



# St. Timothy Tidings

## February, 2026

### From the Pastor



### What are you doing this Lent?

Often we think of Lent as a time for us to engage in some “spiritual warfare,” usually against...chocolate. The habit in certain Christian circles is to think about what we might temporarily sacrifice to God, or how we want to engage in some self-improvement exercises, breaking a few bad habits along the way.

This Lenten season, I’d like you to consider something different. Instead of sacrificing to a God who desires “steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings,” I invite you to go back to the Ten Commandments (Hos 6:6). Back to basics, as it were. The two tablets of the commandments emphasize how we are to cultivate healthy, thriving relationships with God (Commandments 1 – 3) and with neighbor (Commandments 4 – 10). This Lent, we are offering two practices to help you engage in relationship-tending practices for both of God’s concerns.

Outreach has designed, and members of the congregation have written, a devotional book for the 40 days of Lent. This Journey through Lent includes personal reflections from the St. Tim community on their own faith journeys—things that have moved them forward, thoughts that have helped them slow down, and ways that they have grown in God. With a Scripture verse and a brief prayer, these booklets offer short meditations that you can take with you on your daily journey. For those that enjoy walking and praying, we’ve included a way to track your movement this Lent on your journey with Christ. I pray you will find this a meaningful resource as we accompany Christ to the cross.

Another opportunity for relationship is our Lenten Letters program! I am seeking people of all ages who are interested in a six-week “secret pen pal” activity. Participants will be assigned code names, matched with children, youth, or other adults in the congregation, and given the opportunity to write brief messages each week to their pen pal. Letters will be distributed weekly—check your church mailbox. The goal is to guess who your secret pen pal is by Easter Sunday. You can write about what you did that week, your likes and dislikes, the kinds of things you do around church and in the community, and ask questions of your pal. You just can’t tell them your real name or age. Pairings will be revealed during our Easter Brunch on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>! A signup sheet is available in the narthex. I’m happy to answer any questions you have.

I hope that this invitation into deeper relationship with God and neighbor is one you will embrace. Together let us cultivate that steadfast love that God so desires, growing in faith together.

Blessed journey.

+ 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*

### Leaving the Nets

**The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me) (John L. Bell)**

<https://youtu.be/GiXnbOORTAU?si=Szcv6EPFcsvTwelh>

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?*

*Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?*

*Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?*

*Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?*

*Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?*

*Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?*

*Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

*Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?*

*Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?*

*Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.*

*Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.*

*In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.*

*Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

As an educator, I have taught children from a variety of backgrounds. No matter their differences, one need is always the same: a desire for consistency and security.

This is one of the quiet gifts of school. Beyond academics, it offers rhythm, structure, and reliability—something especially vital for students who may not experience that kind of stability at home. The predictability of a classroom, a trusted adult, and a daily routine can become a source of safety.

That longing for consistency does not disappear as we grow older. It simply shifts. As adults, we look for security in different places: steady employment, financial stability, dependable relationships, familiar routines. We build our lives around what feels reliable and controllable.

Change unsettles us. It exposes our vulnerability. Even when we know change may be necessary, we often resist it because it threatens the stability we have worked so hard to maintain.

Against this human instinct, Jesus issues a startling invitation.

In Mark 1:16–20, Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James, and John to leave what is familiar—their work, their routines, their sense of security—and follow him. There is no detailed plan, no guarantee of safety, no promise of comfort. Only a call: "Follow me." And remarkably, they do.

Jesus invites us into a similar kind of radical change. As baptized children of God, our identity is no longer rooted primarily in our circumstances, achievements, or sense of control. Instead, it is grounded in grace, peace, love, and a life that bears witness to God's work in and through us.

*(continued on next page)*

The word radical matters here. Jesus' understanding of grace, peace, and love reaches far beyond what we can generate on our own. His grace welcomes the undeserving. His peace persists in the midst of chaos. His love extends not only to friends, but even to enemies. This way of life is radical precisely because it runs counter to our instincts for self-protection and comfort. We need Jesus—not just his words, but his example—to show us what this kind of life looks like.

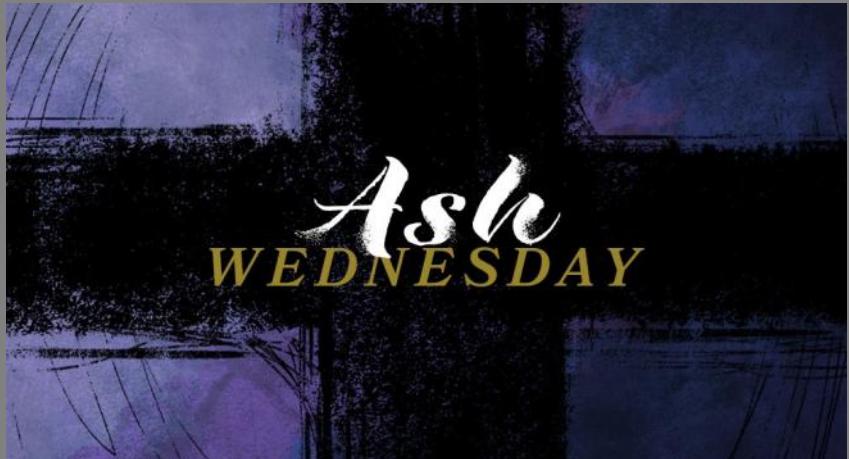
Following Jesus, then, does not remove uncertainty; it often increases it. To follow Christ is to accept vulnerability, to loosen our grip on control, and to trust a path we cannot fully see. Yet paradoxically, this is where true stability is found. Not in predictable circumstances, but in a faithful Savior.

Jesus remains constant even when everything else shifts. He is steady when our lives feel unsteady. As we follow him—sometimes boldly, sometimes fearfully—we discover that while the path may be uncertain, the one who leads us never is. In that truth, we find a deeper, truer consistency: not the absence of change, but the presence of Christ, faithfully calling us forward.

Alex Domeier, Directory of Music Ministry

**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. We will have a service with Imposition of Ashes at 7:00pm.**

**Lent is a time we set aside each year to remember the love of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death, and His defeat of death, sin and Satan in Christ's death and resurrection that brings Eternal Life. Plan to begin this sacred season by attending the service on Ash Wednesday.**



**Just a heads-up:  
Daylight Savings time 2026 BEGINS  
at 2:00am on Sunday, March 8th!  
Don't forget to turn your clocks  
AHEAD ONE HOUR  
before going to bed on March 7th!**



# Upcoming Events



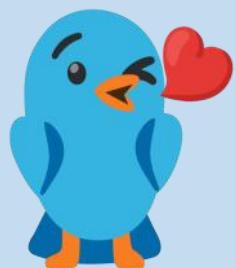
## Sunshine Girls Bible Study

Please join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 10 a.m. in the Community Room. No preparation is required. It helps to read the Bible chapter to be discussed. Most people buy an informative text Matthew for Everyone Part 2 by N. T. Wright.

Join this group for lively and sometimes humorous discussion as we relate Jesus's words to our daily lives. Come as you are.

## Bluebirds Meet Monthly

The BLUEBIRDS is an adult fellowship group which meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. We gather at various local restaurants to enjoy food, fun and friendship. Everyone is invited to join us! Watch the bulletin for information on where we will be meeting each month!



## MONTHLY POTLUCK

For the last several years, St. Timothy has been committed to having a Monthly Potluck - a time after the Sunday morning worship service to gather for delicious food and fun, informal fellowship. In February, the Shrove Pancake Brunch on February 15th will take the place of our regular Monthly Potluck, but keep watching the bulletins for information on dates for the potluck each month! Everyone is invited and you don't want to miss it!

## Annual Congregational Business Meeting

**Sunday, February 1st, immediately following the 10:30 service. Please plan to attend!**





## *Upcoming Events*

# SHROVE PANCAKE BRUNCH

SUN, February 15th

11:30AM-1PM

Join us for pancakes,  
waffles, sausage,  
bacon & more!

\*Free will offering to  
benefit Youth activities



**Sponsored by St. Timothy Hospitality & Youth Group**

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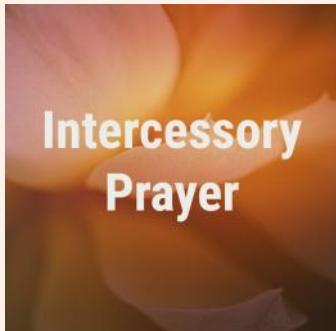


## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The Outreach Committee collected over 60 Christmas Dinner Kits for our neighbors in need. This was an amazing outpouring of support. Thank you everyone for your generosity and continuing to love our neighbors.



## St. Timothy Intercessory Prayer Committee



For those of you who are new to the church, you may not know about this small group of people who regularly pray for you and your loved ones upon request. This includes prayer requests that you want to be public to the church community, as well as, those you would prefer to be kept in the confidence of the intercessory prayer group. In the past, Joyce Clary, our champion prayer warrior, has been your contact for the prayers. Joyce is currently taking a break. For the time being,

if you have prayer requests, you may contact Donna Burnett by text or phone at 808-284-8437 or Sue Peterson at 615-585-9524. You may also use the Prayer Request cards in the back of the pews and at the Usher's table in the Narthex and place them in the offertory plate during church service.

Review Us On  
**Google**

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

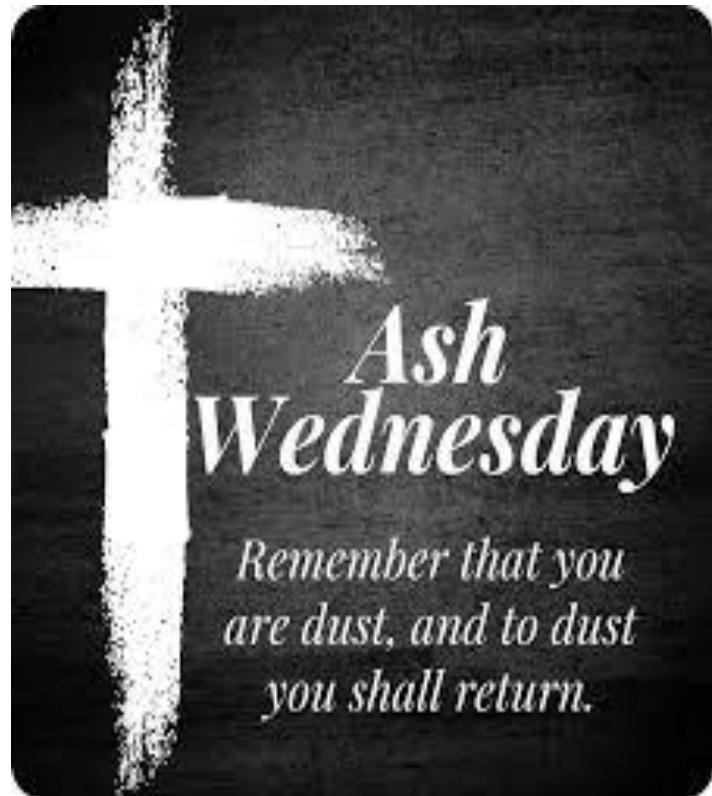
It's a proven fact that organizations with five or more reviews get seen much more frequently on Google!

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



# February 2026 Meetings

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Notes
Wed Feb 4	Outreach	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact Melissa House for more information
Thurs Feb 5	Property	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Community Room	For more information contact Baker Kirkpatrick
Tue Feb 10	Learning	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Melissa Chowning.
Thurs Feb 19	Stewardship/ Finance	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact David Miley for more information
Mon Feb 23	Youth	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact Melissa Chowning for more information
Tue Feb 24	Worship & Music	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Library	Contact Alex Domeier for more information
Thurs Feb 26	Executive Committee	6:00 - 6:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Ken Tsuchiyama
Thurs Feb 26	Congregational Council	6:30 -7:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Ken Tsuchiyama





*When Jesus put the little child in the midst of His disciples, He did not tell the little child to become like His disciples; He told the disciples to become like the little child.*

## Winter Storm Fern 2026

Mother Nature played a cruel trick on Middle Tennessee in January, coating the entire area with a heavy layer of ice. Although it caused terrible problems for many — no power, no way to get out, roads closed — there was beauty in it. Below are some pictures. Pray along with us that SPRING COMES SOON!





# 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](mailto:sttimtidings@gmail.com). Deadline for the March 2026 issue is February 25th. Please [contact the church office](#) with any questions.



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

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The Rev. Amanda Spangler, Pastor  
Alex Domeier, Director of Music Ministries  
Gretchen Person, Accompanist  
Nancy Krieg, Church Administrative Assistant  
The Rev. Paul Frank, Pastor Emeritus