

February 2026 *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

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Director of Music
Office Manager
Church Office Email

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Deb Califf
st.tims395@yahoo.com

Church Council

Colleen Duffy	President
Josh Abrahamson	Vice President
Karen Sajban	Treasurer
Marie Johnsson	Secretary
Gloria Cooper	
Laura Dec	
Art DeRose	
Garey Goskowski	
Cliff Konnerth	
Valerie McGrath	
Jeff Riotto	
Barbara Westerberg	

FEBRUARY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>*Christian Ed includes Youth Sunday School Confirmation Adult Sunday School Adult Forum</p>			<p>This month's Heart n' Hands item is Adult Crew Socks</p> 		 <p>Valentine's Care package cookies due at church by February 1st</p>	
<p>SOUPERBOWL FOOD DRIVE 1</p> <p>9:00am Worship 9:35am Christian Ed* 10:30am Worship</p> <p>1pm AA </p>	<p>2</p> <p>9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands 7pm Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/Holy Communion 7 pm Worship committee meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir rehearsal </p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Office Closed 6</p> <p>6 pm AA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>SOUPERBOWL FOOD DRIVE</p> <p>Last chance-remember your food donation "ballots" tomorrow!</p>
<p><i>Scout Sunday</i> 8</p> <p>9:00am Worship 9:35am Christian Ed* 10:30am Worship</p> <p>1pm AA </p>	<p> Content Due 9</p> <p>9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands 7pm Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/Holy Communion 7:30 pm Church Council meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30/10:30am Needleworks 7:15 pm Bells rehearsal </p>	<p>12</p>	<p>Office Closed 13</p> <p>6 pm AA 7 pm Line Dancing </p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30 am  Remember your old palms—deadline tomorrow!</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00am Worship 9:35am Christian Ed* 10:30am Worship</p> <p>1pm AA </p>	<p>Office Closed 16</p> <p>9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands</p> <p> 7pm Scouts</p>	<p><i>Pancake Supper</i> 17</p> <p>1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/Holy Communion 7 pm Christian Ed committee meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am Hymn Sing ASH WEDNESDAY Worship Noon & 7pm Full Communion with ashes</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30 am Adult Book Group</p>	<p>Office Closed 20</p> <p>6 pm AA</p>	<p>21</p>
<p><i>Lent</i> 22</p> <p>9:00am Worship 9:35am Christian Ed* 10:30am Worship</p> <p>1pm AA </p>	<p>23</p> <p>9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands 7pm Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/Holy Communion</p>	<p> 25</p> <p>9:30/10:30am Needleworks 7:15 pm Choir rehearsal </p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Office Closed 27</p> <p>6 pm AA</p>	<p>28</p>



[Jesus] looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had...” -Luke 21:1-4

Historically and biblically, the rule of thumb for giving to the church was 10% of the household income. The word for this was *tithing*. In much of Europe there has even been taxes paid to the government to pay for the operation of churches. This is how places like Notre Dame and Aachen Cathedral remain in good condition despite fewer and fewer active Christians. People can opt out of the tax, but in doing so, they are no longer permitted to do baptisms or weddings there. And, in many cases, they want the taxes to pay for the churches, because they take pride in the buildings even if they no longer practice the faith.

My seminary hosted exchange students from Hungary each year and one of the things they found most astounding was the idea that churches were self-funded in the USA. Courses on stewardship and “the spirituality of fundraising” blew their minds. Of course, people do give to churches in Hungary, but it isn’t in order to *maintain the church*, it is in order to *care for their neighbors*. (If we are being honest, it feels a lot better to give money to help people than to pay the electric bill!) One of the young men asked me how it is possible for churches to maintain themselves and still care for their neighbors. The only response I could give was to shrug my shoulders and say, “we do the best we can.”

More recently, as I reflected over 2025, I realized that in the midst of medical bills and college tuition and all sorts of unexpected things, my giving was not as generous as I would like for it to be. I’ve been distracted and not entirely, doing “the best I can” to support our faith community and the significant ways our church cares for our neighbors.

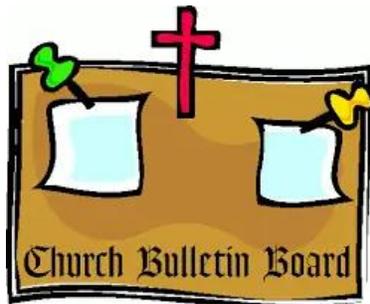
This may be true for you too. Life has a way of getting in the way of being generous. As we all prepare for the time of Lent, we are invited to pause and consider the ways we are practicing our faith. Fasting, prayer, and worship all turn our focus back to God. God is steadfast and peaceful in a way that much of our lives are not.

I would like to encourage everyone to set aside a few minutes each day to think about the ways that God has blessed you. Say a little prayer of thanks. If you are up for it, follow that with considering how you can be generous to your community of faith. Maybe you want to give more on a regular basis throughout 2026. Maybe you would like to just try out being more generous during lent or give a special gift for Easter.

I truly believe that St. Timothy does good things here in North Jersey. In addition to doing a lot of ministry, we host a lot of ministries. All of which depend on having a building (and, yes, that includes electricity) in which to operate and a congregation that serves.

Finally, I do want to say that God knows your heart and knows your income. God also knows how expensive it is to live in NJ! As shown in Jesus's depiction of the Widow's Mite quoted at the beginning, it isn't the wealth that matters, but the generosity of the heart. Please don't give up your own basic needs or go into debt in order to support any ministry. Just do the best you can. I promise you it is enough.





Super Bowl Food Drive



It's fourth and goal and the drive is on... the Super Bowl Food Drive that is! The WIN Food Pantry requests these items at this time: canned vegetables (especially green beans), canned soup, tuna and other proteins, Chef Boyardee products and canned fruits.

“Ballot” boxes are in the narthex and for this “election,” you are absolutely encouraged to “vote” more than once

Palm Collection

It's time to start preparing for the liturgical season of Lent. A basket will be placed in the narthex starting February 1st for the collection of your 2025 palms to be burned to create the needed ashes for Ash Wednesday.



Please bring them to church at your convenience up until and including Sunday February 15th.

Soup & Worship



Join Pastor Kimberly on Wednesday evenings during Lent at 6:30pm for a soup supper to deepen your Lenten devotion in fellowship and prayer. [Online](#) and paper sign-ups are available for four volunteers each of five weeks to provide two varieties of homemade soup along with bread and set-up/clean-up assistance.

Holden Evening Prayer will again be utilized for the worship portion of the evening. Regular music rehearsals with Caroline will follow the suppers.

Let's get an extended weather forecast from a jittery, inconsistent, reddish brown rodent.



someecards

Newsletter March edition



Members who would like to share news with the congregation are always welcome to submit a blurb to Deb in the office no later than the second Monday of each month to appear in the following month's TIPS newsletter.

Feel free to give some parent-brags, note special milestones or advertise an upcoming special event!

Regular contributors: your content is due February 9th



**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

And speaking of closures... a gentle reminder that office hours for both Deb and Pastor Kimberly are Monday through Thursday, 9am until Noon. Friday is a day off for each of them.

For non-urgent matters, please leave a message on the church phone or email ~ Deb (st.tims395@yahoo.com) and Pastor Kimberly (pastorkimberly@sttimothyinj.org) for attention on the next business day.

Pastor Kimberly is always available *in case of emergency* and has established a dedicated line for those instances; please replace her cell number in your contact list with this number: **551.315.7151**.

Christian Education Update



“A Charlie Brown Christmas” was our Sunday School Christmas program. On December 21 during the 9:30 service we all enjoyed watching our students tell the real story of Christmas. And, if you missed it in person, you can watch it on YouTube or on our Facebook page. Cliff Konnerth’s 4th grade class made the main props for

the show and proves that “teamwork makes the dream work”. Of course, a big thank you to Pastor for being the casting person and director. They all did a fantastic job!

Our Godly Play class is learning some more Bible stories that unfold right before their eyes. It is truly a great way to learn the stories. You really feel like you are in the story, trust me.

All of our 4th grade students received The Action Bible as a gift from St. Timothy when they received communion for the first time on October 26, 2025. They have been using it for their weekly lessons. They really like using it and have a timeline with the stories hanging on the wall in the classroom. Thank you to Cliff for such a great idea.

In His name,
Laura Dec

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 17 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday

March 29 – Palm Sunday one service at 9:30am
followed by potluck brunch

April 2 – Maundy Thursday Dinner Church

April 3 – Good Friday

April 5 – Easter Sunday

Check out these "Thank You's"



11/26/25

Dear People of St Timothy Lutheran,
As a member of your NJ Synod Council, I want to express my thanks for your partnership in the gospel. Thank you for the ways you reach into the world with God's love. Thank you for the gifts you share with the wider church, including mission support. Thank you for responding to God in faith.

Peace,
Rev Eric Trozzo
NJ Synod Council



North Jersey Interfaith Cares
P.O. Box 1131
Little Falls, New Jersey 07424

St. Timothy Lutheran Church
395 Valley Road
Wayne, NJ 07470

January 12, 2026

Dear Friends:

Thanks so much for your congregation's most generous donation of \$833.50. We at NJIC share your outreach ministry, and strive to implement it locally through assistance to incoming refugee families. With your help, we will continue to support these families in their quest to achieve sustainable independence.

We at NJIC have had a long relationship with St. Timothy's, dating back to Family Promise. We cherish that relationship and are extremely grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,

James G. Andreano
President, North Jersey Interfaith Cares

Heart 'n Hands Mission Update



Our ministry continues to grow as we are guided to new partners serving those in need. Nancy and Cliff Konnerth made connection with St. Stephan's Grace Community, the ELCA church in the Ironbound section of Newark, through Reverend Maristela Freiberg. Rev. Freiberg assisted us in bringing Pastor Kimberly here. We delivered clothing on December 6 and January 3 when the church hosts a food and water distribution coordinated by Newark Water Coalition. The pictures below are from our December 6 delivery.



A large anonymous contribution enabled us to purchase the 2022 Dodge Ram van that you see in the parking lot and it serves us very well so far. Craig Beyer has joined our delivery team and our care kit and sorting groups are busy every week.

We recently purchased ShopRite gift cards for WIN, winter coats and fleece blankets for immediate distribution to several partners, and are blessed with a consistent stream of clothing donations. St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Secaucus delivered a large load of winter coats which we are also distributing this month.

Thank you for all your continuing support of this St. Timothy Outreach Ministry.

Check out these samples from our devotionals; they're quick easy daily reads that connect topics of today with biblical teachings!

Monday, March 2

Hebrews 3:1-6

A better blueprint

The builder of all things is God. (v. 4)

Have you ever seen the blueprints for your home? Whether you live in an apartment or a farmhouse, somebody drew up plans for it. Someone figured out how to turn a plot of land into a place where people could live. Someone gave blueprints to the builders so they would know what to do.

The writer of Hebrews uses the image of building a house to encourage his readers to hold firm to their hope in Jesus. In a previous era, God had worked through Moses to build a people of faith. Moses used the blueprints God provided to build God's house. He served God faithfully. But the building wasn't finished.

Next, God appointed Jesus, the Son, to be "the apostle and high priest" (v. 1) of God's house. But Jesus doesn't live there alone. The author of Hebrews tells us the good news that when we hold tight to our hope in Jesus, we are part of God's house too. Whatever the original blueprints for our earthly homes look like, our true home is with Jesus.

Loving God, fill me with hope. Shape me into a faithful disciple, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer concern: Construction workers and engineers

Psalm 128; Numbers 21:4-9

Saturday, March 7

Romans 5:1-11

True peace

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (v. 1)

Peace is a popular pursuit these days. Books and articles promise to show you the way to inner peace. People seek the path to peace from therapists, counselors, and of course the church. But the world and many individuals are not at peace. Nor is the church always at peace.

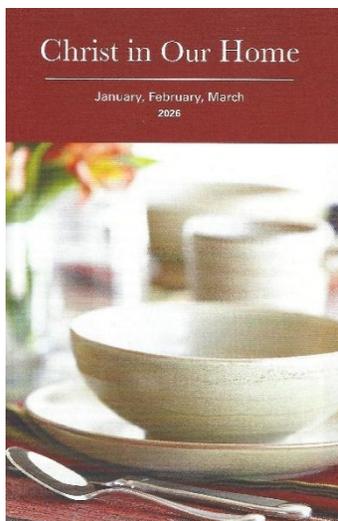
The apostle Paul declares the good news that offers us all robust, energizing, and powerful peace. It's "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." It's peace for the whole world. This kind of peace isn't achieved by reading internet articles or perfecting self-care practices. Jesus' death and resurrection make this peace possible.

Even when we feel stuck in conflict or unsettled by stress, we can turn to Jesus to help us through our suffering into peace with God. Peace is a gift, grace we are given to dwell in and to share with others. Do you know anyone who is longing for peace? Through your presence, words, and actions, you can share God's peace with them.

Loving God, open my heart to receive the great gift of your peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer concern: Peacemakers and therapists

Psalm 95; Exodus 16:27-35; John 4:1-6





Weekly Tuesday Events ~ February 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th

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 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.

Scout Sunday ~ February 8th

All are welcome as our very own Troop 107 celebrates a key tenet upon which the Boy Scouts were founded-Duty to God! And as has become their tradition, the Scouts will sponsor Coffee Hour following the 10:30am service, so stop on by, enjoy a bagel and some joe, and ask these fine young men about their scouting experiences and goals!



Needleworks Groups ~ February 11th and 25th



Angels Circle and Nellie's Knit & Crochet meet on the 2nd and 4th 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.

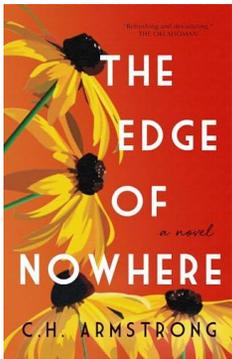
Newcomers and beginners welcome!

Line Dancing ~ February 13th



See Cathe Davidson if you have any questions or better yet, just show up! We're all novices and Cathe is a great teacher! Lessons start at 7pm and we dance until 9pm. Bring your own water & snacks. Wear shoes that have a little slide on the floor of Fellowship Hall.

Bookworms Book Club ~ February 14th



Despised and feared by her sprawling family, Victoria Hastings Harrison Greene refuses to go quietly from her long life without revealing the secrets she's held locked away for more than fifty years—the same secrets consistent with the rumors her grandchildren whisper behind her back during family gatherings.

Widowed with nine children during the one-two punch of The Great Depression and the Oklahoma Dust Bowl, Victoria made harsh choices—desperate choices that reduced a once soft and loving young woman into the reviled matriarch she is today. Hers is the story of one woman's courage in the midst of overwhelming adversity, and her absolute conviction to never stop fighting...no matter what it takes.

-From Amazon

For Bookworms information, including the complete list of chosen works for 2026, contact Barbara Westerberg at 973.696.1471 on how to join in the friendly discussion.

Happy reading!



Shrove Tuesday ~ February 17th

Shrove Tuesday is also called Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, or Pancake Day. Traditionally, it served as both the final opportunity for a little indulgence before 40 days of fasting and a chance to finish up food that couldn't be eaten during Lent.



In years past, we celebrated this evening as a church community, and we are excited to bring it back! You are encouraged to invite any friends and family who are not members of the church. The more the merrier!

This event is free, but we will be taking donations to plan future events.

Please RSVP by Sunday, February 15
Scan the QR or use the Bulletin Board Sign Up Sheet

Fallon & Garey Goskowski



Ash Wednesday ~ February 18th

Did you know that using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.



Both the 12pm and the 7pm services on February 18th will include the imposition of ashes as a reminder of God's condemnation of sin, as said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

Hymn Sing @ Alps at Wayne ~ February 18th



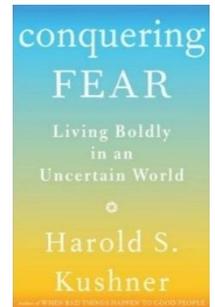
Spend an hour engaging the shut-in population of this care facility with familiar song. Lyric sheets provided, just bring your voice and sunny disposition!

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

Adult Book Group ~ February 19th

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

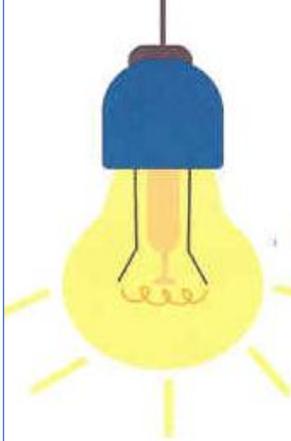
We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:30am. Each session is stand-alone, so jumping in at the middle is fine!



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

Hosted by St. Timothy on February 22; meet in Fellowship Hall

Shine more light



Bringing together teens (grades 9-12) with the goal of learning about different faiths, cultures, and traditions to foster greater understanding & harmony in our community.

The group will engage in a round of visits to Houses of Worship/Cultural Centers (Muslim, Christian, Jewish and Hindu). A cultural dinner & conversation will be part of each session.

We will meet approx. once per month, Jan - May

Sundays
5pm - 6:30pm

Register Here





FEBRUARY



2/1 Dawn Brassel	2/15 Justin Oosterwyk
2/2 Lori Bleeker	2/16 Richard Westerberg
2/2 August Koch	2/17 Chris Phelan
2/2 Brandon McAleer	2/18 Peggy Gerding
2/3 Nelly Koch	2/18 Hailey Oosterwyk
2/3 Loretta Kratky	2/19 Jackson Scillieri
2/4 Colin Loftus	2/25 William Mains
2/4 Kevin Loftus	2/26 Gary Goskowski
2/5 James Sansone	2/26 David Taranto
2/7 James Fetherston	2/27 Fallon Goskowski
2/10 Deb Califf	2/28 David Richardson
2/10 David Hayes	2/28 Kimberly Cooper
2/15 Michael McHugh	



- 2/1 Sandy & Art DeRose
- 2/1 Karen & Mike McAleer
- 2/4 Janet & Wallace Romaine
- 2/16 Patricia & Doug Zangrilli

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

Please email Deb at st.tims395@yahoo.com

or call the office at 973-694-8316!



Coming in March

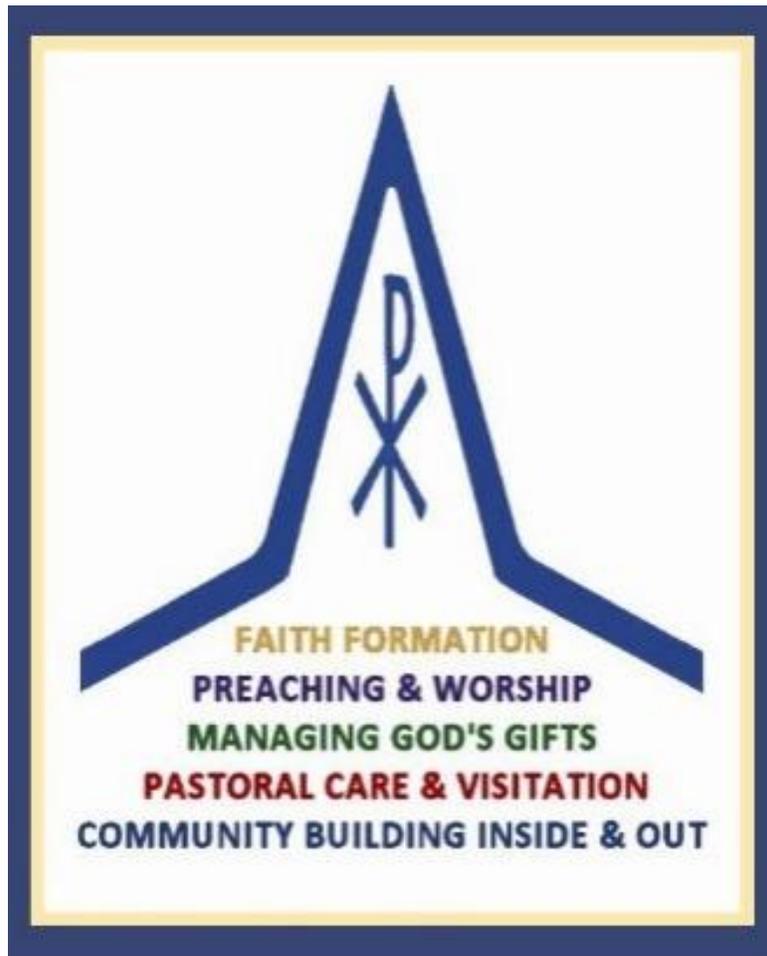
Soup & Worship ~ March 4th
March 11th
March 18th
March 25th

Line Dancing ~ March 13th

Easter Plant Sale

Palm Sunday Brunch ~ March 29th

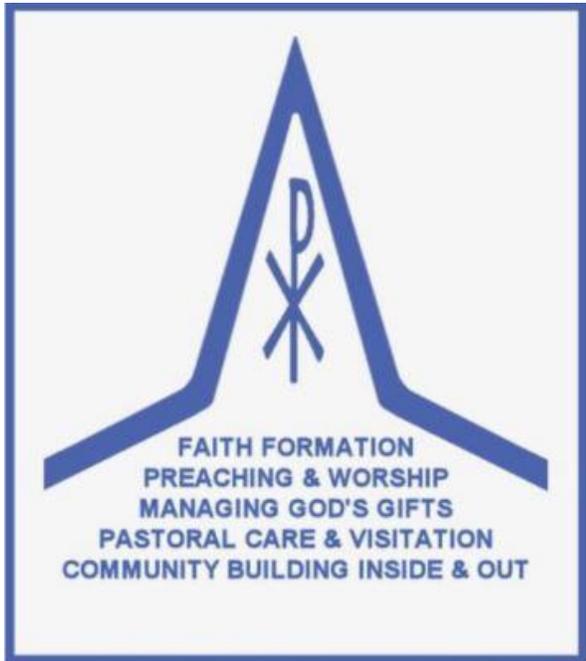
St. Timothy ELCA is a community of faith creating connection through the love of Jesus Christ.





DATE	Altar Guild	Ushers	Acolyte	Assisting Minister	Reader	A/V
Feb 1	Valerie McGrath	Laura Dec Karen McAleer	Spencer Eggers	Laura Dec	Josh Abrahamson	Craig Beyer
Feb 8	Lori VanDerStad	Jeff Riotto Doug Zangrilli	Kaila Gabel	Lori VanDerStad	Marie Beyer	Samantha DeRose
Feb 15	Nancy Farina	Chris & Sue Phelan	Jackson Scillieri	Carolyn Russo	Jeff Riotto	Compton Cooper
Feb 22	TBD	Karen McAleer Lori VanDerStad	Herbert Eggers	Robin Koegel	Art DeRose	Craig Beyer

St. Timothy Business & Service Directory



BUSINESSES



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Fax - 973-616-0668

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Jeffrey W. Clapp
President

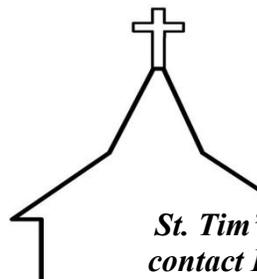
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