



St. Timothy Tidings

December, 2025



From the Pastor

Advent, the “little Lent” of the liturgical year, is the pregnant pause before God upends everything we thought we knew about who God is, what God is up to, and how we relate to this deity we worship. It’s the season when we take seriously the yearning we have for something to be *different*, when we wrestle with our longing for a world in which all have what they need and no one can even imagine what it means to be unloved. It’s the time when we embrace and cultivate hope as an act of resistance against a world that tells us that hope is foolish. And yet, here we are. Hoping. Waiting. Watching. Preparing.

We begin the church year with visions of calamity in Scripture, with words of warning and images of destruction. Our time together serves as a reminder of why we cling to a Savior. We know this life as we experience it has sin and brokenness in it that are not of God’s will. Advent tells us hard truths, and then shows us how God is working to heal, and reconcile, and save in the midst of it all.

John the Baptizer recalls us to repentance, to know the peace of joining in God’s mission of healing, reconciliation, and salvation instead of the conflict of working against God through hurt, conflict, and destruction. Mary sings her joyful song of God’s topsy-turvy reign in which the proud are cast from their thrones but the humble are exalted, a reign that is breaking in even as the child grows heavy in her womb. And then Joseph accepts that child as his own, and love takes that first breath and lets out that first cry, and we find the impossible swaddled among us, full of grace and truth.

As you take a breath this Advent season, as you pause and consider what this God-with-us means for you in this year, in this moment of your life, may your life bear the light of the Christ-child to a world that needs some divine hope, and peace, and joy, and love.

+ Pastor Amanda



From Our Music Director

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music.” - Martin Luther

“Overcoming Fear, Reading To Commit”

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (arr. The Piano Guys) - https://youtu.be/iO7ySn-Swwc?si=OKbhRyqj_Wz10xUX

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. [Refrain]*

*O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]*

*O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]*

*O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode. [Refrain]*

*O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light. [Refrain]*

*O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace. [Refrain]*

Life gives us countless opportunities to commit. We choose jobs, relationships, friendships, and dreams. And yet, those invitations to commit rarely come with instant reassurance. More often than not, they come with reasons to doubt.

We worry that we may not get the job we long for. We fear that the relationship we're investing in might not work out. We're concerned that the friendship we're nurturing may not blossom. We worry that the loved one we lift up in prayer may not heal.

Our doubt, more often than not, is born from fear. And fear convinces us that pulling back is safer than pressing forward—that resignation is wiser than hope. Or, we believe that we can create means of safety for ourselves, looking towards short term solutions to satisfy us, rather than waiting.

In Romans 8, Paul invites us to see commitment through a different lens. He reminds us that all of creation is “groaning”—all of us are waiting, longing, hoping for what we cannot yet see. And in the middle of that longing, God calls us not to shrink back, but to commit. To choose patience over impatience. Faith over fear. Hope over resignation. He calls us to choose Him. When we commit to God, we entrust our fears to the One who is greater than our doubts. We surrender our timelines to the One whose timing is perfect. This—Paul says—is the very heart of faith. *“In this hope we were saved.” Hope that may not be fulfilled today... but will be in God's time.*

The birth of Jesus—prophesied in Isaiah 7 centuries before it happened—stands as the ultimate reminder that God keeps His promises. Generations waited and hoped. There was so much room for doubt and fear to creep in. Yet the promise held, and Christ came.

Every year, we step into the same season of waiting, as we anticipate Christmas, and the arrival of Jesus. We remember the long arc of God's faithfulness, and then re-center our hearts around commitment—not the kind built on knowing the outcome, but the kind rooted in trusting the One who does.

Whenever we're afraid, may we choose to trust God with what we cannot yet see, commit to Him, and then commit to His path for us.

Alex Domeier, Directory of Music Ministry



Upcoming Events



Sunshine Girls Bible Study

The Sunshine Girls are taking a break during December, but will resume again in January! You are invited to join this group of fun and interesting ladies who meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month in the Community Room at 10:00am. Everyone is welcome!

Bluebirds Meet Monthly

The BLUEBIRDS meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. Everyone is invited to join us! Watch the bulletin for information on where we will be meeting each month!



FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK



MONTHLY POTLUCK

We have a Monthly Potluck in Founders Hall after the Sunday morning worship service! Please join with your fellow congregants after worship to enjoy fun, food and fellowship. Watch the bulletin for dates!



While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night service may provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

Come to our Longest Night Service on Sunday, December 21st at 1:30pm and be uplifted.



Upcoming Events



German Advent Service

After many years, we are pleased to once again offer a German Advent Worship Service on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 4:00 pm. The service will take place at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 650 E. Main Street, Hendersonville, TN. The worship bulletin will be in English and German, and all are welcome to attend. Invite a friend and enjoy the cross-cultural worship of God and God's service to us.



CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christ's birth! Join the St. Timothy Choir on **Sunday, December 14th, at 6:00 PM** for an evening of beautiful music and community. Following the performance, join us in Founders Hall for **festive treats and fellowship**.

All are welcome—bring your friends, family, and neighbors to share in the hope, peace, and joy of the Christmas season!



AUDIO ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

With our welcome return to the St. Timothy sanctuary, we want to update everyone on tools available to improve the worship experience for those with hearing loss. The sanctuary is equipped with a Telecoil system, which amplifies the sanctuary audio system via direct signals to hearing aids equipped to receive that sound. Check with your audiologist to see if you have this feature in your aids and how to access that feature. It may require that a program controlling the Telecoil signal be added to your aids. For many, this function may be operated via an app in your cell phone. Another option is a headset that also amplifies the sound via connection to the Telecoil. These headsets are available on request at worship; please see an usher if you'd like to use one. Questions? Email Eve Hutcherson, eve@evhutcherson.com.



**The Wise Guys are lining up
for one last pit stop
before starting their journey...**

If you are interested in following along with the adventure and shenanigans of our two Scout troops, they are both now on Facebook.

[Scouting America Troop 9 - Girls](#) and
[Troop 157 Hendersonville, TN!](#)



Don't forget to review St. Timothy Lutheran Church on Google!

It's a proven fact that organizations with five or more reviews get seen much more frequently on Google!

Use this link: <https://g.page/r/CWZC8v0DAfGREBM/review>



SATURDAY SERVICE HAS MOVED!

Our Saturday 4:00 pm service has moved to **Sundays at 1:30 pm**. This schedule change allows us to provide Pr. Amanda with two consecutive days off each week, so she can enjoy a 5-day workweek and have a "weekend" like most working folks.



Christmas Dinner Kits

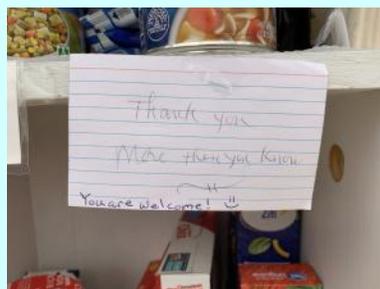
The Outreach Committee needs your help this Christmas. To ensure our neighbors in need have Christmas dinner, we will have Christmas Dinner Kits in our Blessing Box. Please build the kit at home, put the items in a plastic grocery bag, and place the bag in the Blessing Box bin in the Narthex.

Include 1 of each of the following items in the Christmas Dinner Kit:

- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Cranberry sauce in can
- Canned Green Beans
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Canned Ham

We will collect the kits through December 21st. Any questions, please contact Melissa House at melissahh91@gmail.com or 615-218-3904. Thanks for your generosity.

**Kate Thomas and Austin Mariott filled our Blessing Box after church this morning. Someone left a Thank You note in the box!
Thanks to all who are donating to help our community.**





December 2025 Meetings

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Notes
Wed Dec 3	Outreach	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact Melissa House for more information
Thurs Dec 4	Property	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Community Room	For more information contact Baker Kirkpatrick
Tue Dec 9	Learning	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Melissa Chowning.
Thurs Dec 18	Community Garden	6:00 - 7:00 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Ron Morgenstern
Thurs Dec 18	Executive Committee	6:00 - 6:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Ken Tsuchiyama
Thurs Dec 18	Congregational Council	6:30 -7:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Ken Tsuchiyama
Thurs Dec 18	Stewardship/ Finance	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact David Miley for more information
Mon Dec 22	Youth	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact Melissa Chowning for more information
Tue Dec 23	Worship & Music	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Library	Contact Alex Domeier for more information



All TN Youth Gathering

What a joy to be able to host the All TN Youth Gathering for our Synod again this year!

It was a busy, productive and spiritual weekend for youth from all over the area!

Here are a few pictures from the event, which was held on November 1-2, 2025.





Resources

Here are a few resources to help guide you as you continue your faith journey!

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

<https://elca.org/>

Southeastern Synod ELCA

<https://www.elca-ses.org/>

Reconciling Works

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>

Living Lutheran Magazine

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/>

ELCA Daily Bible Readings

<https://elca.org/Faith/DailyBible/>

Luther Seminary God Pause Daily Devotion

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>



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To make a donation on our website, click the QR code to the left or scan it with your phone. We give thanks for all those gifts that help us further the glory of God's kingdom in a world in need.



The Tidings, the newsletter of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to sttimtidings@gmail.com. Deadline for the January 2026 issue is December 27th. Please [contact the church office](#) with any questions.



A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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