

**ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH MOUSE 2026**



Sunday, January 4, 2026

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am

Second Sunday of Christmas

Pr. Adam Rohler

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am

Baptism of Our Lord

Katie Castro

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am

Pastor Timothy Miller

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Worship in Church or Drive In 10:00 am

Pr. Julie Challingsworth



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



GOOD NEWS FROM PASTOR



It's January! Winter has just begun. Happy New Year!

There parties for the new year. People stay up late and watch a big ball drop. Ah, and there is a day off from work for many people!

There is talk about New Year's Resolutions—our goals of what we want to do for the New Year. It's not that on December 31 we had no goals, and the next day we do have new goals. Every day we think of how we want things to be better.

For the new year, we are given a gift from God. That gift is given to us with the words, "In peace" With those words, God gives us his peace. Peace flows from God, that peace surrounds us, that peace fills our hearts and comforts our consciences, and lets us rest in that peace.

As we are gathered into church, we bring with us our feelings about what has happened to us in the past week, and we bring what has happened in the world. Some things may cheer us, but usually for a moment. Some things may trouble us, and it is not as easy to get rid of those feelings. And our conscience may worry a little about God's opinion of how we acted during the week. There we are, in church, and we are then invited to pray to God. And the invitation to pray begins with God's gift of peace. We hear the words, "In peace, let us pray to the Lord."

That is when it happens. Jesus gives us his peace. His peace is offered to us by the words, "In peace,...." It's like Jesus saying, "Here, here is my peace. Here I give you my forgiveness because I died and rose for you. Here, I give you relief from worry, freedom from judgment, release from feeling troubled. For this time, my peace is all around you and in you. It soaks into your heart and into your mind. My peace is my gift to you. Now tell me, how may I be merciful and gracious to you?"

That is how Jesus starts our new year. "Here it is. Here is peace for you. Whatever you need to do, you have my peace to do it in."

Those words of peace are sudden, as if coming as a surprise, like someone dropping a large, wrapped Christmas present right in front of us at our feet. Plunk, here, this is for you. And it is ours. We get to hold it, trust it, and rest in it. We did nothing to make that peace. We need to do nothing to gain that peace. It's just given to us, "Here, you are in my peace."

And we then ask God for things we so really long for. We want mercy and eternal life. Keep us safe as we die. "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord."

We pray for things we hold most dear, for the things that strengthen us, for the things that would make life so much better. "For the peace of the whole world....," and for a moment of silence, we send Jesus' peace to all the world and to all our parts in that world—family, a loved one, a neighbor. Plunk, we place peace right into their hearts. "...for the well-being of the church of Christ....," and for a moment of silence, we put Jesus' peace all around the people we are with in church. We earnestly pray for God's good things to be with and keep them safe and well. We pray that our congregation care for each other, that we keep working together so our congregation can keep going and telling us that Jesus has died and risen to make us good to God. Just keep us going, dear Father in heaven. This place is such a blessing to us. "...and for the unity of all,...." For a moment of silence, we pray that people work together to care for each other, to help each other, instead of bickering, blaming, blustering, or being bombastic to those we disagree with. We pray that simple things like caring for the sick, making sure all have enough to eat, are things we all agree to do. Please. "Let us pray to the Lord."

"In peace" is Jesus' gift for you to start the year.

Happy New Year!

Peace,

Pastor Hoyer



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday February 1st, following worship. Lunch will be provided.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS. Committee Head Reports due into the office by January 22, 2026.



Prayer Requests: Family and Friends of Roy Pihl and Bryan Dahlberg, Marty Hunt, Ann Saar, Judy Kelly, Kay Marker Magneson, George Balcom, Thom Shagla, Margie Fuchs, Brenda Wagner, Ellé Terreberry, Dawn Arnet, Mark Kiendl, Tyler LaChapelle, Heather Miller, Lois Rumpfelt, Nick Johnson, James Dieter, and those serving in the military and law enforcement and their families, including Sean Pecuch, Ben Wickerham, Paul Hebert, and Nicholas Hebert.

St. Timothy Church Council

President– Kristie Bloomquist

Vice President – Bob Pecuch

Secretary – Tammy Haas

Kathy Carlson Linda Milks

Pastor Timothy Hoyer Donna Ciancio

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.

December 2025 – Council Highlights

- Work is continuing at the parsonage with the hope of renting it while we search for a pastor.
- Transition Team will share their findings at our Congregational meeting.
- Altar flowers have gone up in price – now \$25.
- **The Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday February 1st, following worship. Lunch will be provided. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.**
- Kristie Bloomquist and Linda Milks are going off Council after serving 6 years.
- Anne Pemberton has officially transferred her membership to St. Timothy.
- Pastor Hoyer’s office hours are on Thursdays. Now from 1:00–3:00 pm. He is also doing visitations. Please call Pastor Hoyer if you would to meet with him. His phone number is (716) 490-5731.
- Next Council meeting is scheduled for January 11th after worship.

MONTHLY READINGS

January 4, 2026 Second Sunday of Advent

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

From David's line, a ruler bringing justice and peace

[Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19](#)

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

[Romans 15:4-13](#)

Live in harmony, welcoming one another

[Matthew 3:1-12](#)

A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord

January 11, 2026 Third Sunday of Advent

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#)

The desert blooms as God's people return from exile

[Psalm 146:5-10](#)

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

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

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:47)

[James 5:7-10](#)

Patience until the coming of the Lord

[Matthew 11:2-11](#)

The forerunner of Christ

January 18, 2026 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 7:10-16](#)

The sign of Immanuel

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

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

[Romans 1:1-7](#)

Paul's greeting to the church at Rome

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

A God near at hand

January 25, 2026 First Sunday of Christmas

Readings and Psalm

[Isaiah 63:7-9](#)

Israel saved by God's own presence

[Psalm 148](#)

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

[Hebrews 2:10-18](#)

Christ shares flesh and blood to free humankind

[Matthew 2:13-23](#)

The slaughter of innocent children



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 Teresa Fish

13 Martha Hill

11 Sarah Goebel

20 Steven Goebel

12 Thomas Bihler

24 Andrew Sloan

We welcome into membership Anne Pemberton. Anne has transferred from Shepherd of the Hills in Clermont, Florida and is now living in Bemus Point. Welcome to the St. Timothy Family, Anne.



Caring and sharing will meet at 3 pm on Wed. Jan14th ("snow date" Jan. 21st)

TRANSITION TEAM

Transition team is meeting on Sunday, Jan 11th, after church!
Thank you for all the help and valuable input you have shared.

JANUARY 2026
WORSHIP AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
AT ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

	JANUARY 4	JANUARY 11	JANUARY 18	JANUARY 25	
Supply Pastor	Pr. Adam Rohler	Katie Castro	Pr. Timothy Miller	Julie Challingsworth	
Assistant Liturgist	Tammy Haas	Kristie Bloomquist	TBA	TBA	
Ushers/Greeters	Linda Milks Ginnie Sloan	Ginnie Sloan Linda Milks	Linda Milks Ginnie Sloan	Ginnie Sloan 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 JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3
4 10:00 am Worship	5 Healthy Bones 9am	6  Epiphany	7 Healthy Bones 9am Teresa Fish	8 Choir 5pm	9	10
11 10:00 am Worship Church Council Transition Team Meeting following worship Sarah Goebel	12 Healthy Bones 9am Thomas Bihler	13 Martha Hill	14 Healthy Bones 9am Caring & Sharing 3pm	15 Tai Chi 9:30am & 12pm Choir 5pm	16 Tai Chi 10am	17
18 10:00 am Worship	19 Healthy Bones 9am 	20 5 & 2 Packing 7pm Steven Goebel	21 Caring and Sharing (Snow Date)	22 Tai Chi 9:30am & 12pm Choir 5pm	23 Tai Chi 10:00am	24 Andrew Sloan
25 10:00 am Worship	26 Healthy Bones 9am	27	28 Healthy Bones 9am	29 Tai Chi 9:30am & 12pm Choir 5pm	30 Tai Chi 10:00am	31



27 We are a church that believes we accomplish more when we work together and collectively employ our diverse gifts for doing God's work in the world. Ask God to help us bridge and mend divisions in our faith communities and society that get in the way of valuing one another and working together for the benefit of all, especially our neighbors in need.

28 Praise God for theologians and teachers who help us study Scripture, develop a deeper understanding of God's activity in the world, contribute to the maturing of our faith and explore how we live our faith in daily life.

29 Pray for the ELCA Horizon International Internship program, which provides seminary students with intensive experiences here and with companion churches around the world, with the purpose of enriching their talents and leadership skills for ministry and the mission of the ELCA.

30 Give thanks for stewardship and generosity resources and the assistance provided to congregations through the ELCA Mission Interpreters, Stewardship Key Leaders, stewardship coaching and Ventures Steward Leaders networks.

31 Pray that we trust God's enduring love, mercy and patience to renew and encourage us when we fall short of our promises, goals and good intentions.

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 *New Year's Day* What are your hopes, resolutions and visions for this year? Share them with God and ask for help in bringing them to fruition.

2 Much of the world yearns for peace, unity and the healing of rifts that lead to violence, injustice, suffering and deep-rooted prejudice. Ask God for guidance and strength so we — individually and as communities of faith — can be persistent bearers of hope, grace, compassion and reconciliation in the world.

3 Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry reminds us: “Our rootedness in Christ sustains us with his love. His love connects us to one another. We must stay connected to face the challenges of this moment.” Give thanks to God for the infectious nature of caring relationships and communities of faith grounded in the gospel and for the example of Jesus Christ's life and teachings.

4 Thank God for the opportunities we have through ELCA Global Mission to use our gifts, skills and life experiences to do God's work. Pray that the Spirit will inspire and embolden siblings in Christ who are discerning their response to God's invitation to serve alongside our companion churches and related organizations around the world.

5 Pray that our lives bear witness to the life, light and grace that Jesus Christ, the son of God, brought into the world for all people.

6 *Epiphany of Our Lord* Give thanks and praise to God for revealing to us daily God's majesty and the new life we receive in Jesus Christ!

7 Pray that we increase Mission Support — the portion of offerings that congregations share with synods and the churchwide organization that enables new ministries, supports development of new leaders, nurtures partnerships around the world, and strengthens our church's efforts to alleviate poverty and work for justice and peace, here and around the world.

8 Pray for the Spirit to continue to shed light on the mystery of our salvation and strengthen our faith in God's promise of redemption fulfilled in Christ, a promise made to us with full awareness of our human quirks, flaws, questions and complexities.

9 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner since 2009. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these challenging times for the church and society.

10 Pray for churchwide staff and volunteers from across the country who are planning the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Ask God to guide their preparations and stir their faith, creativity, wisdom and vision.

11 The presence of Jesus Christ among us — God's love expressed in human form — makes the unimagined real. Praise God for the amazing gift of salvation and the freedom to live in this world as children of God who follow Christ!

12 Remember in prayer and give thanks for the ELCA's Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment program, which provides leadership, resources and advocacy for our church and society that is shaped by the unique voices and experiences of people across race, ethnicity, ability, class, sexuality and age.

13 "Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere" (*WOV* 754)! Give thanks for the Spirit who creates and nurtures unique gifts in each of us that help us serve our neighbors and share the good news of Jesus Christ far and wide.

14 Pray that we awaken each day with renewed wonder, awe and respect for the complexity and beauty of God's creation, from microscopic organisms and human beings to towering mountains and vast oceans.

15 Ask the Spirit to help us grow more resilient so that we can navigate change and situations that are stressful, discomfiting and overwhelming. Pray that our efforts to teach children and youth skills that lead to greater resiliency will be fruitful and effective.

16 *National Religious Freedom Day* Give thanks that our nation supports the freedom to embrace religion, to worship and to share our faith according to our personal beliefs. Pray that we will respect the religious beliefs of our neighbors and support their right to practice their faith openly, without constraints, persecution or unfair advantage.

17 "A life steeped in generosity pours out love unconsciously" (the Rev. Peter W. Marty, *Living Lutheran*, 2015). Pray that we exercise a generosity that is not defined by financial wealth but flows from us as a daily expression of faith, with a spirit of gratitude for God's abundant grace and the belief that our gifts contribute to God's work in the world.

18 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one

God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Pray with our siblings in Christ around the world that we will find strength and joy in knowing that we are of one body in Christ that is not confined or divided by individual institutions or leaders, religious traditions, cultures or denominations.

19 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day* Give praise and thanks to God for courageous saints of the past and present who help bring about change. Pray that we value one another as children of God and that we are bold and persistent in confronting racism, injustice and inequity.

20 Remember in prayer ELCA campus ministries and the Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (LuMin), inclusive faith communities on college and university campuses across the United States that nurture the faith of young adults through worship, study, fellowship and service. Give thanks for congregations that support and partner with campus ministries.

21 "I have not hidden your saving help within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness" (Psalm 40:10). How can we keep the good news to ourselves? Pray for enthusiasm and the courage to share the story of our salvation and faith — God's story — through our words and actions. Let us give thanks for how the Spirit equips us for such work.

22 Pray for nations at war that are on the verge of peace and for those for whom a vision of peace is not yet clear.

23 Pray for partnerships that help spread the gospel and provide love and care for our neighbors and siblings in Christ, including companion churches, full communion partners, the Lutheran World Federation, ecumenical and interfaith organizations, Lutheran Services in America's network, Global Refuge, the World Council of Churches and others.

24 Remember in prayer Lutheran outdoor ministry leaders who are recruiting young adults to serve in summer camp programs and are planting seeds of invitation in those who are unsure of how their faith, gifts and passions can be used to serve children, youth and adults of diverse abilities and backgrounds.

25 Pray that we respond with a resounding yes — or even an uncertain yes — as the first disciples did when Jesus beckoned, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."

26 *Conversion of Paul* Give thanks for God's unfathomable power to change and redeem anybody, including us. Pray for those whom we feel are lost, unreachable and even undeserving of our mercy, trusting that all things are possible for God and that God will change our hearts and nudge us to be a loving and inspiring presence in their lives.