

TIMOTHY'S EPISTLE

December/January 2023/2024



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat., Dec. 2	9 am—2 pm—Christmas Craft Fair
Wed., Dec, 6, 13, 20,	11 am & 7 pm—Advent Services—Dinner at 6 pm
Sat., Dec. 9	2—5 pm—Gingerbread House Decorating
Sun. Dec. 10	Noon—Second Sunday Potluck Lunch
Sun. Dec. 17	9:45 am—Sunday School Christmas program
	3 & 5 pm—ECE Christmas programs
Sun. Dec. 24	11 am, 5 & 7:30 pm—Christmas Eve Service
Sat. Jan. 13 & 20	9 am—2 pm—New Member Class
Sun. Jan 14	Noon—2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday's	8:30, 11 am— SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday's	9:45 am—Adult Bible Classes /Sunday School
Tuesday's	6:15 pm—Handbells Practice
Wednesday's	10 am—Word on Wednesday Bible Study / Pastor
	5:30 pm—Confirmation Class
Friday's	12 Noon—4 pm—Card Playing

Timothy Lutheran Church
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www.tlcwoodstock.org

Church Office— 770 928-2812
Preschool— 770 924-7995
Timothy's Cupboard— 770 591-5515
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**Rev. Daniel
Brammeier**

Pastor's Corner

New Year's Resolutions?

As we begin a new church year in December, I'm reminded that people love to make "New Year's Resolutions" at the beginning of a new calendar year. While living in Florida I worked out at a local YMCA. I really enjoyed the stationary spin bike classes. But every year, like clockwork, at the start of January the YMCA parking lot was always full!! Why? People wanted to fulfill their New Year's resolution to get in shape. They were going to exercise and lose weight (although many people workout and then go to Starbucks and get a calorie laden latte and wonder why they're not losing weight).

Around mid-February the YMCA parking lot was back to normal, and many car parking spaces could be found. Why? Many had tried to keep up with their resolution, but for various reasons they couldn't keep up with them. Of course, there were those few who did keep their resolution and became "regulars" at the Y.

Why does this happen so often? People set good intentions to fulfill a "resolution," but end up not following through. Many times, when we make these New Year's Resolutions, we're setting ourselves up to fail. New Year's Resolutions are lofty goals that are really "laws" that we want to apply to ourselves. When we put ourselves under the law, we will all too often fail to keep that law, resolution, or intention. Laws can be kept when a penalty is involved for breaking them, but most wouldn't penalize themselves for missing a workout session, then another, and another.

You're probably thinking by now, get to the point Pastor? As we begin a new church year some might be inclined to make a "New Church Year Resolution." That resolution being to be in worship more often and be involved in Bible Study and church activities. That would be such a great goal and I wish you would all make that resolution and keep it!! But, as mentioned before, motivation by the law is often bound to fail.

Rather than concentrate on "resolutions" and "goals," as you read this stop and ask yourself this question, "What do I need?" Some might think of Abraham Maslow's atheistic/humanistic hierarchy of needs, but I'm being simpler than that. Humans will go to great lengths to satisfy their idea of what they need. Teenagers today would have temper tantrum meltdowns if their parents took away their cell phones. After all they really need their phones, and don't we all?

When we're hungry or thirsty our bodies let us know that we need to eat and drink. When we're sick, we need to go to the doctor. Unfortunately, all too often we don't recognize our need for the most important thing in this life that gives us eternal life: THE FOREGIVENESS OF OUR SINS. This is why I wrote to stop and think about what you need now. Do you need forgiveness of sins? If you're honest, you'll have to say yes.

The place where you get the certainty of forgiveness is in the Divine Service, through confession and absolution, the Word of God, the sacrament of Jesus' body and blood. The means of grace are just that; the way we receive the grace won for us by our savior Jesus Christ. All that Jesus did on the cross for us and his resurrection are given to us through his means of grace.

Rather than focus on how you can fulfill a "resolution" this church year, ask yourself about what you need. Do you need forgiveness? The good news is it's here for you because you need it.

Have a blessed Advent, Christmas season and a very Happy New Year.

Pastor B



**Kristin Freeman,
Preschool
Director**

**ECE Mission and
Ministry State-
ment**

At Timothy Lutheran Preschool, we believe that "children are a gift from God; they are His reward." (Psalm 127:3)

Timothy Lutheran Preschool is a ministry of Timothy Lutheran Church. Its mission is to serve children and families by sharing Jesus' love with them through an academically excellent Christian Education in a safe, loving environment.

Preschool News

Greetings,

We hope you and yours had a wonderful day of Thanksgiving and counting all the many blessings God has bestowed upon each of us. I am so grateful for the blessings of the 86 students who walk through our doors here at Timothy Lutheran Preschool and their families as they help us to be a program where "love grows here". We have been blessed with 38 years of ministry from Timothy Lutheran Church and there is not a day that goes by that I do not hear positive praise of our program from a mom, dad or grandparent in our program. Thank you to this congregation for planting this seed here in the Woodstock community.

We have a wonderfully busy month ahead of us at the Preschool as we sing praises of thanks and wonder at the birth of our Savior. The children will be performing in two Christmas programs (3 classrooms at each performance) this year under the direction of our music teacher, Ms. Barb White. We are looking forward to sharing the story of Jesus' birth with the families and friends of TLP and there really is nothing cuter than little ones dressed in costumes telling the most wonderful story of all.... Jesus' birth! We invite you to attend one our programs on Sunday, December 17th as the congregation is always welcome!

As we look into the New Year.... 2024 We also look into planning and registration for the next school year. Feel free to reach out to me in any way if you have questions about our preschool program and all the wonderful things we do here with the little ones each day. We would love to have your family or friends join our program. Registration will begin the week of January 21st as we celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. Church members may register on Sunday, January 21st and receive a tuition discount, current families on Monday, January 22nd and new families on Wednesday, January 24th. If you are interested in touring our program, please reach out to me and we can schedule a tour!

Now as we prepare our hearts and minds for the glorious month of December, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Grace and Peace,

Ms. Kristin



Preschool Happenings

December 4	ECE Board Meeting 3:30 p.m.
December 9	Gingerbread Activity with Church
December 17	School Christmas Program 3pm and 5pm
December 18-21	“Christmas Spirit Week”
December 21	Last day of School before Christmas Break
Dec. 22-Jan. 5	No School: Winter Break
January 8	ECE Classes Resume
January 15	No School: MLK, Jr. Day
January 21	NLS Sunday: Preschoolers sing at 11am
Jan. 21-27	National Lutheran Schools Week
January 21	Registration begins: Church members
January 22	Registration begins: Current Families
January 24	Registration begins: New Families

Staff Spotlight

Name: Laura Gill

Class: Kindergarten (K5) Assistant

Years at Timothy: 1st

Birthday: December 6

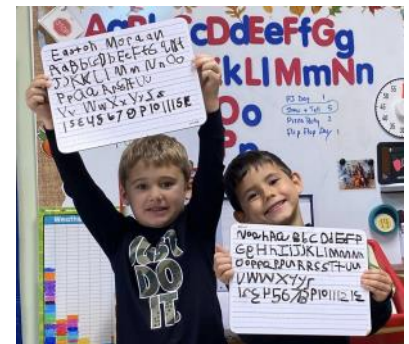
Where did you grow up: South Florida

Who lives in your House: Ricky and my son, Archer

Favorite Food: Alfredo/Lasgana

If you could have dinner with someone famous, who would it be: Jesus







Dear Timothy Lutheran Church,

We wish you all the blessings, grace and love that comes from our Father and thank you for allowing us the privilege to be a part of your church family. We hope to continue to be a blessing to this church and this community for many years to come. You planted the seed many years ago and we continue to watch love grow here every day.

Thank you!

Merry Christmas and Blessings to each of you in the New Year and always!



*With Love,
Your ECE Staff*

Christmas Carol Notes

The First Noel

This traditional English Christmas carol dates from the early dawn of the Renaissance. The word “Noel” means birth. The English borrowed the word from the French, who adapted it from Latin. “Noel” is always ticular birth - that of Jesus Christ. The one. When singing “Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel”, we proclaim:



dates from the fourteenth century – word “Noel” only appears at Christmas rowed the word from the French, who capitalized because it signifies one par-refrain of this old carol recognizes only

Birth, Birth, Birth, Birth,
The King of Israel has been born!

(Excerpt taken from The Stories Behind Your Favorite Carols by Daniel Partner, copyright 2000

By Barbour Publishing, Inc.)

Because singing out loud, no matter how badly, is still a fantastic addition to anyone’s wellness routine. (excerpt from August 8, 2023 newsletter by Dr. Steven Gundry)



Are you interested in learning more about the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod? Are you interested in joining our congregation? This class would also be a good refresher for current members. Pastor B will be holding new member classes on Saturday’s—January 13 and 20—9 am to 2 pm . Lunch and Babysitting will be provided. Please contact the church office at 770 928-2812 or admin.tlc@comcast.net to let us know you are interested.

New Year’s Resolution - Sing Out Loud

The best ways to quickly boost your health

Singing out loud releases your “feel good” hormones

Lowers your stress levels the same way yoga does

Supports your immunity to fend off sickness

Helps you get a good night’s sleep

Stimulates your vagus nerve which is the metronome that controls the rhythm between your brain and digestive system and is connected to your vocal cords



Lessons from the Wise Men

“Magi from the east came. . . On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” Matthew 2:1, 11)

We don’t often think of the Wise Men as stewards, but we can learn some valuable stewardship lessons from their actions. First they came. They didn’t stay in their homes, studying the ancient books and watching the stars and wondering. They followed the one star some distance in order to find the newborn King. Then they entered His house and bowed before Him. They were kings in their own right, yet they submitted to a Baby, because they acknowledged that Baby to be Who He was. They present to Him. By all these acts, they worshipped Him.

As stewards, we, too, are to seek the Lord where we can find Him. We are to enter His house where we find Him in Word and Sacrament. We are to submit to Him in reverence, acknowledging Him as King of kings. We are to come with gifts in our hands to offer Him.

Will our worship require sacrifice? Look at the sacrifice of the Magi. They left their luxurious surroundings and endured difficult travel for many days, weeks, maybe much longer. They sacrificed their own power as they knelt in worship before the Baby. They sacrificed their treasures. Does our sacrifice compare? (We haven’t even mentioned the sacrifice of our Savior Himself in coming to this sinful world!)

Search your Bible to find other examples of people sacrificially worshiping their Lord (Start with Matthew 26:6-13).

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, forgive me for considering my own comforts and convenience and neglecting proper worship of You. Give me joy in sacrificial stewardship. Return to me the joy of my salvation that results in grateful service through all the gifts You’ve given me. Through Christ I pray. Amen.



**The next Ladies Lunch Bunch will be held on January 28.
Watch the Timothy Take-for date and location!**



Timothy Lutheran is hosting its third annual gingerbread house decorating event! Come fellowship with us and decorate a premade gingerbread house. Please sign up for each participant that will be decorating a house so we have the correct amount of houses. Suggested ages are 2-12 or 65+. A sign up is required, please use the sign-up genius OR the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. A donation sign-up is also available on the bulletin board.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAAFAD2FA4F94-45667373-tlcannual> or you may click on the QR code below:





UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2 – cookie sale at Craft Marker

Thanks in advance to all who contributed, “minded the store” or bought some of the tasty treats.

From now until Christmas: collecting yarn for rug makers in Zambia



January 20 Art Lesson with Suzanne Forman

9:45 - - - Meet in church parking lot to carpool to Suzanne’s studio

Sign up on LWML bulletin board in Fellowship hall

Limit of 12 participants

January 28 Noisy Mites at both services

February 17 --- Zambia Mission Update with Elizabeth Ratliff

Open to entire congregation. Brunch will be served.

ADVENT CONVENIENCE DINNERS

Wednesday’s at 6 pm



Dec. 6- Chili & Hot Dogs

Dec. 13—Lasagna & Pasta

Dec. 20—Something Delicious (Surprise)

Invite a friend—Sign up on bulletin board



SOCIAL MINISTRY BOARD — December 2023 & JANUARY 2024

Serving Jesus by serving the least (based on Matthew 25:40)

Our purpose is to address the immediate, one-time hardships of people living in Cherokee County, specifically with essential, necessary expenses. We also work with similar organizations in Cherokee County or the larger community.

2023-2024 Assistance Recap:

As of 11/17/23 we have served the community as follows:

8 requests approved – utility bills; rent; other

5 declined

0 pending

0 referred out

13 incomplete/inadequate documentation received or no further response from applicant

26 total requests

Thank You

*to everyone who supported the Angel Tree this year –
the organizations are thrilled!*

We hope you had fun picking out things for the recipients.

The Joy Mission

*Natalie Sorrells gave this update
after receiving their Angel Tree items:*

This year Lassiter High school started a buddy program and have paired high school kids who've lost a parent with elementary kids who've lost a parent and they meet once a month and have lunch at school and do art projects and play games. So some of that will be so perfect.

For Christmas Joy we have 27 kids (we had 16 last year) across 11 families and 5 states. 3 of the families are families from victims of the Maine shooting last month. So we have plenty of needs. I worried but God provides! Thank you!!!

SOCIAL MINISTRY BOARD — December 2023 & JANUARY 2024

Here are some photos of items that were collected –
you were so very generous!



NLC Endowment Fund

Gifts to the Endowment Fund are tax deductible and can include cash, insurance, stock and bequests from wills, estates and trusts. No amount is too small or too large.

Donations are a wonderful way to remember and honor loved ones, celebrate special events, or thank God for his blessing to you.



Kids Joyful Praise

Resumes January 28 . Gather near the keyboard at 9:20 am before Sunday School.

YOUTH GROUP



Do you like solving puzzles, solving clues, working against the clock to escape or survive? If so you should join us for a Youth night Escape Room adventure, December 17th from 5 to 8pm (dinner included). Please RSVP to bri-anhowe57@gmail.com or text Brian at 701-340-5049 if you are interested in attending.

THE CHRISTIAN USE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE. 🎄

ITS POINT : As your tree points heavenward, let it remind you that Jesus came from heaven on the first Christmas to be your Savior so that you could go to heaven.

ITS LIGHT: Jesus, the light of the world, came as the Bible says to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He is your light!

ITS DECORATIONS : These should remind you of the beauty of everlasting life , God's gift to you.

IF YOU HAVE A STAR ON TOP: Let it remind you that the light of God's Word leads you to Jesus as the star led the wise men.

IF YOU HAVE AN ANGEL AT THE TOP: Let it remind you of the message of the Angel. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord"

AN "EVERGREEN TREE":Evergreen trees are always green. This should remind you of the fact that the gift of life Jesus came to give is everlasting.

A PLACE FOR GIFTS : Christmas gifts around the tree are proper if they remind both the giver and the receiver of God's great Christmas gift. The Bible says, "The gift of God is eternal life." and "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

YOUR TREE WILL DIE : Cut off from nourishment, the needles will soon begin to fall. Let this remind you that those whose faith is not regularly watered with the Word of God will eventually become spiritually dead.

Explain this to your family and children and add to their Christmas understanding and joy.



Trustees

We have several projects that are coming along very well.

First, the new utility building has been started and the contractor is close to getting the footings poured. We expect to have the foundation complete before Christmas. Photo is view from preschool sidewalk looking towards parking lot.



Second, we are converting our phones to an AT&T fiber optic VoIP system. The foodbank and the church phones will be connected thru the internet infrastructure so Linda will be able to direct a call to the foodbank without requiring the caller to hang up and redial the foodbank number. This means that all our 40-year-old wiring infrastructure will become obsolete and our recently installed internet infrastructure, a combination of fiber and CAT 6 cable will be the backbone of our communications system.

We also will be having a general workday outdoors around the church on December the 9th to rake leaves and do general maintenance. Please come and join us for the morning. We will start around 8:30am.





12/4 Genay Neuman
 12/5 Lauren Withhart
 12/6 Marilyn Smith
 12/7 Tad Furnish
 12/8 Suzanne Forman
 12/8 Erika Carden
 12/13 Kimberly Salber
 12/14 Wally Kelly
 12/16 Mike Young
 12/18 Claudia Tighe
 12/20 Camryn Hooks
 12/22 Deanna Lennon
 12/22 Kristen Blackwell
 12/23 Amy Brown
 12.24 Krista Mallon
 12/29 Vanessa Henning
 12/31 Steve Knothe
 12/31 Katie Pearson



1/5 Gerald & Joan
 1/11 Sam Black & Kristina Pins
 1/15 Jim & Lois Moody
 1/22 John & Maureen Dicks
 1/26 Dennis & Connie Williams



12/12 Nick & Genay Neuman
 12/18 Don & Brenda Standridge
 12/31 Jack & Linda Basler



1/1 Jeannie Frantz
 1/2 Dianna Woodson
 1/4 Lee Mehlhop
 1/6 Bob Ericksen
 1/6 Rosalie Atwood
 1/10 Jessica Niss
 1/10 Bob Trimble
 1/10 Chris Pearson
 1/10 Lucas Greenblat
 1/11 Kara Staton
 1/13 Jack Basler
 1/15 Jim Bulger
 1/17 Nancy McLain
 1/17 Grayson Smith
 1/19 Peter Samosky
 1/20 Ryan Ericksen
 1/20 Ron O'Donnell
 1/21 Kim Howe
 1/22 Thomas Jenkins
 1/23 Lillian Hopewell
 1/24 Doreen Erbe
 1/29 Isabela Black
 1/30 Charles Brammeier
 1/31 Elaine Parnow

Kid's Corner



LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



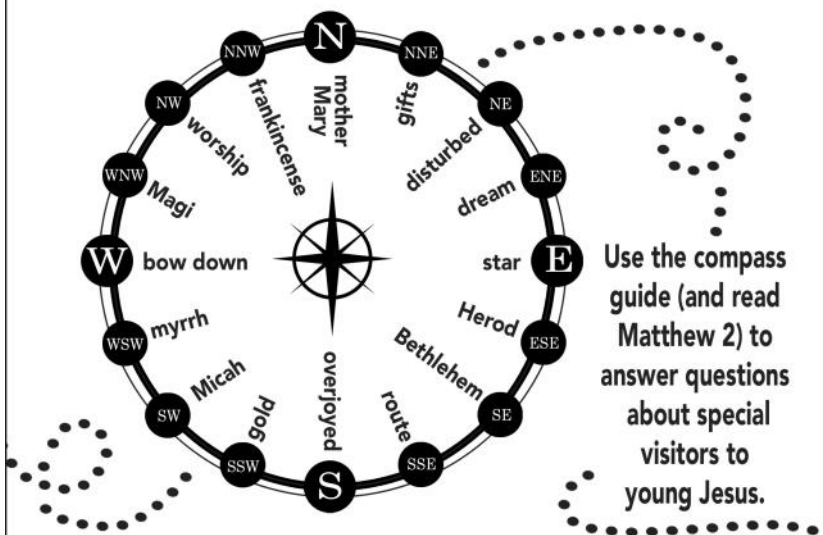
What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.



Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!

Puzzle!



1. Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus.
 _____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold; frankincense; myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route

December

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

3

Read
Psalm 25:8.

Recap what you learned during church.

10

Read
Psalm 86:4.

Spread holiday cheer by making a card for someone in your church family.

17

Read
Psalm 86:17.

What was something that comforted you from Sunday worship?

4

Read
Psalm 25:16.

Pray for shut-in members of your church.

11

Read
Psalm 86:5.

Memorize this verse.

18

Read
Psalm 28:1.

Pray for those struggling with their mental health.

5

Read
Psalm 25:17.

Set a timer for 15 minutes and pray about your worries.

12

Read
Psalm 86:6-7.

Discuss a time when God answered your prayer.

19

Read
Psalm 28:2.

Set a timer and pray for 15 minutes.

6

Read
Psalm 25:18.

Read the explanation for Confession in Luther's Small Catechism.

13

Read
Psalm 86:11.

Go on a prayer walk.

20

Read
Psalm 28:6.

Shout: God hears my prayers!

7

Read
Psalm 25:20-21.

Sing "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."

14

Read
Psalm 86:12-13.

Look up what Sheol is.

21

Read
Psalm 28:7.

Choose a song to sing His praise!

1

Read
Psalm 25:1.

Pick a hymn to sing.

8

Read
Psalm 86:2.

What does it look like to live a godly life?

15

Read
Psalm 86:15.

Pick a song to sing about God's faithfulness.

22

Read
Psalm 44:1.

Ask an adult about a time God worked in his or her life.

2

Read
Psalm 25:4-5.

Pick a story in the Bible that is confusing for you. Write down your questions about it.

9

Read
Psalm 86:3.

Ask an adult about a time he or she cried to the Lord.

16

Read
Psalm 86:16.

Find a biblical figure who prayed to God for strength.

23

Read
Psalm 44:8.

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving.

24

Read
Luke 1:43-45.
Pray for families welcoming a new baby.

25

Read
Luke 2:7.

Draw what you hear in this verse.

26

Read
Psalm 77:1.

Shout the Lord's Prayer.

27

Read
Psalm 77:5.

Talk about your favorite holiday tradition.

28

Read
Psalm 77:6-8.

Ask an adult if he or she has ever worried about these questions.

29

Read
Psalm 77:11-12.

What are God's promises?

30

Read
Psalm 77:13-14.

Sing "A Great and Mighty Wonder."