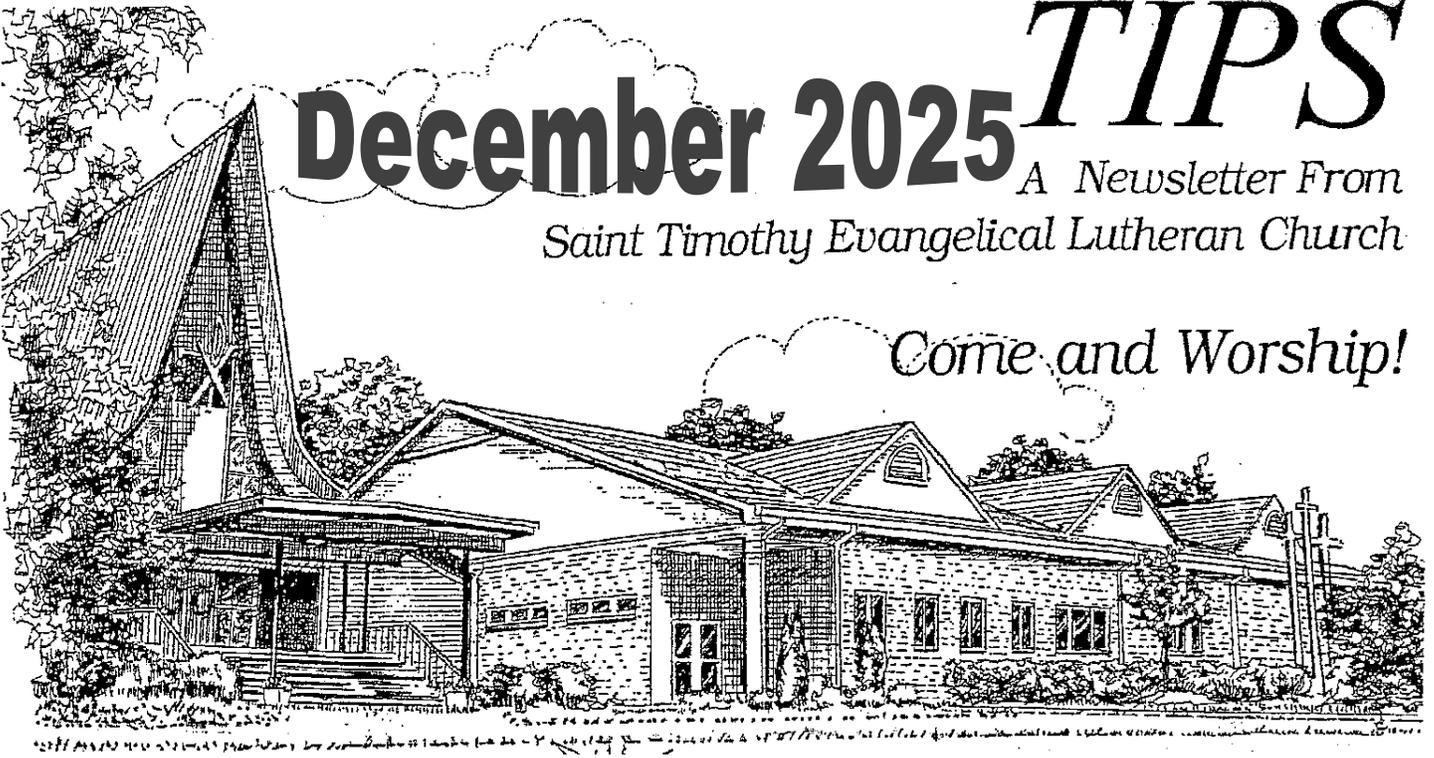


# December 2025 *TIPS*

A Newsletter From  
Saint Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Come and Worship!*



Sunday School 9:35 – 10:20 am  
Sunday Worship 9:00 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

[sttimothynj.org](http://sttimothynj.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	<b>President</b>
Josh Abrahamson	<b>Vice President</b>
Karen Sajban	<b>Treasurer</b>
Marie Johnsson	<b>Secretary</b>
Gloria Cooper	
Laura Dec	
Art DeRose	
Garey Goskowski	
Cliff Konnerth	
Valerie McGrath	
Jeff Riotto	
Barbara Westerberg	



# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands  7pm Scouts	2 1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/Holy Communion	3  7 pm Caroling	4	5  6 pm AA	6
7 9:00am Worship 9:35am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1pm AA  Angel Gifts Due	8 9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands  7pm Scouts  NewsLetter DEADLINE	9 1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/Holy Communion 7:30 pm Church Council meeting	10 9:30/10:30am Needleworks  7:15 pm Jubilate Bells rehearsal 	11	12  6 pm AA	13 10:30 am  Bookworms Book Club
14 9:00am Worship 9:35am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1pm AA 	15 9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands  10am Poinsettia Orders Due 7pm Scouts	16 1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/Holy Communion 7 pm Christian Ed committee meeting	17  10am Hymn Sing  7:15 pm Alleluia Choir rehearsal 	18 10:30 am Adult Book Group	19  6 pm AA	20
21  9:30am Worship Children's Pageant  1pm AA 	22  7pm Scouts	23 1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/Holy Communion	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve SERVICES 5:30pm Worship 10:30pm Worship	25 10:30am PJ/casual service 	26  6 pm AA	27
28 9:30am Worship 1pm AA	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed 			This month's Heart n' Hands item is <b>Medicated Powders</b>

## Word from Our Pastor



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*“I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”*  
– Ezekiel 37: 14

Ezekiel chapter 37 is one of many prophecies that is a metaphor intended to communicate the very real relationship between God and God’s people. In this vision, Ezekiel is taken to a valley full of dry bones and told to prophecy *to the bones*. The bones come together, are covered with skin, and then filled with life by the breath of God. In the vision the Israelites are saying “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” God responds, “I am going to open your graves, and bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD.”

Every person of faith (including such greats as Mother Teresa and Archbishop Desmond Tutu) goes through a dry bones period in their life. For most of us, it will happen more than once. It can be really hard to rationalize an all-powerful, all-good God with suffering in the world. Sometimes the effort to do so can suck us dry as prunes and leave us saying “our bones are dried up and our hope is lost.”

Most of the time, when I feel my own faith becoming brittle, I take a deep breath. In the Hebrew of Ezekiel, the word *ruach* is translated spirit, breath, or wind depending on the context. Modern science tells us that when we breathe in, oxygen enters our blood and spreads throughout our whole body. Thousands of years before anyone could know the science, scripture defined living as breathing. It is also the way that God renews our souls. We can inhale the Holy Spirit and exhale all of our fear and hopelessness.

Taking a step back from what is going on around me and *focusing on God* fills me with peace, love, and joy. In those moments I don’t ask for anything else – just God to fill my dry bones with new life. God has always come through to the degree that I can feel my heart overflowing. I find myself loving people that seem unlovable, hoping in hopeless circumstances, and resting in the midst of storms.

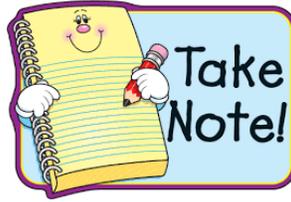
As we approach the church's new year (November 30) and the season of Advent, I am aware that everyone is going through things. Everyone has worries and some are going through crises. I cannot promise you that God will answer your prayers in the way that you would like, but I can promise you that God knows all about it. That is the message of Christmas. God loves us so much that God was born a vulnerable baby in order to be with humanity.

Emmanuel, "God is with us" in the messiness of life from birth to death with intimate knowledge of all we go through. God is in our breath filling our bodies with warmth and love. God is in the deepest valleys that seem full of death offering opportunities for resurrection. May this next year be a time of renewal full of hope and love for us all. Amen



**FROM DRY  
BONES TO  
LIFE**

**GOD'S PROMISE OF  
RESTORATION**



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## **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

For Christmas eve, we need a reader, an assisting minister, and an acolyte for both the 5:30pm and 10:30pm services. We also need a crucifer (someone to carry the cross) for the 10:30pm service. Whereas the norm at St. Timothy is to have kids serve as acolytes and adults serve as readers and assisting ministers, those are not hard and fast rules.



### **Worship Team**

**Anyone of any age that is interested in serving in worship is welcome. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Kimberly.**

---

## **CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

December 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Christmas Pageant, one service at 9:30am only

December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ 5:30pm & 10:30pm services

December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ 10:30am Pajama/Casual service

December 28<sup>th</sup> ~ one service at 9:30am only



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## **CHRISTMAS CARDS**



An assortment and abundance of Christmas cards are available for free! They can be found in the narthex and Fellowship Hall. Thank you Barbara Kaplan for your year-long dedication in organizing this kind offering.

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## CHRISTMAS PLANTS



The annual Christmas Poinsettia sale begins November 30, the first Sunday of Advent and runs for two weeks only! Place your order online by [clicking here!](#)

Paper forms will be included in bulletins on November 30<sup>th</sup> with extras on the rear table in the narthex the following weekend. Simply drop into the offering plate or place in the Church Secretary mailbox cubbie. *Paper forms are due December 14<sup>th</sup>.*

Cost remains \$8.00 per plant and both red & white varieties are available. *Deadline is Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am via online form or call to the office.*

---

## BE A HOST, BE A GUEST... EVERYONE IS INVITED!



Coffee Hour follows our weekly 10:30am worship. It's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends, welcome newcomers, and enjoy a relaxed moment together over coffee, tea, and delicious treats.

To keep this tradition thriving, we invite volunteers to sign up to bring bakery items or lend a hand with cleanup. A signup sheet is available across from the elevator and online ([click HERE](#)). Your contributions – big or small – help make this time special for all.

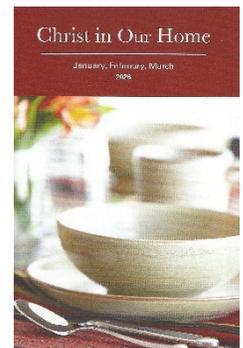
Thank you for being part of our church family!

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER INSPIRATION

The January-March 2026 devotional booklet of the year is available in various places about the buildings. Meditations on such diverse topics as Disability, Humility, Transitions, Occupations and Consolation entice the reader to discover new ways to follow in Christ's footsteps.

Pick up your copy today!



## COLLECTION DEADLINE

### Angel Gifts

There is a basket of gift tags with the names, gender, and sizes of children affiliated with the **Center for Family Resources**, the home of the upper Passaic County Early Head Start program, some of whom meet at St. Timothy every other Wednesday. There is also a container to place the other half of the tag that must include your name and phone number.



Please take a name...or 2...or 3... and purchase a **gift of clothing**. Bring the **wrapped** gift with the gift tag attached to church and place it under the Jesse tree (*please avoid large bows and ribbons for packing purposes*).

The deadline is **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> by the 10:30am service**.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support of the Jesse Tree Angel Gift program. Please contact Karen Sajban at (973-229-4624) or [ksajban@gmail.com](mailto:ksajban@gmail.com) with any questions.



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## TIPS JANUARY EDITION

December is a busy month for church office work! Deb is most appreciative for TIPS contributions to be received **no later than Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** for the January newsletter.



Members of the congregation are welcome to share news and information too. Call or email the office for assistance!

---

## THANK YOU!



To all those who so generously donated items, a big “thank you” for another successful Christmas At Sea campaign. The gifts are on their way to the Seafarers!

## 2026 IS AROUND THE CORNER!

### Free Wall Calendars

Hot off the presses...and delivery is expected any day now! Our annual supply of wall calendars generously sponsored by Vander May Funeral Home will be made available soon.



### Altar Flower and Eternal Candle Sponsorships



These sponsorships are a solemn remembrance of departed loved ones or celebrations of life's great joys, all while adding to the spiritual ambiance for Sunday worship.

The sign-up sheets and online links will be updated and posted once pricing for 2026 is verified. Keep an eye on the weekly announcements for publication shortly!

---

## SONS OF NORWAY

Nor-Bu Lodge in Rockaway will be having a food sale on Sunday, December 7 from 1-2:30pm. Items will include cheeses, chocolates, solo, fish balls, herring and much more!



GPS is 21 Oslo Drive, Lake Telemark, New Jersey – right off of Green Pond Road. Contact Jean Huntington with questions; the office has her number.

---

## UPDATE FROM ANNE LOFFREDO

### Memorial Funds

In July and August, gifts were given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Stuart Anderson. There have been paybacks to the Flanders/Schleer Scholarship Loan Funds. There have been no Memorial purchases during the summer.



Memorial Garden pavers are always on sale; the price is \$300.00. Pavers may be engraved with the names of deceased loved ones or left blank for future engraving. Samples are available from the office. Paver application sheets are available in the narthex. See Pat Winters for further information.

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 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, Flanders/Schleer Scholarship Loan Funds – or to Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Memorial giving is good giving!

### The following loved ones who have passed within the past year were recognized on All Saints Sunday

#### St. Timothy members and former members:

- + Louis Warner
- + Stuart Anderson
- + Anna Froehner

#### Beloved relatives and friends:

- + John Robert Schott, father of Lynn Schott
- + Ingrid Dolberry, friend of Ellen Grexa
- + Roger Fuller, cousin of Ellen Grexa
- + Francine Kramer, neighbor of Ellen Grexa
- + Jim Haglund, brother of Nancy Farina
- + Barbara Lorenzoni, friend of Carol Smith
- + Julia Lawson, mother of Michael Lawson; grandmother of Erik and Bryan Lawson
- + William Sharpton, stepfather of Compton Cooper
- + Lillian Koskelin, grandmother of the Johnsson family



## UPDATE FROM BOB DAVIDSON & CLIFF KONNERTH



### Heart 'n Hands Mission

November is the month when we give thanks for our abundant blessings, for family and friends, for food on our table, clothes on our backs and the roof over our heads. It is also a time to remember our friends in need who may be struggling, hoping and praying for these things we so often take for granted. We do what we can to help others in their time of need, bringing clothing to give them dignity, blankets and sleeping bags to provide warmth and shelter, and bringing new socks and toiletries to help them maintain good health and hygiene.

We received a substantial contribution, from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, to replace our 2007 Mercury minivan. We purchased a **2002** Dodge Ram ProMaster van (the big white one in the parking lot), which provides greater cargo space for our deliveries and will allow us to assist our partner NJIC (North Jersey Interfaith Cares) with moving furniture. We are extremely excited and thankful for this wonderful donation to our outreach ministry.

We are now accepting winter clothing, coats, boots, hats, gloves, and scarves. We especially need children's winter coats. In this season of Thanksgiving, let us remember our friends in need who may be struggling, hoping and praying for necessities and comfort.

*Lord, we ask that you watch over those in need, that they may find shelter when they seek it, food when they are hungry, clothing and comfort when they are cold, and Your grace and loving encouragement in their darkness.*



## NJIC

Our NJIC companions at Preakness Reformed Church (Cathy) contacted us to help provide warm clothes for 2 families they are assisting in Jersey City. Cliff Konnerth was able to deliver clothing to her, and she was thrilled with what we were able to provide. When she gave the children the clothes they wouldn't stop hugging her. NJIC was also able to provide one of the families with a set of bunk beds.

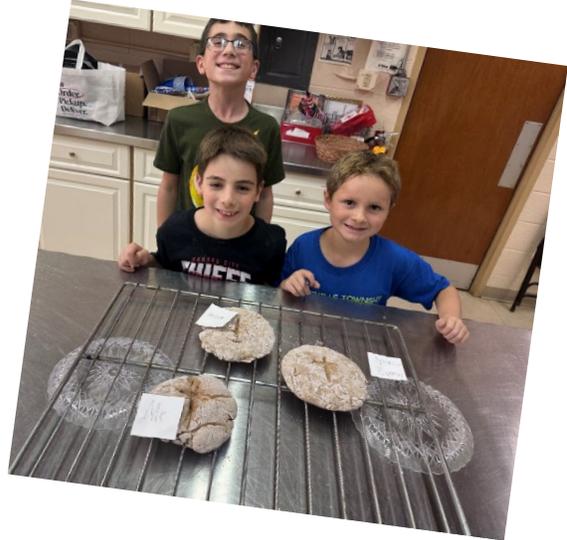
We want to share some stories of ways in which we have provided assistance recently:

- A woman at Lunchtime Ministry in Hoboken was looking for reading glasses and heard that we deliver clothing there once a month. We do not always have glasses to distribute, but on a recent delivery, we were able to help her find the perfect pair. She was so thankful!
  - We received a call from a young man who needed a suit to be a pall bearer for his great aunt's memorial service. We were able to help him out with a suit, belt, shirt and size 13 shoes donated by Andrew Konnerth. The young man was very thankful!
  - The Veteran's Clothing Closet, part of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson, picked up 3 racks of men's business suits, as well as shoes, belts, and ties.
  - We also were able to help First Presbyterian Church in Caldwell with a clothing drive they sponsor for St John's Soup Kitchen in Newark. St John's helps to support individuals and families in the community. We provided them with men's apparel, which is always in high demand. Thank you, Deb Califf (our St. Timothy Office Manager), for reaching out to us about this need.
-

## UPDATE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Congratulations to Jackson Scillieri, Spencer Eggers and Nicholas Lutu on receiving their first communion.

The boys received instruction for several weeks culminating in baking the bread for celebration of the sacrament on Reformation Sunday. Welcome to the Lord's table 😊



### Christmas Prayers and Blessings

*Lord, thank you for this blessed Christmas season. Fill us with your grace and peace, and may your blessings of joy overflow in our lives. Shower us with your love, and may we extend love and blessings towards those around us.*

**Amen.**

# Church EVENTS

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## Old-fashioned Christmas Caroling ~ December 3<sup>rd</sup>



Dig out your Santa hats, scarves & gloves to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to some of the less mobile of our congregation.

We meet in the church parking lot in time to caravan to our various destinations starting at 7pm. Lyric booklets for all the favorite hymns and songs of the season will be provided. You just need to bring your joyous spirit and humble voices!

---

## Weekly Tuesday Events ~ December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and maybe 23<sup>rd</sup> [TBD closer to the date]; No sessions on December 30<sup>th</sup>

Meditation with Movement at 1pm. Can't make it every 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 & COMMUNION

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.

---

## Needleworks Groups ~ December 10<sup>th</sup> only

Angels Circle and Nellie's Knit & Crochet return from Summer break this month. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month in Fellowship Hall. Angels begin their sewing at 9:30am, while the yarnworkers arrive at 10:30am. Both meet for about an hour and a half or so... there's plenty of flexibility for participant's schedules.



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



*All they want for Christmas is a different life.*

When chef Charlie Goodwin gets hit on the head on the L.A. set of her reality baking show, she loses a lot more than consciousness; she also loses her ability to taste and smell--both critical to her success as show judge. Meanwhile, Charlie's identical twin, Cass, is frantically trying to hold her own life together back in their quaint mountain hometown while running the family's bustling bakery and dealing with her ex, who won't get the memo that they're over.

With only days until Christmas, a desperate Charlie asks Cass to do something they haven't done since they were kids: switch places. Looking for her own escape from reality, Cass agrees. But temporarily trading lives proves more complicated than they imagined, especially when rugged firefighter Jake Greenman and gorgeous physician's assistant Miguel Rodriguez are thrown into the mix. Will the twins' identity swap be a recipe for disaster, or does it have all the right ingredients for getting their lives back on track?

*-From goodreads.com*

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 @ Alps at Wayne ~ December 17<sup>th</sup>



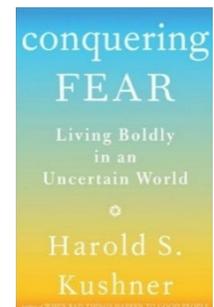
Spend an hour engaging the shut-in population of this care facility with familiar song. Lyric sheets provided, just bring your voice and sunny disposition!

Meet in the Lobby at 10am. Questions? See Carolyn Russo

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## Adult Book Group ~ December 18<sup>th</sup>

Come join us as we continue reading *Conquering Fear* by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner.



We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10:30am. Each session is stand-alone, so jumping in at the middle is fine!

Great discussions, great fellowship, come join us! -Barbara Westerberg

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## **December 21<sup>st</sup> ~ A date that's chock full of activity!**

**Children's Pageant:** There will be only one worship service beginning at 9:30am on this date. During the service, feel the true meaning of Christmas as told through that good ol' Peanuts gang as our youth bring to life Charlie Brown and friends!

**Church decorating:** After enjoying a snack in the narthex of cookies, generously baked by your very own Pastor Kimberly, lend a hand to complete preparations for Christmas Eve. Poinsettias will be on hand to move into position, in addition to other decorative touches needed.

---

## **December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ January 2<sup>nd</sup>**



The Church Office will be closed for the Christmas ~ New Year's holidays beginning Wednesday, December 24, 2025 through and including Friday, January 2, 2026.

Pastor Kimberly is available via text or call to 551.315.7151 or email, depending on the urgency of the matter. Pastoral care is always a priority!

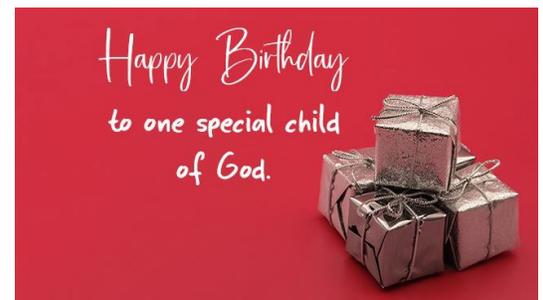
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# DECEMBER

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12/1 Janet Romaine	12/14 Vincent Venturelli
12/2 Ryan O'Mealy	12/15 William Muschko
12/3 Craig Beyer	12/21 Carol Labadie
12/3 Ethan Gaffney	12/21 Ann Rocko
12/5 Ellen Grexa	12/21 Julie Suarez-Hayes
12/5 Marie Johnsson	12/23 Anya Cooper
12/8 Frank Scillieri	12/26 CJ Beyer
12/9 Karen Kong	12/29 Sarah Riotto
12/11 Lora Inciardi	12/30 Holly Peterson

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12/13 Jessica & Matthew Rusin
12/23 Barbara & Richard Koegel
12/28 Barbara & Richard Westerberg

*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!*



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## **Three Kings Epiphany Party ~ January 6<sup>th</sup>**

Save the date and plan to come to the annual Epiphany Party. Enjoy games and Three Kings cake as the Christmas season wraps up!

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## **Line Dancing ~ January 9<sup>th</sup> & January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

After taking a break in December, line dancing returns with two sessions in January. So get those boots ready for kicking up your heels!

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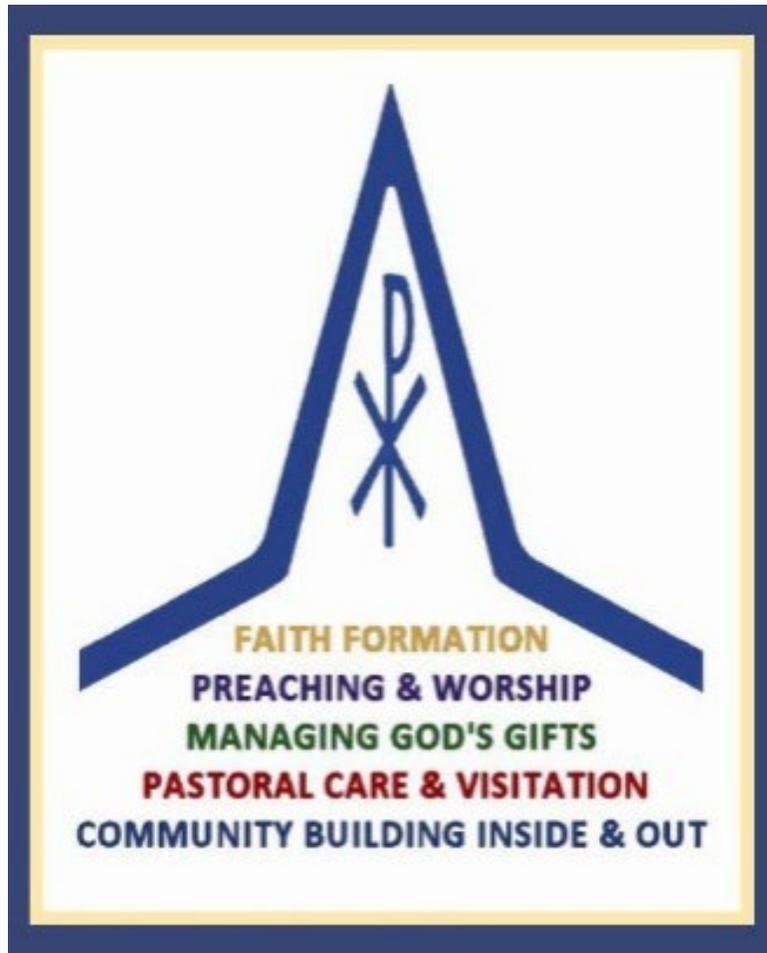
## **MLK Day of Service ~ January 19<sup>th</sup>**

Activity details to be determined.

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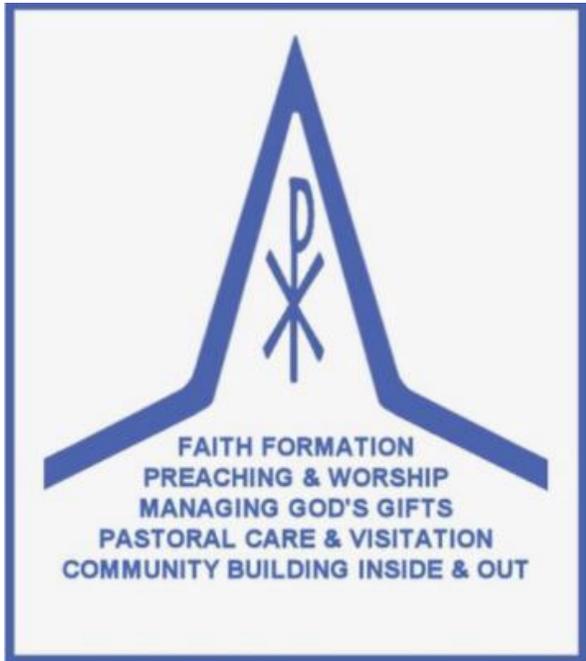
**St. Timothy ELCA is a community of faith creating connection through the love of Jesus Christ.**





<b>DATE</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>A/V</b>
Dec 7	Lori VanDerStad Diana DeAngelis	Jeff Riotto Karen McAleer	Samantha Scillieri	Robin Koegel	Bob Davidson	Craig Beyer
Dec 14	Terri Loftus Ilona Oosterwyk	Laura Dec Lori VanDerStad	Jayden Fagan	Josh Abrahamson	Karen Sajban	Compton Cooper
Dec 21 @9:30am	Debbie Andersen Karen Sajban	Tom Sajban Doug Zangrilli	Andrew Inciardi	Carolyn Russo	Marie Beyer	Karen Sajban
Dec 24 @5:30pm  @10:30pm	Debbie Andersen  Valerie McGrath	TBD  TBD	Lillian Johnsson  TBD along with Crucifer	TBD  TBD	TBD  TBD	  Samantha DeRose
Dec 28 @9:30am	Lori VanDerStad Diana DeAngelis	TBD	Spencer Eggers	Art DeRose	Colleen Duffy	Compton Cooper

# St. Timothy Business & Service Directory



## BUSINESSES



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C - 973-418-1894  
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862-215-3779

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www.facebook.com/LeashNLather Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

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Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

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



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President

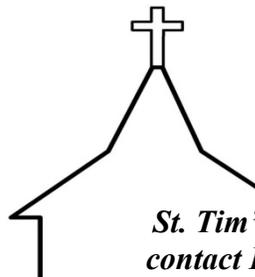
1160 Hamburg Tpk Suite 4  
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