



# ***St. Timothy Tidings***

***October, 2024***

## **From Our Interim Pastor**

On the last Sunday in September, an inquirers class began at St. Timothy with about twenty participants, most of whom are new to our church. Given the size of the group, we spent most of our first session introducing ourselves. The diverse group of learners included at least three people with advanced degrees in history, a psychiatrist and a couple of counselors, a raft of teachers, lots of people who are involved in internet technology in one way or another, military veterans, parents and grandparents. I am both a bit intimidated by the group and looking forward to what promises to be lively conversation about the faith we share as Lutheran Christians.



One thing that became clear in the introductions is that not a few people come to St. Timothy because this congregation is known for its non-judgmental welcome to all God's beloved children. The comments we heard from some of the inquirers reminded me of a study of millennials done a few years ago by the Barna Group. It found that large majorities of young adults who do not attend church found church people to be judgmental (87%), hypocritical (85%), anti-gay (91%), and insensitive to others (70%). It is hard to see how followers of Jesus, who frequently criticized hypocrisy, and who said "do not judge!" and "treat others as you would have them treat you," could have gained such a bad reputation. And yet, that is where we are as church these days.

St. Timothy has a different reputation among many in the Hendersonville area. This community is one who, like Jesus, is becoming known for welcoming those whom others shun. And not just welcoming, but including and involving fully in the community's life. And the best part is, I've noticed that this welcome seems to be so much a part of the congregation that it happens without fanfare or self-consciousness or self-congratulations. When something becomes so much a part of you that you don't have to focus on it, and may hardly notice it, that characteristic has become a part of your deepest identity.

Shy Lutherans have a hard time being praised, but hear these words of appreciation from one who has come to appreciate who you are in these past four months: kudos, St. Timothy, for living out the gospel here in Middle Tennessee. Keep on embodying the good news of Jesus' love. Let's do our part to live down the church's bad reputation.

Blessing and peace to you all,

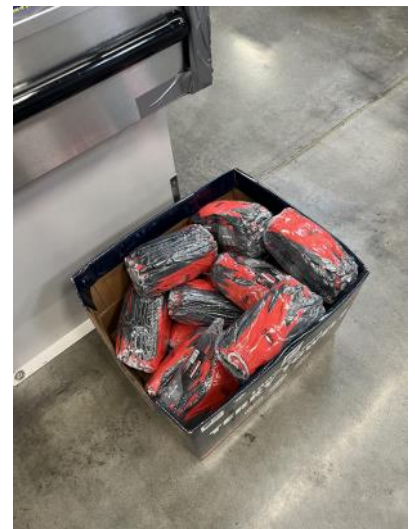
*+ Julian*

+H. Julian Gordy, Interim Pastor



**SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Bishop Kevin Strickland is heading to East Tennessee to bring supplies to St. James Lutheran Church to assist victims of Hurricane Helene and Pastor Jill Henning is heading with supplies to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Augusta. Pastor P. Morgan Gordy is in the field coordinating disaster responses in TN and coming to GA later in the week. You can help with the disaster recovery through the Synod website: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YVZ1/campaign/C-106KM>





# Upcoming Events

## Let's Chat...



- What:** OPEN FORUM to ask questions and have discussion
- When:** 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of each month (Saturday & Sunday after service)
- Who:** Council representatives will moderate the questions & answers
- Why:** To help keep us all informed of ongoing church business

## Sunshine Girls Bible Study



The Sunshine Girls meet every 1st & 3rd Tuesday in the Community Room at 10:00am. If you would like to study the Bible and meet with a wonderful group of women, join us! Our course of study this fall is the Nativity story, the differences between the scripture in Matthew and Luke, the people in Palestine at that time, and music that evolved from that scripture. You need only to bring your Bible. Plan to have great fellowship with some wonderful ladies.

## MONTHLY POTLUCK

The Hospitality Committee invites YOU to join us for a potluck on **Sunday, October 13th!** Come to Founders Hall after worship to enjoy great food and great fellowship.



## INQUIRERS CLASS



Pastor Gordy is leading an Inquirers Class throughout the month of October at 9:00 am in Founders Hall. Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of St. Timothy, or who wants to know more about St. Timothy and

the ELCA is invited to attend. Anyone who would like a "Lutheran Refresher" is welcome as well. For questions or more information, please contact Melissa House at [melissahh91@gmail.com](mailto:melissahh91@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Events

### ***Join us!! For Fun & Fellowship***

***When: November 10th  
after 10:30 service  
in Founders Hall***



#### ***What to expect:***

- \* Hot dogs, chips, desserts***
- \* Games – musical chairs, bocce ball, pick up sticks, beach ball chair volleyball, Pass the Pigs, Jenga, etc.***
- \* Also, bring your own games to play with others***

*Hosted by the Outreach Committee in conjunction with the MOST (grilling) and The Bluebirds (making desserts). Any questions, please contact Melissa House at [melissahh91@gmail.com](mailto:melissahh91@gmail.com)*

*Blessed are those  
who mourn, for they  
will be comforted.*

*Matthew 5:4*

The last surviving Founding Member of St. Timothy, Jane Steinhauer, passed away near the end of September. Our hearts are heavy, and our prayers are with the Steinhauer family as they go through this time of loss.

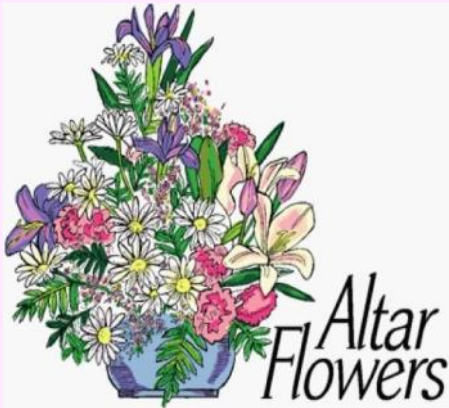
Jane was not a professionally ordained minister, but in her everyday life, she was truly a minister and servant of her Lord. She loved Jesus, and people around her knew and felt that love. She left her imprint of love on the heart and lives of everyone she met.

A memorial service for Jane will take place here at the church on Saturday, October 12th, 2024 at 11:00am. Bishop Kevin Strickland will preside. A reception in Founders Hall will take place immediately following the service.

# OKTOBERFEST WORSHIP AND PICNIC

On Sunday, September 22nd the St. Timothy family enjoyed a wonderful time of worship in the park—complete with a water's edge view—and a picnic following. What a wonderful time it was! Below are some pictures from the event. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this day so special!





There are many dates open for altar flowers between now and the end of the year. No orders = no flowers. Thank you in advance. Text 615-983-1645 with questions. The sign-up sheet has been discontinued. Envelopes are in a bag on the narthex bulletin board.

## Help the Outreach Committee create our own “Timmy’s List”

(much like Angi’s list)

***Do you have a favorite “fix it” person?***

***Would you like to share with our Congregation?***

The Outreach Committee is developing a “Timmy’s List” of our trusted fix it folks. Plumbers, Carpenters, painters, window washer, etc.

Please send anyone you would like to be on the list to LuAnn Welham at [Lmwelham@yahoo.com](mailto:Lmwelham@yahoo.com)



## SAVE THE DATE!!

The St. Timothy Ladies' Christmas Dinner will be in Founders' Hall on Monday, December 2, 2024. We have this dinner each year to honor our ladies for all they do at church, home and work. Mark your calendar, because you won't want to miss this fun event!



## 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>



## DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to our Debt Reduction campaign! Your generosity has blessed us!

## BLESSING BOX BUZZ

Our ongoing need is for canned meat, canned pasta, peanut butter/jelly (in plastic bottles), breakfast bars, and shelf stable milk. To all those who donate and all who help keep the box stocked, THANK YOU!!!!



## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

We have gotten Synod approval and are currently in the process of finding and interviewing candidates. We will keep you posted.

# thrivent®

**Did you know we can increase our outreach to the community with the use of Thrivent funds? If you are a Thrivent member and are interested in learning how you can help with our Blessing Box, please reach out to Brenda Parker (615-828-2103) to learn more.**

## Council Corner

In our September council meeting Melissa House reported that, with the help of Dale Olson (thank you, Dale!), an informational card is being developed that will have our worship service times, contact info, etc. These will be available to hand out so that our greater community knows who we are and to amplify our “All Are Welcome” message.

Steve Hansen, our parish treasurer, reported there was increased giving this past month and overall all our accounts are in a good place. He has asked that all committees be working on their 2025 Ministry Plan. Also, in October our mortgage will reset. Steve has been in communication with Thrivent who states we will know our new mortgage rate on October 1st. In August we collected \$13,500 towards debt reduction. The 2023 ELCA Foundation Annual Report is now available. Click this [link](#) to review.

The HVAC unit which services our Education wing is being replaced. The Property Committee received 3 bids for unit replacement and recommended that we accept the bid from Elsten Mechanical. Stay tuned for the timeline of when that work will begin.

We’re so excited that there has been lots of interest being shown for Pr. Gordy’s Inquirer’s Class! It began on September 29th. We have more and more young families joining or visiting our parish and we would like to extend our Nursery coverage into the Faith Formation time. We will soon be advertising to fill this paid position and if you know anyone who may be interested, reach out to Melissa House for details.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Ponce family for their donation of the grand piano that is in our sanctuary. We so appreciate their generous giving hearts and we will all enjoy the beautiful music that comes forth from their gift.

If you have any questions or comments, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any council member.

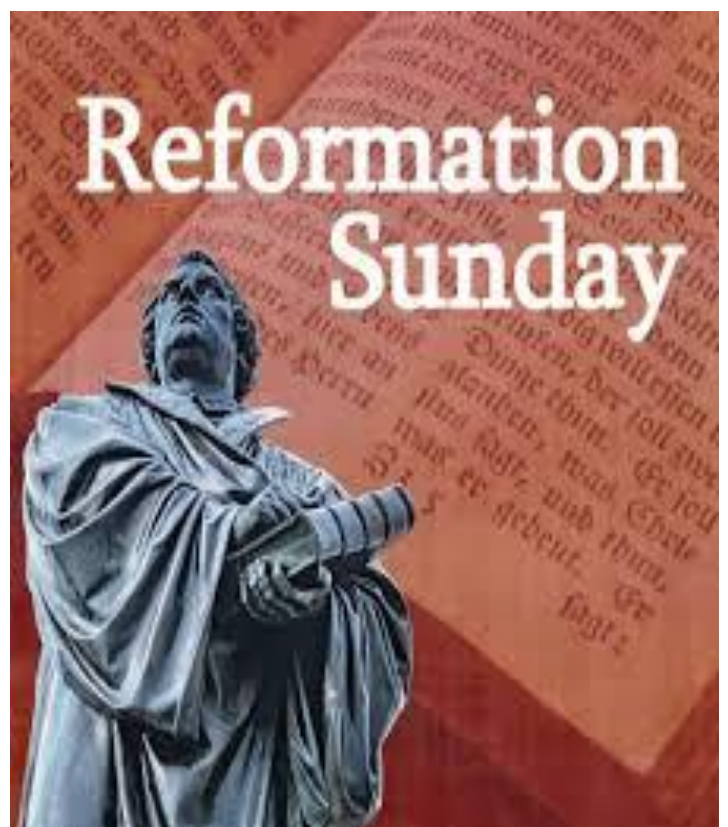
Melissa House	Council President Outreach Committee	melissahh91@gmail.com	(615) 218-3904
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Laureen Greathouse	Worship & Music Committee	laureen.greathouse@gmail.com	(615) 339-7284
Sarah Mariott	Hospitality Committee	sarah.mariott@yahoo.com	(281) 536-9828
Melanie Ortman	Learning Committee	rxsouthpaw@sbcglobal.net	(832) 326-3360
Jennifer Howard	Youth Committee	jhoward0419@gmail.com	(615) 484-3623





# October 2024 Meetings

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Notes
Wed Oct 2	Outreach	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact Melissa House for more information
Thurs Oct 3	Property	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Community Room	For more information contact Baker Kirkpatrick
Sat Oct 5	Learning	8:30 - 9:30 am	Community Room	For more information, contact Janel Tucker or Melanie Ortman.
Thurs Oct 17	Executive Committee	6:00 - 6:30 pm	Library	For more information, contact Melissa House
Thurs Oct 17	Community Garden	6:00 - 7:00 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Ron Morgenstern
Thurs Oct 17	Congregational Council	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Library	For more information, contact Melissa House, Council President
Mon Oct 21	Stewardship/ Finance	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact Bridget Radford for more information
Mon Oct 28	Youth	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact Melanie Ortman for more information





# 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/>



We'd love to get to know you better! Click the QR code to the left or scan it with your phone to fill out our digital connect card!



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 November 2024 issue is October 25th. Please [contact the church office](#) with any questions.



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

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Website: [www.sttimothyhendersonville.org](http://www.sttimothyhendersonville.org)

Rev. Julian Gordy, Interim Pastor  
Alex Domeier, Interim Music Director  
Dr. Dale Olson, Interim Organist  
Nancy Krieg, Church Administrative Assistant