



THE TIMOTHIAN

ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

June 2009

“Called, gathered, enlightened and made holy by God, we strive to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through worship, education, prayer, study, outreach and our Child Care Center, we share the love of Jesus Christ with all people.”

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Transition Pastor

Rev. Dean M. Hunneshagen
Home phone No. 662-6037
Cell phone No. 440-7739

Director of Music

Peter Gates

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

Sunday Worship

Holy Communion
8:00 am
9:30 am

St. Timothy Child Care Center

Phone 716-773-9249

Director

Lydia Shiposki

SURPRISE BIRTHDAY



PARTY!

for the Church on May 31!!!

Wear RED for both the 8:00 and 10:30 services.

There will be a reception between the 8:00 and 10:30 service as well as after the 10:30 service to welcome Pastor Hunneshagen.

Surprise Pastor Hunneshagen and show him what “Standing room only” looks like here at St. Timothy. Call your friends and let them know!

If you want to bring a birthday gift for the church a suggestion is a red geranium to plant around the church grounds.

See you on the 31st.

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2009
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
Grand Island, NY
Acts 4:5-12

“The Line in the Sand”
by
Pastor Dean M. Hunneshagen

In great epic movies, there comes a time in the drama when the hero leader draws a line in the sand and challenges his followers to make a decision. As for himself, he is going forward. As for the troops, the crew, the posse (whichever), each individual member must decide whether to cross the line and go with the leader or turn around and go home.

For you, I want to draw a similar line in the sand. The line in the sand I wish to draw is this. On the one side is “Jesus is **the one** by which to be saved;” on the other is “Jesus is **one of the ways** by which to be saved.” Which one is true? On which side of the line will you stand? You decide.

I believe this is the most important question facing the Christian church today. Certainly, it is the most important question facing the church in America. That includes the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Likewise, it is the most important question facing you the individual, including those of you who already consider yourselves “Christian.”

For both the church corporately and people individually, the defining struggle, the struggle with ultimate consequences, is over the question: **Is Jesus the one by which to be saved; or, is Jesus only one of the ways by which to be saved?**

You are apt to say: “Pastor, I learned of Jesus when I was young. I was baptized. I’ve gone to church most of my life. I have always considered myself a Christian.”

I would say back to you: “Yes, but the question is: Is Jesus the way to salvation? Is Jesus the one by which you can be saved? Does it matter, **ultimately**, whether you are ‘in Christ,’ (i.e. a Christian), or is it just as good to be a Muslim...a Hindu...a Buddhist...or, perhaps, a secular humanist or, simply, someone who is ‘spiritual.’? Might not all religions be equal paths to the same destination? What matters **ultimately**?”

Jesus said: “I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved.” (John 10:9)

Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.” (John 11:25)

Jesus said: “I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:5)

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said: “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:8-12)

You and I, and the whole world, are left with the question:

Is he **the one**? Or not?

Is Jesus that important? Or is he not?

Is he the one by whom we access heaven? Or not?

Is Jesus of Nazareth of ultimate importance? Or not?

or, a variation of this, Does Jesus of Nazareth have ultimate importance for me, but not necessarily for the other?

Bottom line: Is it true, “There is salvation in no one else” (Acts 4:12)? Or, is it not true?

How you answer that question affects everything you believe and do. It affects everything St. Timothy does or sets out to become in its Next Generation St. Timothy.

As for me, I say it is true. I believe Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. I believe those who believe in him, even though they die, will live. I believe Jesus is the gate. I believe in Jesus.

You may object. You may say: “That is all well and good for the person who has the chance to hear about Jesus, to come to know Jesus. But, what about the pygmy in deepest, darkest Africa? Or, what about my neighbor who grew up in a Muslim household and never had the chance to learn about Jesus? Is Jesus still **the one**?

My answer is:

He is still **the one**.

He is still the one because

- (a) I know no other way; nor have I been given any other way by which to be saved.
- (b) Furthermore, I have not been authorized to profess anyone else, or any other way.
- (c) What has been revealed to the world and what has been given to me is:
 - (1) There is a God.
 - (2) This God created all things.
 - (3) This God created everything to be complete, to be whole; not to be incomplete, broken, or dead eternally.
 - (4) People’s rebellion, fracturing of relationships, sin results in death, brokenness, incompleteness and less than what was intended to be.

- (5) God was and is not willing to settle for that. He did and will take steps to mend, to fix, to restore what is broken.
- (6) And, finally, while God may select any method He wants to accomplish this, God has acted in Jesus to heal the world. That is all I know. That is what I have been authorized to proclaim.

Jesus is the one!

In saying that, I realize that it is not for me to assign anyone to heaven or to hell. There is no license for me to be disrespectful of others or to appear intolerant. But, neither is it for me to be reticent in offering Jesus to the world. He is the name under heaven, given among mortals, by which we are saved.

For me, this is where I draw the line in the sand. I believe everything in the church rises or falls on the answer given to this question.

I challenge each of you, individually, and you, St. Timothy, to engage in a pursuit of your answer to this question. It is a deep topic that thinking people ponder often. It may be a topic that is controversial. It may be a topic that disturbs you. It is likely a topic which will require considerable time to process. I would invite you to engage me and others in a discussion of this matter in the months ahead. In fact, I would invite you to engage me in some dialog immediately following this service.

For right now, however, what say you? Is he, or is he not, **the one** through whom salvation is given?

I say he is!

[PRAYER]



Summer worship hours will begin on June 7th. Worship times are 8:00 am and 9:30 am.

Summer 2009 Worship Plans

Pastor Hunneshagen will be present to lead worship at 8:00 and 9:30 am throughout the summer with the exception of:

June 21, 9:30 am – Gospel Quartet

July 5, 8 & 9:30 am – Service of the Word with Art Morth speaking.

August 2, 8 & 9:30 – To be announced.

Summer 2009 Worship Plans

Unless noted, Pastor Dean Hunneshagen is presiding Minister

6/7, 8 & 9:30 am – Holy Communion

6/14, 8 & 9:30 am – Holy Communion with baptism (9:30).

6/21, 9:30 am only – Service of the Word
Gospel Quartet

6/28, 8 & 9:30 – Holy Communion

7/5, 8 & 9:30am – Service of the Word
Art Morth, speaker

7/12, 8 & 9:30am – Holy Communion

7/19, 8 & 9:30am – Holy Communion with Baptism (9:30).

7/26, 8 & 9:30am – Holy Communion

8/2, 8 & 9:30am – To be announced

8/9, 8 & 9:30am – Holy Communion

8/16, 8 & 9:30 am – Holy Communion

8/23, 8 & 9:30 am – Holy Communion

8/30, 8 & 9:30am – Holy Communion



Dylan Mark Serafine, son of Lisa and Mark Serafini will be baptized on June 14. Dylan was born on January 24. May God continue to love, bless and keep her always.

Gospel Quartet coming to St. Timothy

I am pleased to announce and confirm that the nationally renowned Skyline Boys Southern Gospel Quartet is coming to St Timothy's on June 21st at 9:30am. This group of four men will be providing the worship for us that day. The service will be filled with the Spirit and the Music to be lifted up to God. We will be having one service only that day. There will be a free will offering that will be collected. We are also planning a pot luck brunch. The quartet wants to have fellowship with the church after the worship service. If you are able to attend the brunch please sign up on the Sign up sheet in the Narthex so we can have a head count. If you are able to bring a dish to pass there is also a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your support and please spread the word to everyone. Invite your Family and Friends for this special day. ALL ARE WELCOME

- Thank you Peter

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU

The BBQ realized a profit of over \$800. (More sprucing up of the kitchen will be done in the near future.) A big thank you to everyone who helped sell tickets, baked, cleaned up, served, attended, or bought leftovers. We couldn't have done it without you.

The BBQ Committee

One Service Only!!!

June 21

9:30 AM

Gospel Quartet



Were you in church on Mother's Day? Mom's and Grandma's, did you get your carnation? Thank you to Peter Gates and the Jr./Sr. youth group. And, thank you to all of the Mom's and Grandma's who make every day special just for being you!

Have you seen the courtyard yet? Our Jr./Sr youth group have decided to paint, clean up, design and redecorate the courtyard using money that they have earned through your generous eBay and bottle/can donations. So far, they have scraped, painted and primed the office windows and they're ready to paint! As the weather cooperates, look for new and exciting updates to our courtyard!



Class of 2009
Congratulations to:

Lauren Fermoile
Taylor Kaufman
Joseph Khreis
Alex Neutz
Allison Walker
Jamie Zuch



A reminder to all women of St. Timothy that our annual picnic will be held on June 23rd, 6:00 pm. at Carolyn Doebert's home. Please sign up on the bulletin board and check off if you will be bringing a salad or dessert.

A peaceful setting, quiet reflection time, and the fellowship of other women all are available to you on Saturday, June 13th. That is the day Niagara Frontier Conference Women of the ELCA will hold their annual Day Apart at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora. Registration is at 9:00. The program for the day, "Be Still and Know That I Am", will be lead by Rev. Eric Olsen, Holy Trinity, Buffalo. He will guide us in learning the devotional bible reading method called *Lectio Divina* (Latin for "sacred reading"). The cost for the day is \$12.00 and includes lunch. Please make reservations by June 1st. Send your check, payable to Women of the ELCA, to: Nancy Neff
222 Willow Green Drive
Amherst, NY 14228

Tuesday, June 23rd, we will gather at the home of Carolyn Doebert for our Annual Picnic. Mark your calendar now and watch the bulletin for more information for an evening of fun, food and fellowship.

October 2, 3, & 4, 2009 Plan to attend all or part of the Upstate New York Synod Women of the ELCA Convention. The convention will be held at the Grand Island Holiday Inn. The convention theme "Come to the Waters", will focus on renewing your baptism.

Weekly Children's Church guidelines

Below is a list of guidelines for Children's church. Women from our congregation are making a celebrants robe, banner, and altar cloth.

Children's Church

The objective of Children's Church is to acknowledge and enhance the spiritual dimension in each child at the St. Timothy Child Care Center.

It will be our intent:

To create an experience which allows children corporately to relate to the love and wonder of God.

- To create a physical setting which awakens the sense of mystery and the presence of God.
- To create an event which acknowledges and affirms differences of religious beliefs and practices.
- To create an experience that includes familiar features which facilitate remembering, sharing and expressing.
- To create a participatory experience which utilizes all of the senses.
- To engage the children in preparation for each Children's Church so that they are a contributing factor.
- To endeavor to carry the weekly theme into the daily experiences of the children while at the Center.
- To conduct a weekly Children's Church



St. Timothy's Now Has A Lending Library located in the Narthex and waiting for you to enjoy!

It's simple... just: Make your selection, then, if it is a book, fill in the sign-out card located on the inside of the back cover and put the card in the white box. For all other items, find the sign-out card for your selection in the black file box (they're in alphabetical order by title), fill in the sign-out card, and put the card in the white box. That's all there is to it! You have your selection for one month, at which time, if it has not been returned, you will receive a reminder call to return or renew your item. All items return should be put into the brown box. (Please do not borrow any items from that box until they have been returned to the shelf.) We hope you will use this library often, and we will gladly accept any suitable donations to add to our title selections for your enjoyment! We are still in need of one bookshelf. Please contact Kathy Bates at (773-5327), or the office if you can help out with this request. Thanks!

