



St. Timothy Tidings

May, 2026

From the Pastor

I am amazed at all the things St. Timothy is doing as we continue growing into our life together. This month I'd like to highlight a few things:

The Pentecost People Awards: Pentecost will be Sunday, May 24th. Of course, wear your Holy Spirit colors, but also send me a note to nominate other people in our congregation for the ways they have shown God's work in action this year!



May 24th is also **Affirmation of Baptism** (aka "Confirmation"). Come prepared to celebrate the youth who are marking this milestone in their faith journey and looking ahead to the next spiritual growth spurt!

The **First Communion Mini-Retreat** is Saturday, May 9. We'll be baking bread and learning about what Lutherans believe about Holy Communion, and why we do the things we do when we gather around God's table. For those that would like to participate, we'll have a First Communion milestone celebration during worship on Sunday, May 31.

Your leadership team is recruiting interviewees to talk about **mission, vision, and values** with Council members. If asked, please consider saying "yes" and sitting down for a chat! We want to hear how you see God at work at St. Timothy.

We're also working on doing some group gatherings over the summer—"cottage meetings"—with the same conversational focus, just in a group setting. We'll be reaching out to potential hosts in neighborhoods with larger populations of St. Tim friends. Again, consider if you'd be willing to have 6-8 people over for a 60-to-90-minute conversation over BYOB refreshments.

The **Adult Faith Formation** class is starting to imagine ways to adjust their educational offerings to meet a diverse population. One way that we'll be exploring is moving to a monthly course model, with 2-3 classes offered every month. At first, this will probably look like a Sunday morning onsite class, and a midweek (day and time TBD) Zoom class. Topics will change with each class and each month. You may have the opportunity to learn about the origins of Christmas hymns or do a study on the infancy narratives in the gospels. Or do both at the same time! We're looking for topics on a wide range of interests, so when you see a survey in your bulletin, please fill it out and place it in the offering plate or marked box. We hope to launch this fall!

Meanwhile, I'm developing a summer course informed by the book and based around the topic "**Being Mortal**" by Atul Gawande. We'll examine third stage of life: the joys, the challenges, the limitations, and the freedoms that come with aging. We'll dig into changing spirituality and theology as we mature in both years and faith, and we'll also talk about ethics of aging and what it means for each of us to die well. This will also include some practical work on planning a funeral service, curating and maintaining important information for our loved ones, thinking through medical decisions and crafting living wills and healthcare Powers of Attorney, and the like. The course will link together, but you won't need to attend every session to participate. A full schedule will be published in mid-May.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude to you for the beautiful body of Christ you continue to be. We're not perfect—we're not supposed to be!—but we're pretty awesome. Keep being the light of Christ: God's light shines bright through you.

Blessed Eastertide, + 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

The Marks that Remain - Touch that Soothes and Heals **Touch That Soothes and Heals (arr. Thomas Keesecker)** **https://youtu.be/TYBEiMg5nyY?si=EP0pohuu0_SlsaNx**

*Touch that soothes and heals the hurting, hands that break a loaf of bread;
steps that walk beside the weary, bearing burdens in their stead:*

Refrain

*"See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.
"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."*

*Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit ones in need of care,
give the homeless warmth and shelter: Christ will find a welcome there. [Refrain]*

*Love and serve without distinction all earth's people, first and least.
Know within each act of kindness hope and wholeness are increased. [Refrain]*

*Hands that beckon little children, bind a wound, prepare a meal,
feet that rush to share good tidings, Christ arisen, still reveal. [Refrain]*

Recently, I completed a half marathon—a 13.1 mile race that came at the end of three and a half months of steady, disciplined training. Early mornings, longer runs, sore muscles, and the constant balancing act of everyday life alongside preparation—it all led to that one finish line.

When it was over, I did what many of us do: I shared photos from the day. Smiles, finish lines, medals—visible reminders of the work that led up to that moment. They captured the celebration, the accomplishment, the joy of finishing something difficult. But the pictures didn't tell the whole story. There were other marks of that work. My IT band was sore. A blister had formed on the back of my foot. My legs carried the weight of every mile for days afterward. Even going up and down stairs became a reminder of what my body had endured. These marks weren't glamorous, but they were real, and they were evidence that something meaningful had taken place.

In Luke's Gospel, we meet two disciples walking along the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–43). They are weighed down by grief, confusion, and shattered expectations. They had hoped Jesus would be the one to redeem Israel. Instead, they had witnessed his suffering and death. As they walk, the risen Jesus joins them, though they do not recognize him at first. He walks with them in their confusion. He listens. He teaches. And eventually, in the breaking of the bread, their eyes are opened. Later, when Jesus appears to the gathered disciples, he does something simple, yet profound—he shows them his hands and feet. He invites them to see, and even to touch, the marks left behind.

These marks that remain tell a story. They are not signs of failure, but of fulfillment. The wounds of Jesus bear witness to a work completed—his suffering and sacrifice for the salvation of the world. In them, we see the depth of God's love. Because of his work, Jesus also leaves marks on us as well.

In our baptism, we are marked with the cross of Christ forever. We are claimed by grace, not because of anything we have done, but because of what He has already completed. His marks become, in a sense, our identity. We are people shaped by forgiveness and sustained by mercy. And then, we are sent into the world with a purpose.

In our daily lives, we are given opportunities to live out that purpose. The work of loving and serving others—whether in our homes, our workplaces, our church, or our community—often leaves its own kind of mark on us. Sometimes those marks are physical: the exhaustion that comes from caring for others, the weariness of long days spent serving our neighbors, the strain of giving our time and energy for someone else's good. Sometimes those marks are emotional or spiritual: the quiet weight of walking alongside someone in grief, the vulnerability of offering up our own sufferings, the cost of choosing patience and forgiveness. We also leave marks on others, though not always physical. Imprints of grace, encouragement in the name of Jesus are everlasting.

Because in Christ, even our weariness can bear witness and our scars can speak of hope. Even the hidden, unnoticed parts of our lives can become places where God's grace is at work. We are marked by his grace—and sent to leave marks of that grace wherever we go.

Alex Domeier
Director of Music Ministry



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. Join this group for lively and sometimes humorous discussion as we relate Jesus's words to our daily lives. Everyone is invited!

Bluebirds Meet Tuesday, May 12th

The BLUEBIRDS is an adult fellowship group which meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. We will meet on Tuesday, May 12 at 11:30 am at Vui's Kitchen, 120 Goodview Way, Suite A, Gallatin, TN. Vui's Kitchen is in Greenlea Commons, off Greenlea Blvd. Vui's offers Vietnamese cuisine such as Pho, Banh mi, and bowls. Hope to see you there! Everyone is welcome!



FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK



The Hospitality Committee invites YOU to join us for a potluck! We have them every month. May's Potluck is Sunday, May 24th, 2026. Mark your calendar and come to Founders Hall between the services to enjoy great food and great fellowship. A dish to share would be appreciated, but even if you are not able to bring a dish we look forward to seeing you there!



Registration is now open!
AFFIRM 2026: See the Unseen
June 14-19, 2026
LaGrange College, LaGrange, GA

APPLY TODAY to serve on our
2026 AFFIRM Staff!!!

Staff training:

June 12-14

AFFIRM:

June 14-19



Apply at
SESYOUTH.ORG

**APPLY TODAY to serve on our
2026 AFFIRM Staff!!!**

Staff Training Weekend: June 12 - 14

Want to change a life next summer?
(And maybe have yours changed too?)
AFFIRM staff applications are now open!

Council Corner

 Alleluia! Christ is risen!



A Season of Gratitude

Council would like to shout a big **THANK YOU** from the rafters to all who helped plan our dynamic Lenten and Holy Week services. From the six Lenten Wednesday meditations, to the reading of the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday, and finally to heralding the Resurrection of Our Lord with trumpets and lots of *Alleluias*, there were many behind the scenes who made it all happen.



Faith Formation

There are lots of things in the works for Faith Formation! We now have a curriculum for our little Lutherans in the nursery. Be on the lookout for exciting things to come for our adult faith formation. Pr. Amanda will be working with them on a trial run of “Timmy U.”



Council Update

Lyndsay Salvador has stepped away from council, and we have such gratitude for her service. Eve Hutcherson has been appointed to serve the remainder of the year.



A Gentle Reminder

We’ve had some instances of lights being left on and doors being unlocked. If you or your group is the last to leave the building, please make sure all lights are turned off and all exits are closed and locked. We would greatly appreciate everyone’s help with this.

Mark Your Calendars

May 3 — 2:30 p.m. Beer & Hymns at Half Batch Brewery

May 9 First Communion Mini-Retreat

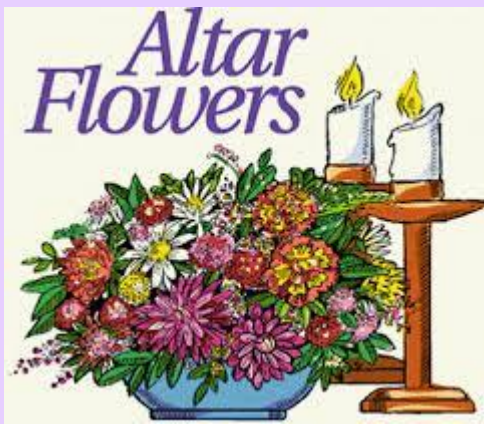
May 10 First Communion Service

May 15 Youth Lock-In

May 24 Affirmation of Baptism & Monthly Potluck

2025-2026 Parish Council Contact Information

Eve Hutcherson	Outreach Committee	eve@evehutcherson.com	(615) 938-0616
Brad Jones	Council President	president@sttimothycouncil.com	(615) 239-4519
Dave Miley	Parish Treasurer Stewardship & Finance	miley5664@gmail.com	(615) 417-5664
Jen Yamin	Council Secretary Administration	jenbyamin@gmail.com	(615) 512-7806
Rich Farlik	Property Committee	rgfarlik@gmail.com	(423) 802-9221
Sarah Mariott	Hospitality Committee	sarah.mariott@yahoo.com	(281) 536-9828
Melanie Ortman	Council Vice President Learning/Youth Committee	rxsouthpaw@sbcglobal.net	(832) 326-3360
Bob Unfried	Worship & Music Committee	runfried@me.com	(830) 305-1190



The following Sundays are available for altar flower donations: May 17, May 24, June 7, June 14, July 19, August 16 and August 23. Please leave your check (\$40) in Mailbox 250 and the information you want included in the bulletin (in honor of or in memory of) Thank you in advance.

Beer & Hymns

Lots of folks came out for Beer & Hymns on Sunday, May 3rd at 2:30pm. The weather was wonderful & the amazingly talented pickers led us in song after song. We even had some guest singers taking the mic (Col. Fred See & Melanie Taylor). Special thanks to Matt Steinhauer for having those informative Martin Luther Beer moments!



Holy Week and Easter 2026

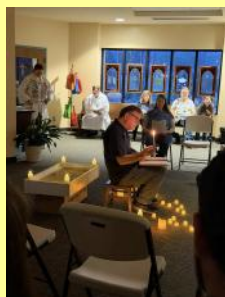
Holy Week and Easter were jam-packed with services to attend, food to eat, and opportunities to CELEBRATE our risen Savior! Pictured below are some of the services and events (special thanks to Pam Fluent for being our 'resident photographer').



Wednesday: Walk, pause, read, taste, and pray using a narthex labyrinth and stations dedicated to the 7 "I AM" sayings of Jesus.



Maundy Thursday: Beginning with an agape meal to ending with a beautiful music piece offered by Alex Domeier & Pete Melvin it was a beautiful way to begin the Great Three Days.



Easter Vigil Service: The service began outside with the burning of the palms and lighting of the Paschal Candle, which was then used to light the candles of those in attendance. The congregation then processed to Founders Hall for scripture readings and song, and finally to the sanctuary where the candles were extinguished because Light had come! Afterwards the congregation celebrated the occasion with sparkling grape juice. It was meaningful, moving and marvelous!

And that was just the beginning . . .

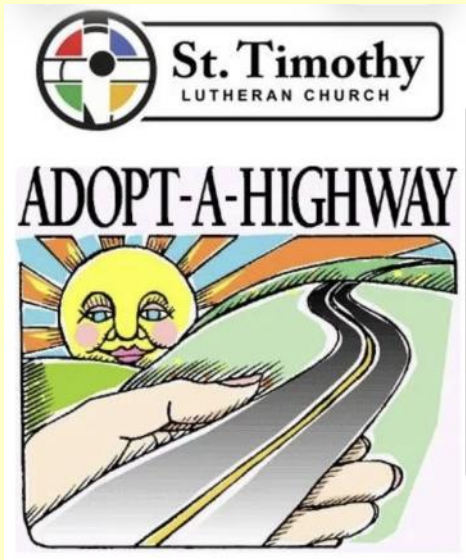
Halleluia!! HE IS RISEN!



Between our 8:00am and 10:30am Easter services, the Men Of St. Timothy (MOST) prepared and served Easter Breakfast to anyone who wished to attend. As always, it was delicious!



To thank everyone who made this Easter so special would take FAR too much space, and we wouldn't want to forget anyone, but know that we appreciate each and every one of you who worked so hard to make these services and events happen. Most importantly, THANK YOU PASTOR AMANDA for all the hard work, planning, and time spent to make Easter 2026 so very wonderful!



On Saturday, April 11th, we held our first quarterly Road Cleanup. We were blessed to have such a large turnout, and especially blessed to be joined by the wonderful Scout troop that uses our church for their meetings. Very special thanks go to Baker Kirkpatrick, who unfailingly oversees these events. THANK YOU SO MUCH to EVERYONE who gave up their Saturday morning for such a worthy cause!



Join us for World Labyrinth Day, Saturday, May 2nd

World Labyrinth Day, Saturday, May 2nd, "Walk as One at 1": Join thousands of people around the world in this moving meditation for world peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience. Many will walk a labyrinth at 1:00 p.m. local time to help create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe. While there is no formal program, please use our labyrinth on this special day to "Walk as One at 1".



May 2026 Meetings

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Notes
Wed May 6	Outreach	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact Melissa House for more information
Thurs May 7	Property	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Community Room	For more information contact Baker Kirkpatrick
Tue May 12	Learning	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Melissa Chowning.
Thurs May 21	Stewardship/ Finance	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact David Miley for more information
Tue May 26	Worship & Music	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Library	Contact Alex Domeier for more information
Thurs May 28	Executive Committee	6:00 - 6:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Bradley Jones
Thurs May 28	Congregational Council	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Bradley Jones



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>



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 June 2026 issue is May 25th. Please [contact the church office](#) with any questions.



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

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