



St. Timothy Tidings

September, 2026



From the Pastor

Christ's beloved,

I'm continuing to spend a lot of time thinking about community. I think about how and when I get energized and inspired in community. I think about what drains me. I think about what it looks like for me to pour into others, and the times when I choose not to show up for someone else. I think about the ways others have poured into me, and the times that I have felt invisible, empty, and alone.

The labor of community has been on my mind off-and-on for years. I blame it on the deaconesses, who devoted a minimum of 25% of my education and formation to learning about how to—and practicing being a part of—an intentional community. As you may recall from last month's newsletter, the Lutheran Deaconess Conference had our annual meeting in August. It was a heavy meeting, with lots of difficult conversations. I was reminded once again of how grateful I am to be part of a group that chooses relationship and stays connected even when it's uncomfortable or the conversation is raw or we have to do the vulnerable work of lament, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

The experience, once again, made me curious about your stories of life in community.

How long have you been a part of the St. Timothy community?

What brought you to St. Timothy?

Why do you keep coming back? Or why do you stay away?

If you'd like, you can leave anonymous answers to the above questions by following this link: <https://forms.gle/SQGQs6QC5unHT5Va9>.

As the 2026/27 program year begins, I'd love to hear how you came to be involved in this little community in Sumner County, and what it has meant to you. We're beginning our gathering season, after all, and I'm curious how God has gathered you to us, and what that experience has been like.

Of course, if you don't want to fill out a Google form, you can always invite me to coffee! I'm happy to listen to your story.

Until we gather again,

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 Beat Beneath Us - Firm Foundation (He Won't)/The Church's One Foundation
Firm Foundation (He Won't) - Cody Carnes - https://youtu.be/x9ndiD0_qNk?si=ymEw-63fkfRfPfxg
The Church's One Foundation - S.J. Stone/Samuel Wesley/arr. Mark Rice
https://youtu.be/4uz_0RQL8Qo?si=zR1c52KXY0faPY7K

Christ is my firm foundation
 The rock on which I stand
 When everything around me is shaken
 I've never been more glad.

That I put my faith in Jesus
 'Cause He's never let me down
 He's faithful through generations
 So why would He fail now?
 He won't

I've still got joy in chaos
 I've got peace that makes no sense
 So I won't be going under
 I'm not held by my own strength

'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
 He's never let me down
 He's faithful in every season
 So why would He fail now?

He won't
 He won't
 He won't fail
 He won't fail

He won't
 He won't
 He won't fail
 He won't fail (hey)

Christ is my firm foundation
 The rock on which I stand
 When everything around me is shaken
 I've never been more glad

Christ is my firm foundation
 The rock on which I stand
 When everything around me is shaken
 I've never been more glad (why?)

'Cause I put my faith in Jesus
 He's never let me down
 He's faithful through generations
 Oh, so why would He fail now?

That I put my faith in Jesus
 'Cause He's never let me down
 He's faithful through generations
 Oh, so why would He fail now?

He won't
 He won't
 He won't fail
 He won't fail on me

On Christ, the solid rock I stand
 All other ground is sinking sand
 All other ground is sinking sand
 Rain came and wind blew

My house was built on You
 I'm safe with You
 I'm gonna make it through
 Oh, rain came and wind blew

But my house was built on You
 I'm safe with You
 I'm gonna make it through
 Oh, rain came and wind blew

But my house was built on you
 I'm safe with You
 I'm gonna make it through (you gonna make it)
 I'm gonna make it through

'Cause I'm standing strong on You
 Oh, I'm going to make it through
 'Cause my house is built on You

He won't fail
 He won't fail (one more time)
 He won't
 He won't
 He won't fail
 He won't fail

The first lesson that every kindergartner learns in my music class is about beat. Before we can explore rhythm, melody, instruments, or any of the other exciting things that make up music, we have to understand one simple but important concept: a steady beat. Musically speaking, the ability to play, identify, and understand a steady beat is foundational. It gives music something to stand on.

When I introduce steady beat to my students, we talk about the difference between sounds and music that have a beat and those that do not. I'll ask them to describe how music with a steady beat makes them feel.

This past week, the students answered with words like: “exciting,” “fun,” or “strong.” From the perspective of a five-year-old, those are powerful words. Fun, strong, and exciting describe things that feel secure and dependable.

Then we listen to sounds without a steady beat. Their descriptions change: “weird,” “silly,” or “confusing.” Again, their five-year-old perspective gives something that’s still insightful. These are words that describe uncertainty—a feeling of not knowing quite where to land.

There is something remarkably similar about our lives of faith.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus tells Peter, “On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” Jesus speaks of a foundation that is strong enough to withstand whatever comes against it. The Church is not built upon circumstances, emotions, success, or certainty. It is built upon Christ.

And so are we.

Life does not always have a steady beat. There are seasons when everything seems to fall into place, and there are seasons when the rhythm seems to disappear altogether. We encounter grief, disappointment, uncertainty, change, and circumstances we never expected. Sometimes life can feel “weird,” “silly,” or even “confusing”—not unlike the sounds my kindergartners hear when the beat disappears.

But Christ remains.

When our circumstances are unsteady, Christ is steady. When our plans change, Christ does not. When our confidence falters, Christ remains faithful. When we cannot see what comes next, we can still know the One who holds us.

Setting ourselves upon Christ does not mean that storms will never come. It means that when they do, we have a foundation strong enough to withstand them. The foundation does not prevent the wind from blowing or the rain from falling; it gives us somewhere secure to stand when they do.

Christ is the foundation of our hope, faith, and joy. When we build our lives upon Him, we can weather any storm—not because we are strong enough on our own, but because the One beneath us cannot be shaken.

The next time you hear a steady beat in a piece of music, let it serve as a reminder: beneath all the melody, rhythm, movement, and noise, there is something holding it together.

And beneath us, there is Christ.

He is our steady beat, our foundation, and on Him, we can stand.

Alex Domeier
Director of Music Ministry



Electronic Giving!

If you give electronically and you miss putting something in the collection plate, you can use these cards that will be in the pews! It is also an easy way to scan and give!





Upcoming Events



Sunshine Girls Bible Study

Welcome back! The Sunshine Girls resume their twice monthly Bible Study on Tuesday, September 1st! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 10am in the Community Room. Join this group for lively discussion as we relate Jesus's words to our daily lives. Everyone is invited! We will meet on September 1st and 15th.



- What:** Pastor Amanda will be blessing your pets
- Where:** Memorial Park at the shelter
- When:** Saturday, October 3rd, 10:00 – 11:30
- Notes:** Pets must be on a leash or contained in some manner.

Please join us as we bless our loved animals and celebrate God's creations.



Beer & Hymns

- Where:** Half Batch Brewing
154 Bonita Pkwy, Hendersonville
- When:** **Sunday, Oct. 11th 2:30 – 4:30**

Featuring Matt Steinhauer and "the band"

Please join us for this very fun and refreshing event!

Thank You to Our Scout Troops!

Our two scout troops ([Troop 157 Hendersonville, TN](#) and [Scouting America Troop 9 - Girls](#)) were hard at work on Saturday, August 22nd cleaning up the church grounds! We are fortunate and grateful to have these wonderful young people at St. Timothy's!



FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK

The Hospitality Committee invites YOU to join us for a potluck! We have them every month. September's Potluck is Sunday, September 20. 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!

Rally Day Sunday September 6th @9am

Sunday's @ 9am

Classes start Sunday
September 13th



Faith Formation

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Hendersonville TN

- Small Class Sizes
- 2 teachers per classroom
- Ages PreK to High School
- Class for Individuals with Disabilities
- Adult Classes
- Nursery available for children under 4

"Our smaller class sizes ensure your child receives personalized, meaningful attention on their spiritual journey."

"Tailored faith formation for every child of God - All Are Welcome"

A Faith Community for Every Generation!

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<https://sttimothyhendersonville.org/>

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*Open to all adults 18+.
No degree required.
Email before enrolling youth ages 13-17.*



\$60 per Course

Financial Aid Available

FALL 2026 COURSES

September 13 – November 12

vocation • worship • scripture •
leadership • evangelism • art •
spiritual life • congregational care

COST INCLUDES:

- ✓ Required course materials
- ✓ Six weekly live Zoom sessions
- ✓ Two remote coffee conversations
- ✓ A term celebration
- ✓ SES certification upon completion



Sumner County School, TN - Family Resource Center

A heartfelt thank you to St. Timothy Lutheran Church for your incredibly generous donation of new underwear for our students in need. Year after year, we can always count on your kindness, compassion, and unwavering support. Your generosity helps ensure our students have access to essential items that make a real difference in their daily lives.

We are so grateful for our partnership and for the many ways you continue to care for our school community. Thank you for always showing up for us and for our students. We love your hearts!

The above was posted on the Family Resource Center's Facebook page, and we are so grateful to have been able to help them. We delivered 387 pairs of kids' underwear to the Sumner County Resource Center! Cathy at the center said "God is amazing my friend. Thank you so very much for ALL YOU do!" Outreach thanks everyone who helped make this such a success.



September 2026 Meetings

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Notes
Wed Sep 2	Outreach	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact Melissa House for more information
Thurs Sep 3	Property	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Community Room	For more information contact Baker Kirkpatrick
Tue Sep 8	Learning	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Melissa Chowning.
Thurs Sep 17	Stewardship/ Finance	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom	Contact David Miley for more information
Tue Sep 22	Worship & Music	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Library	Contact Alex Domeier for more information
Thurs Sep 24	Executive Committee	6:00 - 6:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Bradley Jones
Thurs Sep 24	Congregational Council	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Community Room	For more information, contact Bradley Jones



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



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

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