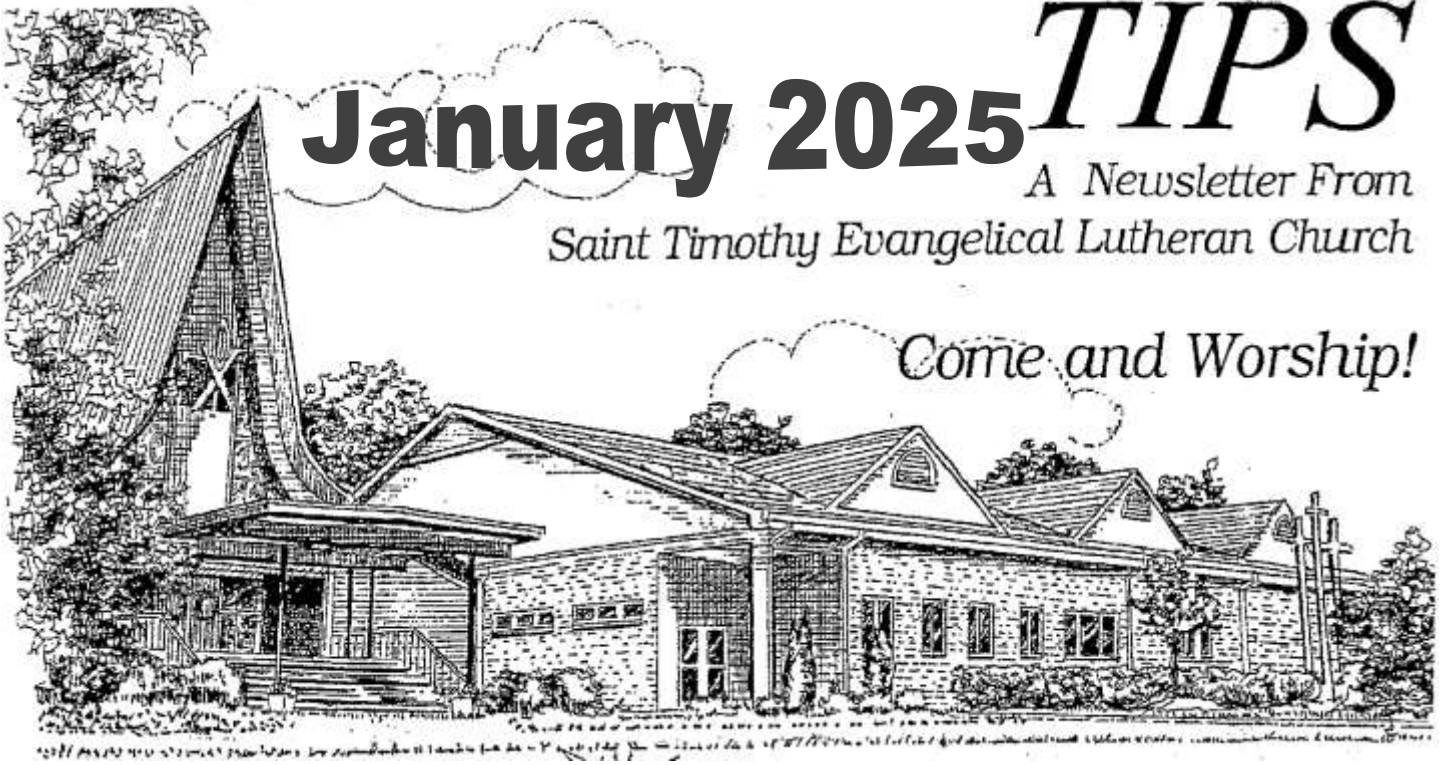


# January 2025 *TIPS*

A Newsletter From  
Saint Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Come and Worship!*



Sunday School 9:15 – 10:15 am  
Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 10:30 am

St. Timothy ELCA is a community of faith creating  
connection through the love of Jesus Christ

395 Valley Road, Wayne, New Jersey 07470

[sttimothy.org](http://sttimothy.org)

395 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470

Pastor

Director of Music

Office Manager

Church Office Email

Phone: (973) 694-8316

The Rev. Kimberly Cooper

Caroline Parody

Deb Califf

[st.tims395@yahoo.com](mailto:st.tims395@yahoo.com)

## Church Council

Colleen Duffy **President**

Eddy Schloesser **Vice President**

Karen Sajban **Treasurer**

Marie Johnsson **Secretary**

Josh Abrahamson

Gloria Cooper

Laura Dec

Garey Goskowski

Cliff Konnerth

Valerie McGrath

Jeff Riotto

Barbara Westerberg

# January 2025

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday | Friday | Saturday   |
|--|---|---|--|----------|--------|--|
| <p><b>* Sunday Christian Ed</b><br/>Youth Sunday School &amp; Confirmation<br/>Adult Forum in Parlor</p>   | <p><b>programs include:</b><br/>Adult Christian Ed in the Bistro</p>  |   | <p><b>Office Closed</b> 1</p>  | 2        | 3      | 4  |
| <p>5<br/>9:30am Worship<br/>Followed by 3 Kings Party<br/><br/>1pm AA</p> | <p>6<br/>9-11:30 am<br/>Heart 'n Hands<br/>7 pm Boy Scouts</p>  | <p>7<br/>1 pm Meditation w/Movement<br/>2 pm Bible Study w/ Holy Communion<br/>7pm Worship</p>                  | <p>8<br/>9:30am Angels Circle<br/>10:30am Knit &amp; Crochet<br/>7 pm Music rehearsal</p>  | 9        | 10     | <p>11<br/>10:30 am<br/></p>                                       |
| <p>12<br/>8:30 &amp; 10:30am<br/>Worship<br/>9:15am Christian Ed programs*<br/>11:30am Coffee Hour<br/>1pm AA</p>  | <p> 13<br/>9-11:30 am<br/>Heart 'n Hands<br/>7 pm Boy Scouts</p> | <p>14<br/>1 pm Meditation w/Movement<br/>2 pm Bible Study w/ Holy Communion<br/>7:30pm Council</p>              | <p> 15<br/>10am Hymn Sing @ SpringHills<br/>7 pm Music rehearsal</p> | 16       | 17     | 18   |
| <p>19<br/>8:30 &amp; 10:30am<br/>Worship<br/>9:15am Christian Ed programs*<br/>11:30am Coffee Hour<br/>1pm AA</p>  | <p>20<br/>9-11:30 am<br/>Heart 'n Hands<br/>7 pm Boy Scouts</p>   | <p>21<br/>1 pm Meditation w/Movement<br/>2 pm Bible Study w/ Holy Communion<br/>7 pm Christian Ed Committee</p> | <p>22<br/>9:30am Angels Circle<br/>10:30am Knit &amp; Crochet<br/>7 pm Music rehearsal</p>   | 23       | 24     | 25   |
| <p>26<br/>8:30 &amp; 10:30am<br/>Worship<br/>9:15am Christian Ed programs*<br/>11:30am Coffee Hour<br/>1pm AA</p>  | <p>27<br/>9-11:30 am<br/>Heart 'n Hands<br/>7 pm Boy Scouts</p>   | <p>28<br/>1 pm Meditation w/Movement<br/>2 pm Bible Study w/ Holy Communion</p>                                 | <p>29<br/>7 pm Music rehearsal</p>   | 30       | 31     | <p>This month's Heart n' Hands item is<br/><br/>Warm gloves</p> |

## Word from Our Pastor



CONTENT WARNING: This article mentions sexual assault. Feel free to skip to the rules at the end, if those topics are painful for you.

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*“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.”* – Jesus (Mark 9:42)

One of the things that draws many people to the Lutheran version of Christianity is our belief that *everyone* is both sinner and saint. Most preachers in the Lutheran church – especially the ELCA – are reluctant to focus our sermons on sin. Instead, we prioritize the grace of God (aka as the gospel of Jesus Christ). In fact, my New Testament professor told us that the vast majority of people listening to our sermons are already feeling inadequate enough. The last thing anyone needs is a sermon to make them feel even worse. On those occasions that I have slipped away from prioritizing grace in my messaging, people have definitely let me know



That said, one thing that we cannot tolerate *within* community is abuse. While I do believe that abusers are also saved by the grace of God and entitled to spiritual care, it must be provided in a way that does not cause harm to vulnerable people.

I am happy to say that the ELCA does not condone *any* sexual misconduct by an employee of the church. However, perpetrators seek out professions and institutions that give them access to victims. They are masters of manipulation and charm and find their way into places like schools, churches, and other places that should be safe. In order to become a pastor, I had to undergo significant psychological screening and training in how to maintain pastoral boundaries while caring for people. Every pastor in the ELCA has that same experience + we have to renew our boundary training every 3-5 years.

Despite all of that, there are still those that wiggle their way into our spaces like snakes in the grass. I met a woman while I was in seminary, who left the church for several years, because a pastor had engaged in a sexual relationship with her, callously dumped her, and maligned her to the congregation. She is back in church now after reporting him to the bishop and having him removed from the roster of the ELCA. More recently, my colleague at Grace in River Edge, NJ was arrested for having sex with a teen (which is by definition rape) who was a member of his congregation. Our bishop reacted swiftly to remove him from the roster and provide pastoral care to the congregation.

It is good that these bishops reacted quickly and decisively, but, obviously, it is much better to be proactive in the hopes that the bishop doesn't need to react at all. To that end, St. Timothy is going to hold to some basic rules in order to keep vulnerable people safe. An added benefit to maintaining rules like this, is that we can be a welcoming space to people that act differently without worrying about safety, because we have a system that protects everyone. As I mentioned earlier, the Lutheran church is a place that recognizes everyone as both sinner and saint. No one is above reproach and no one is beyond the pale.

We have a few rules to get started setting up a system that protects the most vulnerable among us. Please review them. One of the biggest challenges, as mentioned above, is that perpetrators are usually charming and well-loved. People that come across as awkward or strange are probably just awkward and strange. One of the benefits of guidelines is that no one is exempt from following them - including the pastor. If someone doesn't adhere to the guidelines, they can be restricted from activities working with vulnerable people, which would prevent anything more serious from happening.

These rules pertain to church programming that involves children (up to the age of 18) interacting with adult(s), who are not their parent/guardian/or an adult authorized to act on behalf of the parent.

1. Children may not be alone with an adult. In those cases that one adult is leading a class or discussion with a group of kids, the door must remain open and other adults must be in the vicinity.
2. All adults supervising children's activities will have been actively engaged in this congregation for a minimum of one year.
3. All adults supervising children's activities will need to have a criminal background check (handled through the church office.)
4. All adults supervising children's activities will need to go through a training in how to work with kids with appropriate boundaries.



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## **Annual 3 Kings Celebration ~ January 5<sup>th</sup>**

We celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and the coming of the Wise Men with King Cake, games and laughter! See you in Fellowship Hall following 9:30am Worship!



Take & share some photos by emailing them to the office at [st.tims395@yahoo.com](mailto:st.tims395@yahoo.com)

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## **Weekly Tuesday Events ~ January 7, 14, 21, 28**



Meditation with Movement at 1pm ~ feel the stretch, feel the calm! Can't make it every single week, no problem: cost is \$40 cash per month, pay as you go. No mat needed, but a bottle of water suggested. Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study with Holy Communion at 2pm ~ Join Pastor Kimberly as she leads the group through an exploration of timely readings followed by the sharing of Communion. Parlor.

**BIBLE STUDY  
& COMMUNION**

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## **Needleworks Groups ~ January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Angels Circle will resume meetings on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. They meet bi-monthly on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month ending by 11:30am. During the winter months, on any snow day, we will cancel for that day... safety first!



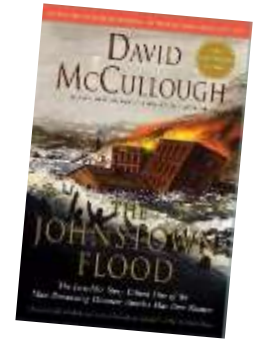
Anyone interested in learning to make simple lap quilts are welcome to join. Or ask Barbara Kaplan about taking kits home!



Nellie's Knit & Crochet group meets the same dates as the Angels, also in Fellowship Hall, beginning at 10:30am for about 2 hours. Beginners welcome!

## Bookworms Book Club ~ January 11<sup>th</sup>

At the end of the 19th century, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, was a booming coal-and-steel town filled with hardworking families striving for a piece of the nation's burgeoning industrial prosperity. In the mountains above Johnstown, an old earth dam had been hastily rebuilt to create a lake for an exclusive summer resort patronized by the tycoons of that same industrial prosperity. Despite repeated warnings of possible danger, nothing was done. Then came May 31, 1889, the dam burst sending a wall of water thundering down the mountain, smashing through Johnstown, and killing more than 2,000 people. It was a tragedy that became a national scandal.



Graced by David McCullough's remarkable gift for writing richly textured, sympathetic social history, *The Johnstown Flood* is an absorbing, classic portrait of life in nineteenth-century America, of overweening confidence, of energy, and of tragedy. It also offers a powerful historical lesson for our century and all times: the danger of assuming that because people are in positions of responsibility they are necessarily behaving responsibly.

-Simon & Schuster



For Bookworms information, contact Barbara Westerberg at 973.696.1471 on how to join in the friendly discussion.

Happy reading!

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## Hymn Sing @ SpringHills ~ January 15<sup>th</sup>

Who: Anyone who wants to spread some cheer

What: Joyful singing with Residents

When: 10am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month

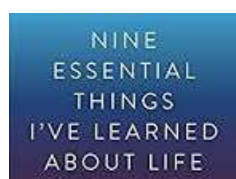
Where: Lobby of SpringHills Post Acute Care center at 1120 Alps Road.

Please reach out to Carolyn Russo if you'd like more info.



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## Adult Book Group ~ January 16<sup>th</sup>



We are reading & discussing *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life* by Rabbi Harold Kushner. Discussions are singular and can be joined at any point. We meet in the parlor at 10:30am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month (weather permitting). Contact Art or Sandy DeRose for more information!



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## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Pastor Kimberly, as always, will be available to attend to your spiritual needs ~ feel free to make an appointment during this time by

calling, texting or emailing her depending on the urgency of the matter.

May You Enjoy The Presence  
Of Christ In Your Life  
This New Year

Josh 1:9 (KJV)

**"...Be strong and of a good courage;  
be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:  
for the LORD thy God [is] with thee ..."**

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## NEED A HELPING HAND?

A reminder if you need help...

In addition to the assistance devices stored by the stairway on our lower level (crutches, commodes, walkers and more!), we also have two power lift recliners for use by St. Timothy friends and family. Please contact Cliff Konnerth if you could benefit from their use.

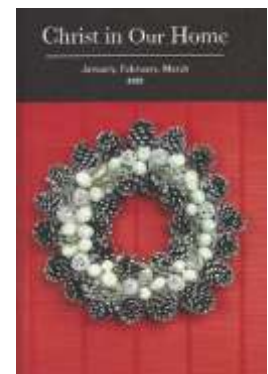


He can be reached via email ([ksnacs@msn.com](mailto:ksnacs@msn.com)) or text/call (201.757.4086)

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## QUARTERLY DEVOTIONAL

In the deep of winter, it's easy to fall into contemplation about "heavy" topics and some are indeed tackled here ~ "Church hurt" and "The Grace of Tears". But the promise of spiritual spring is hinted at with entries like "A way forward" and "Wellness Check."



Pick up a booklet and dive in, daily or when the spirit moves you! They are found in numerous places about the buildings.

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## ANNUAL WELCA CARE PACKAGES

Attention Parents, Grandparents, Fun Aunts & Cool Uncles, and Friends... WELCA ladies, Terri Loftus and Valerie McGrath are again organizing Valentine's Day care packages to young adults in the military & on campuses across the country.



Simply give Terri their names & addresses **no later than January 26<sup>th</sup>** by email ([tkabloft@optonline.net](mailto:tkabloft@optonline.net)) or text (201.412.0803). She & Val will take care of the rest!

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## CALLING ALL BAKERS

Don't put those cookies sheets away just yet! Our Valentine's Day care packages, mentioned above, always include that special touch of homemade cookies.



Please individually wrap each so recipients receive cookies and not crumbs. Let Terri know you'll come through as a baker, [click HERE](#) to sign-up!

Baked goods are due at church no later than **Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Please mark "For Valentine's Care Packages" so your donation is not confused with Coffee Hour treats.

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## DEADLINE: JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> FOR THE FEBRUARY EDITION



We're starting off the new year on the regular rotation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. All contributions for our February TIPS newsletter are due by January 13<sup>th</sup>. Deb thanks you tremendously for your content and timeliness!

*All members of the congregation are invited to send in news that they'd like shared with the St. Timothy community at any time of the year!*

If you'd like a free business ad to appear on the end promotions page, please contact Deb in the office.

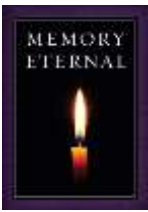
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## 2025 FLOWER & ETERNAL CANDLE SPONSORSHIPS



**Flowers:** Consider honoring a birthday, anniversary, baptism, marriage, or the memory of a loved one by sponsoring flowers for worship. You are invited to celebrate and remember the special people and occasions in your own life and in the life of the church. We purchase up to two bouquets for the sanctuary each week. To reserve a Sunday, you may sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board near the elevator or via the online form. Please indicate your name, honoree and relationship to that person, and whether you will take the flowers with you after the last service of the day or will donate them to a worthy recipient.



**Candle:** Another way to celebrate and remember the special people in your life is to sponsor the eternal light. You may make a donation either in memory of a loved one or in honor of friends, family or an important occasion. Paper sign-up is near the flower pages and an online form is also available.

Checks for your sponsorships can be made out to St. Timothy Lutheran Church with either "Florist Fund" or "Eternal Candle" in the memo line.

Eternal Candle ~ [CLICK HERE](#)

Altar Flowers ~ [CLICK HERE](#)

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### AN UPDATE FROM CLIFF KONNERTH



In CWS news ... Thank you everyone, your furniture donations continue to help settle refugee families through Church World Service. Deliveries were made this past month to settle a refugee couple from Nicaragua in a Bayonne apartment and we have furniture on hold for a family of five arriving later in December.

... **PLUS** The Rodriguez family is nearing financial independence. NJIC will ask Santa what the children would like for Christmas and do some shopping. 😊

The appeal for a quality used car continues, please let me know of any leads.



We also heard from our first sponsored family, the Kanaans and they are doing great! They have moved to a small house in Clifton and have invited NJIC volunteers to visit. A group from NJIC will be enjoying their hospitality later in December.

# RECENTLY RECEIVED NOTES

You can see the originals on the bulletin board nearest the hallway to the front glass door & donation bins:

 **Seafarers International House**  
 123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003  
 212-677-4800 \*www.SIHNYC.org \* An Affiliate of  ELCA



Dear Friend,

This Christmas season, we reintroduce the patron saint of seafarers, Saint Nicholas. In the Ports of Albany, Baltimore, Duluth, New Haven, New York & New Jersey we continue his tradition of gift giving in the form of Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and Holiday Greetings for mariners to enjoy while out at sea on Christmas Day.

In our guestrooms in Manhattan immigrants and seafarers enjoy the Holidays in a warm and welcoming place.

You, our supporters, are the modern-day saints who through your thoughtful gifts help us "rescue" those who may feel lonely and unloved during the Holidays. Thank YOU!

May God bless you this Holiday season and throughout 2025.

*Marshall Latham Dwyer*

Rev. K  
 St. Tin  
 395 V  
 Wayne, NJ 07471



*I can't thank you enough for your prayers, cards and support through this difficult time. "The Celebration of Life" service for Pat truly showed the love everyone had for him. Special thank you to Nancy Farina and Valerie McGrath for organizing the repast. Thanks to all who prepared and donated food, set up and cleaned up.*

The text of Barbara's handwritten note reads:

Dear Friends in Christ,

I can't thank you enough for your prayers, cards and support through this difficult time. "The Celebration of Life" service for Pat truly showed the love everyone had for him.

Special thank you to Nancy Farina, and Valerie McGrath for organizing the repast. Thanks to all who prepared and donated food, set up and cleaned up.

Thank you for your continued support.

Love, Barbara & Kaplan Families

## **AN UPDATE FROM ANNE LOFFREDO**

Since November 1, gifts have been given to the General Memorial Fund in memory of: William A. Monsees – designated “New Roof Fund,” Patrick Kaplan, Joseph Suarez – designated “New Roof Fund,” Kenneth R. Jones and Elizabeth Jones and to the Organ Repair Fund in memory of Louise Hawkrige.

Memorial Funds have recently been used to purchase the “Godly Play” Sunday School curriculum for spring, 2025.



No Memorial Garden pavers have been purchased this month; our paver total stands at 117. The price of a paver is \$300.00. Checks may be made to St. Timothy Memorial Fund, with the words “Memorial Garden” on the memo line. Pavers may be engraved with the names of deceased loved ones, or left blank for future engraving. Paver application sheets are available in the narthex. See Pat Winters for further information or assistance. The Memorial Garden is self-supporting and gifts are welcome at all times.

We also welcome contributions to the fund for restoration and enhancement of our Church organ. This work is on-going. Checks may be made out to St. Timothy Memorial Fund with the words “Organ Repair” on the memo line.



Please consider a gift to any branch of St. Timothy Memorial Fund – General Memorial Fund, Music Fund, Laubscher Property Fund, Memorial Garden Fund, Eternal Light Candle Fund, Flanders/Schleer Scholarship Loan Funds – or to Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. Memorial giving is good giving!

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## **STILL SOME LEFT... FEEL FREE TO TAKE MORE THAN ONE!**



Spiral bound 2025 wall calendars with monthly inspirational messages and beautiful nature scenes are located in a number of locations around the buildings. Good for home or office or home office!

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## **CHRISTIAN ED/SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Congratulations to our young thespians for a job well-done in retelling the story of the birth of Jesus with the annual Christmas Pageant.

### **Sunday School Dates to Remember:**

Jan. 5 – NO Sunday School; 3 Kings Celebration after the 9:30am service

Jan. 12 – Sunday School Classes Resume

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This month's **Heart 'n Hands** collection item is  
Warm Gloves.



Please keep this in mind when you are shopping.  
You may place your donation in the blue bin near the front glass door on the  
classroom level.

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**Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**



Dr. King was a champion of social justice. Will you take this opportunity to reflect on his life and his message? Feel free to share your thoughts (st.tims395@yahoo.com)!



# JANUARY

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|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/4 Debra Sansone     | 1/22 Ryan Bedi           |
| 1/6 Brandon Kratky    | 1/22 Pamela O'Mealy      |
| 1/7 Mike Fetherston   | 1/23 Barbara Westerberg  |
| 1/8 Bob Kratky        | 1/25 Lori VanDerStad     |
| 1/10 Melissa Pardalis | 1/26 Ethan DeRose-Travia |
| 1/14 Andrew Koppenal  | 1/27 Josh Dittmer        |
| 1/15 Dani Dittmer     | 1/27 Jake Dittmer        |
| 1/16 Deborah Andersen | 1/29 Scott McGrath       |
| 1/17 Edward Cleaver   | 1/29 Sue Phelan          |

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1/12 Nancy & Cliff Konnerth  
1/24 Liz & Jack Koch

*Know someone who should be on this list but isn't??*

*Please email Deb at [st.tims395@yahoo.com](mailto:st.tims395@yahoo.com)*

*or call the office at 973-694-8316!*

**COMING NEXT MONTH!**

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## **Super Bowl Food Collection**

The Bills are surging, the Lions are fading and the Chiefs are questionable after Mahomes is injured. What about the stalwart Eagles or Vikings? No matter the Big Game match-up, we'll be ready for some friendly competition as St. Timothy once again uses non-perishable grocery donations to cast votes for the winner.



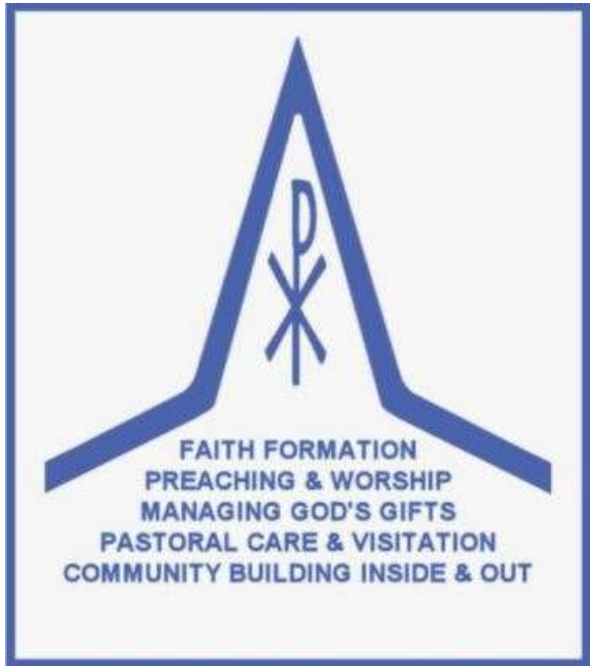
Look for details in the coming weeks in Announcements & E-blasts!

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| <b>DATE</b> | <b>Altar Guild</b>                 | <b>Ushers</b>                    | <b>Acolyte</b>     | <b>Assisting Minister</b> | <b>Reader</b>   | <b>A/V</b>      |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jan. 5      | Nancy Farina                       | Karen McAleer<br>Lori VanDerStad | Kaila Gabel        | Carolyn Russo             | Josh Abrahamson | Samantha DeRose |
| Jan. 12     | Karen Sajban<br>Debbie Andersen    | Tom Sajban<br>Doug Zangrilli     | Herbert Eggers     | Karen McAleer             | Lori VanDerStad | Karen Sajban    |
| Jan. 19     | Terri Loftus<br>Ilona Oosterwyk    | James & Lisa<br>Koppenal         | Andrew<br>Koppenal | Colleen Duffy             | Bob Davidson    | James Koppenal  |
| Jan. 26     | Lori VanDerStad<br>Diana DeAngelis | Chris & Sue<br>Phelan            | Andrew Inciardi    | Laura Dec                 | Marie Beyer     | Craig Beyer     |

# St. Timothy Business & Service Directory



## BUSINESSES



Evalyn Johnson's Granddaughter:



LeashNLather@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/LeashNLather

505 Saddle River Road  
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

Laura Dec, Consultant  
Midnightangel2@optonline.net  
[www.tastefullysimple.com](http://www.tastefullysimple.com)



Simplified Lifestyles through  
Convenient & Unique Gourmet Foods

(973) 835-2348

ID# 0059231



Your free ad can go **HERE!**

Contact the church office:

**973.694.8316**

**st.tims395@yahoo.com**



*St. Tim's Business/Service Listing  
contact Deb Califf at 973-694-8316  
or email at [st.tims395@yahoo.com](mailto:st.tims395@yahoo.com)*