse:

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

From God's perspective, Jesus' birth, death, resurrection and ascension are all one event. It is all the life and mission of Jesus, the Christ, who saves us from sin, death and the power of the devil. I'm saying all that to help us understand why we have all this second-coming emphasis on the first Sunday of Advent.

Can you feel the excitement rising inside you? God has done so much for us and loves each of us so much. God loves you and I love you too.

In Christ's abundant love,
Pastor Ivy

St. Timothy Church Council

President- Kristie Bloomquist

Vice President - Marty Hunt

Secretary - Marcy Saar

Kathy Carlson Tammy Haas

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.



3 Thomas (TJ) Bihler

5 Lyn Harris

5 Karen Johnson

6 Bob Pecuch

12 Gertrude Fetzer

16 Katie Castro

18 Avis West

22 Stephanie Shagla

25 Ray Gauvin

26 Carolyn Wickerham

28 Mark Wickerham

30 Jamie Carlson

30 Linnea Goebel

Online and Smartphone Giving via Give+ App

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.





5 Loaves & 2 Fish Backpack Ministry Gearing up for 21/22 School Year

It's time to start thinking about donating your time and/or items of food to the 5&2 Ministry at St. Timothy serving Bemus Point and Chautauqua students. We will resume packing on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and would love to have you respond to Gale Svenson-Campbell if you are able to help. Gales1949@gmail.com

We are also in need of **Slim Jim's and 1.5 oz bags of pretzels.** (Anything too much larger won't fit in the bag.)

As always, we're excited to start up for another school year.

Fighting childhood hunger in our community one child at a time.



Barb Simpson, Pastor Ivy Gauvin, Gene Heil, Roy Pihl, George Balcom, Beverly Klang, Trudy Fetzner, Thom Shagla, Dave Bentley, Joe Gauvin, Tom DiMatteo, Emerson Allaby, Karen Brown, Tom West, John Alm, Eileen Beichner, and those serving in the military and law enforcement and their families, including Ben Wickerham, those caught up in violence and war who have no safe home in which to live. For all children, that the love of Christ may reach them through all of us who have resources to love, protect, pray and provide for them.

Council Highlights

November Council Highlights

- **Pastor Ivy is continuing to work 15 hours a week.**
- **Healthy Bones will start new session on November 29.**
Contact Kristie for further information.
- **5 & 2 Ministry – Packing on December 14. Donations are always welcome.**
- **Advent Adult Bible study will begin on Sunday, November 28th and continue through December 19th.**
- **Christmas Eve service will be at 4:30 pm.**
- **Annual Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 16th and Jan. 23rd**

Monthly Readings

December 5, Second Sunday of Advent

Readings and Psalm

[Malachi 3:1-4](#)

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

[Luke 1:68-79](#)

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (*Lk. 1:78*)

[Philippians 1:3-11](#)

A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ

[Luke 3:1-6](#)

Prepare the way of the Lord

December 12, Third Sunday of Advent

Readings and Psalm

[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst

[Isaiah 12:2-6](#)

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (*Is. 12:6*)

[Philippians 4:4-7](#)

Rejoice, the Lord is near

[Luke 3:7-18](#)

One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire

December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings and Psalm

[Micah 5:2-5a](#)

From Bethlehem comes a ruler

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

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

[Hebrews 10:5-10](#)

I have come to do your will

[Luke 1:39-45 \[46-55\]](#)

Blessed are you among women / My soul magnifies the Lord

December 26, First Sunday of Christmas

Readings and Psalm

[1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26](#)

The boy Samuel grew in favor with the LORD and the people

[Psalm 148](#)

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

[Colossians 3:12-17](#)

Clothe yourselves in love; let the peace of Christ rule your hearts

[Luke 2:41-52](#)

The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor

Global Mission

By Marcia Brown, Mission Interpreter

PLANNING A CRUISE THIS WINTER??

Perhaps you won't want to try and beat the record for the longest time at sea set by the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, an aircraft carrier of the US Navy. Chaplain A. J. Striffler began his command aboard the "Ike" in December, 2018, and 2019 was spent preparing the ship for deployment. Sea trials began in March 2019, and in early 2020, it set sail for the Middle East. Already on edge because of tensions around the world, the crew soon learned of the growing pandemic. From then until the ship returned to Norfolk, in August, they did not step on dry land, or even dock at any ports, to prevent the virus from coming onboard. 206 consecutive days at sea, the longest of any naval vessel.

So, how does a chaplain spend long days at sea? "I lived into a ministry of presence that everyone seemed to connect with." No matter what the crews' religious background, their race, ethnicity, language, sexuality, or rank, they all found a friend ready to listen. He also supervised, and wrote a liturgy for, burials at sea, which some veterans request, committing more than 100 as a final tribute. Most of the time, though, was just spent talking with any of the 4800 sailors and airmen who were often frustrated or scared. They found a safe place to share all their fears and anxieties. Of course, they also do anything any other pastor does, holding worship services, administering the sacraments, counseling, teaching...

ELCA chaplains serve all over the world, on land, at sea, in hospitals, in prisons. Your congregation's mission support makes this ministry possible. **Thank you!**



Ways to Help this Month:

- ▣ 5 & 2 donations. Lists of food items and sizes available on the church website.
- ▣ Bemus Point Food Pantry. Items needed are cereal, spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, soups, canned fruit, applesauce, toilet paper, dish soap, shampoo and toothpaste. **Monetary donations are always welcome.** Contact Marty Hunt 720-0460 for donations and questions.
- ▣ Can tab collection: The Synod Assembly planning team has decided to DISCONTINUE with the collection of aluminum can tabs for THIS year.
- ▣ Honduras Promise Children Project needs new sponsors
- ▣ **Mailing in your weekly or monthly offering would be greatly appreciated for December if you haven't already done so.**

TIMOTHY TIDBITS

Hello from St. Timothy! With Fall in full swing, area school outdoor sports are coming to an end. So this month, we'll take a look at all the accomplishments from our St. Timothy kids. It is with great pride that **Pastor Ivy** announced that her granddaughter, **Grace Alessi**, won her Section V sectional volleyball championship for the class A Schools and will be going to states. Good luck Grace! **Gale Svenson-Campbell's** nephew, **Lukas Svenson**, running with Southwestern Cross Country Team, won their Class C Sectionals and competed in the State Finals to finish 2nd!! **Tyler Anderson**, son of **Don and Melanie**, and the Maple Grove Cross Country Team won their Section D sectionals and were in the state finals in Binghamton on Nov. 13. And certainly not to be outdone, congratulations to **Alex Daniels**, daughter of **Debi and Torrey**, for a team 1st place Central Division in Soccer! What a great group of students of our friends and family at St. Timothy! Remember to help keep us up to date with all your family news!

Thank you all for your prayers! God is good. We are able to remove my daughter, Sarah Van Staalduin, from the prayer list. After about 3 years, they have finally hit upon the medicine to help her narcolepsy. She reports that she is awake and alert during the day, doesn't feel like she has a buzz and can sleep at night. This means so much to us all. Thank you, faithful prayers! Pastor Ivy



HEALTHY BONES

St. Timothy Fellowship Hall

Starts new session

Nov. 29th – Feb 2nd

9:00 – 10:15 Monday and Wednesday mornings (you can do 1 or both each week)

Instructor – Cherrie Clark

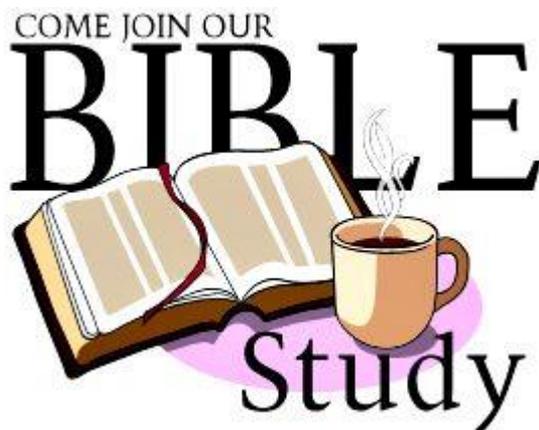
Cost: \$25/session

Next session will be Feb. 7th – April 13th

If interested, contact Cherrie at (716) 499-3116



It's hard to believe, but Advent begins this year on Sun., Nov. 28. After church and fellowship, we will begin a Bible study that will take us through the four weeks of Advent that help us to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Join us!





Secretary Position Opening at St. Timothy
Beginning January 2022 with training in December

\$13.20/Hr.
10-12 Hrs/wk

Must have good computer skills and interpersonal skills.
Familiarity with church services and workings within a
church is an asset. Working schedule flexible.

Duties include office management, weekly/monthly bulletins
and newsletters, filing, ordering supplies and maintaining
worship schedules and building usage.

Must be vaccinated.

If interested, contact Council President Kristie Bloomquist at
716-485-3931 or kkbarn2@gmail.com

**DECEMBER 2021
 WORSHIP AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
 AT ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

	DECEMBER 5	DECEMBER 12	DECEMBER 19	DECEMBER 26	
Assistant Liturgist	Sarah Goebel	Kristie Bloomquist	Sarah Goebel		
Ushers/Greeters	Ginny Sloan Linda Milks	Marty Hunt Linda Milks	Marty Hunt/ Linda Milks	Marty Hunt/ Linda Milks	

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 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					TJ Bihler	
5 10:00 am Worship w/Communion Bible Study 11:00 Karen Johnson Lyn Harris	6 Healthy Bones 9:00 am Bob Pecuch	7	8 Healthy Bones 9:00 am	9	10 Ellery Sr Citizens 11:30-1:30	11
12 10:00 am Worship Bible Study 11:00 Gertrude Fetzner	13 Healthy Bones 9:00 am	14 5 & 2 Packing 7:00 pm	15 Healthy Bones 9:00 am Finance Meeting Time TBD	16 Katie Castro	17	18 Church Council 10:00 am Avis West
19 10:00 am Worship w/Communion Bible Study 11:00	20 Healthy Bones 9:00 am	21	22 Healthy Bones 9:00 am Stephanie Shagla	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm	25  Ray Gauvin
26 10:00 am Worship Carolyn Wickerham	27 Healthy Bones 9:00 am	28 Mark Wickerham	29 Healthy Bones 9:00 am	30 Linnea Goebel Jamie Carlson	31 	

25 Christmas Day Sing and shout prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God for living among us in the person of Jesus to help us experience and understand the good news of God's saving grace, truth and amazing love for humankind and all creation. Again, we say, "Glory to God in the highest!"

26 Pray that our life together in the church and as siblings in Christ will help us mature in faith, understand God's word and ways, face the challenges of daily life, serve our neighbor and be confident in inviting others to believe and have faith in Jesus.

27 Kwanzaa begins this week. Give thanks to God for the richness and significance of the traditions, cultures, values, stories, faith and leadership of our siblings of African descent.

28 Let us join earth and the heavens in praising God, from whom all things are brought into being and imbued with life and purpose.

29 Pray that our lives will shine brightly with the love and mercy God has shown us, so that we are clear witnesses to the gospel and bold and unconstrained in serving our neighbors in need who yearn for hope, relief and good news.

30 In a world where anger, vengeance, division, impatience and self-interest are all too familiar, pray that we embrace together the freedom, new self and purpose that we have received in baptism, so that we, too, will take to heart the words of encouragement Paul wrote to the Christians in Colossae: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love" (Colossians 3:12-14).

31 New Year's Eve Give thanks that we are new creations in Jesus Christ and that we can begin each day of every year with hope, renewed faith and restored vision for the work that God calls us to do in the world.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

DECEMBER 2021

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 Join in prayer with our siblings around the world to remember all in our communities who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS. Pledge to God that we will work together to raise awareness and recommit ourselves and the church to a faithful and dedicated response.

2 Give thanks for Advent wreaths and other faith traditions that remember and celebrate God's dwelling among us in Jesus, God's gift of eternal life, and Jesus' enduring presence and light in the world and within us.

3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities Pray that we will grow stronger and more aware in our church's commitment to seek full inclusion and equitable participation of all people within the life of society and the church, embracing the whole person – abilities, questions, life experiences, complexities and all.

4 "Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation" (Psalm 25:5). Pray that God will be patient with us as we strive to be faithful followers and students of Christ; ask the Spirit to stir our hunger for understanding the word of God and reveal its implications for our daily lives.

5 Pray that we will be eager to share the gospel and will welcome the Spirit to use our gifts, abilities, insights and life experiences to prepare the way for others to believe in Christ.

6 Give thanks for the opportunities provided by the new ELCA Good Gifts catalog to respond generously to the unique needs and priorities of congregations, companion churches and partners – close to home and around the world.

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, ext. 2458.

7 Pray for congregations in your community and for ELCA congregations and ministries across the country, that we will thrive in our witness and service and will encourage one another in doing God's work in the world.

8 Pray for our global companions and our companion synods as we journey together during Advent, drawing on our diverse traditions and practices to focus on the coming of Jesus, the gift of salvation and our unity in the body of Christ.

9 Praise God for looking upon us with mercy and love, for liberating us from the consequences of human weakness and sin, and for restoring our relationship as children of God.

10 Reflect on your hopes and what you anticipate as a child of God; express them to God and thank God for accompanying us in times of waiting and anticipation and for remaining faithful to the promises God has made to us.

11 Give thanks for how our siblings in Christ observe and celebrate Advent, Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ in diverse cultures. Pray that these rich and meaningful traditions, practices and perspectives will deepen our understanding and appreciation of the gift and good news of Jesus Christ – God's sacrificial expression of love and mercy.

12 Pray that, through the work of the Spirit in us, every aspect of our life will manifest the good fruits of love, generosity, justice, peace, service and faithfulness to the word of God.

13 Pray for congregations and youth ministry leaders who are making decisions about participating in the ELCA Youth Gathering and for those who have decided to attend and are beginning to prepare for their faith-building experience.

14 Remember in prayer seafarers and fishermen of all nations whose work separates them from family, friends and community for long periods of time. Pray that they will be uplifted and sustained by the assurance that they are remembered, valued, loved and always connected with their siblings in Christ, everywhere.

15 Pray that we will be filled with "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) and that our most burdensome worries, concerns and anxieties will be calmed and diminished.

16 Las Posadas ("The Inns"), a tradition observed in Latin America and in some congregations in our country, remembers and reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter just before the birth of Jesus. Give thanks for his birth and remember in prayer refugees, immigrants and people everywhere who are homeless and seek shelter, rest, sanctuary and hope.

17 Living in the promise and reality of the new covenant God has made with us in Jesus Christ, remember in prayer the words of Isaiah: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:1-2).

18 *International Migrants Day* Pray for our siblings who are refugees and immigrants around the world, in our country and at our borders. Ask the Spirit to fill us with generosity and renew our commitment to justice, compassion and empathy, recognizing both our unique needs and our common desire for safety and security, the best for our children and families, meaningful and life-sustaining employment, caring communities, opportunities to use our gifts and skills, and mutual acceptance and respect as children of God.

19 Rejoice in God our Savior, who shows us love and mercy and attends to the needs of people who are poor, hungry, ill, neglected or excluded by society. Pray that God will work through us, using our unique gifts and passions to respond to, serve and embrace our neighbors in need while respecting their dignity.

20 *Katharina von Bora Luther (1499-1552)* Remember and give thanks for the witness, leadership and service of women who help strengthen our faith, share the gospel, grow and provide leadership for the church, deepen our understanding of Scripture, and serve neighbors in need around the world.

21 *Winter solstice* As the days get shorter in our hemisphere, pray for people of all ages who suffer depression and loneliness, especially during the holiday season; pray that they will be comforted and uplifted by their faith and the knowledge that God is ever-present and sees our suffering, loneliness and despair; and ask the Spirit to help us be attentive, caring and empathetic friends and siblings in Christ for one another.

22 Pray that God will hear and attend to our every prayer – spoken or silent, individual or communal – and that God will restore us, strengthen our faith, guide our lives and help us respond to perplexing problems in our communities and the world.

23 Let our prayers echo Mary's song of praise for God's power, presence and life-giving activity in the world, and for looking upon humanity with undeserved love and mercy and blessing us with the promised messiah, Jesus Christ.

24 *Christmas Eve* What an awesome gift has been given to us in the birth of a tiny, unassuming baby – the son of God, our true Savior and the redeemer of the world. "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14)!