

June 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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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	

JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	Office Closed 5	6
	<u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands <u>7pm</u> Scouts	<u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion <u>7 pm</u> Worship committee meeting			<u>6 pm</u> AA	
7	8	9	10	11	Office Closed 12	13
<u>9:30am</u> Worship  Confirmation <u>1pm</u> AA	 Content Due <u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands <u>7pm</u> Scouts	<u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion <u>7:30 pm</u> Council mtg	<u>9:30/10:30am</u> Needleworks		Office Closed <u>6 pm</u> AA	<u>10:30 am</u> 
14	15	16	17	18	Office Closed 19	20
<u>9:30am</u> Worship  Blessing of Graduates <u>1pm</u> AA	<u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands <u>7pm</u> Scouts	<u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion	<u>10am</u> Hymn Sing	<u>10:30 am</u> Adult Book Group	Office Closed  <u>6 pm</u> AA	
21	22	23	24	25	Office Closed 26	27
<u>9:30am</u> Worship  Summer <u>1pm</u> AA	<u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands	<u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion	<u>9:30/10:30am</u> Needleworks		Office Closed <u>6 pm</u> AA	
28	29	30				
<u>9:30am</u> Worship followed by:  Annual Congregational Meeting <u>1pm</u> AA	<u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands	<u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion				



“It is you who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.”

– Psalm 18:28

There are hundreds of images for the attributes of God found throughout the bible. God is creative, almighty, all-knowing, loving. God is described like an eagle, a rock, a potter. We all know that these are just metaphors used to describe God in terms we can understand. None are intended to be worshiped in place of God.

One of the most popular images in hymns and sermons is God as light. The imagery in scripture of God as light is contrasted with “the powers of darkness,” which are evil. Most of us don’t even give it a second thought, but *why is it so prevalent*, when there are so many others to choose from?

I hate to tell you this, but it is due in large part to colonialism and the racial hierarchy imposed by Europeans. The bible isn’t racist. Racism didn’t exist until 1400 years or so later, when Europeans needed an excuse for exploiting the peoples of Africa, Asia, and South America. Europeans assumed supremacy based on their culture, and of course, color. They used the bible to support that belief.

Missionaries would communicate that the lighter the skin tone, the closer to God. John Elliot a puritan clergyman and missionary to New England (1600s) set up praying villages of Native Americans. He forbade them any of their own traditional customs as inherently un-Christian. And forced them to adapt European customs. Cotton Mather, a Puritan Clergyman in colonial America, said that it was imperative that Africans be enslaved by Europeans *in order to be converted* to the Christian faith.

The marriage of whiteness to Christianity is a stain on the church. Not the only one, but possibly the one with the greatest impact on our church today. This is why many (maybe all) my colleagues of color wince when they see the light/dark motif emphasized so much. And now you can understand why.

It is highly unlikely that anyone in the bible was Caucasian. The closest would have been the Romans, who were hardly the heroes of the story. Yet I am not aware of anyone in history blaming all Europeans for the crucifixion. In fact, quite the opposite.

I think we all desire to recognize how we are created in the Image of God. It is not a sin to recognize that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. The sin is to deny this of others. God created humanity in an amazing variety. Let us recognize the light of God shining in each one.

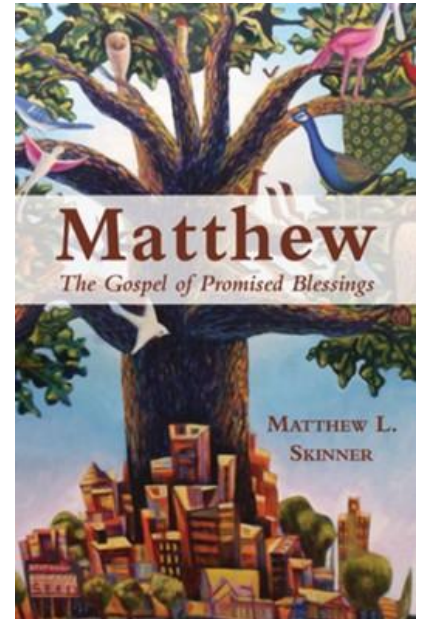


Summer Bible Study

The church lectionary is on a three-year cycle.

Year A is Matthew, which we are in right now. We do not necessarily cover all of the gospel in the lectionary. Even if we did, very few people are present every single week for worship AND Pastor Kimberly doesn't always choose to preach on the gospel text.

This summer, you have an opportunity to take a deeper dive with her into the stories and teachings of Jesus in the first book of the New Testament using the book, "Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings," by Matthew Skinner.



You can purchase it through [Christianbook](#), [Amazon](#), or [Barnes & Noble](#). In addition, the author has made video pieces for each chapter, so if you'd rather not read, you could watch the video and come prepared to discuss.

An introductory video on the study can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiXPpeI0xiA>

Mark your calendars for June 28, July 12 & 26, and August 2, 16 & 23.

Each discussion will be independent, so join as much as your schedule allows.

We will meet in the Parlor after Worship on those six Summer Sundays.

Committee Meetings

Christian Ed has adjourned for the season, while Worship & Council conduct their last meetings this month. See you when we ramp up for a new Program Year: Council August 11; Christian Ed committee August 18; Worship Committee September 1.

Thank you committee members for your time & dedication!

Annual Reports

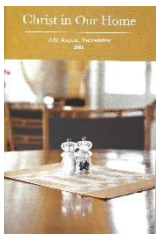
Members who provide content to the Annual Report are reminded that your contributions are due into the office no later than Monday, June 1st.

Newsletter Summer edition

July and August get squished into a single Summer edition of TIPS, so think ahead for news to share! Contributions are due by June 8th.



Quarterly Devotionals



The July-August-September booklet will be scattered about our facilities for pick-up in time for the beginning of the third quarter. Check out these select passages giving food for thought: July 6th's contemplation of good things in small packages, August 14th's thanksgiving for nature's abundance, and September 25th's search for God's guidance – all tied to different Psalms!

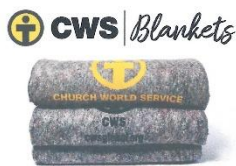
Special Request

As with much these days, the cost of Confirmation gowns has risen drastically ~ over 60% this year alone! Since they are basically single-use items & able to be laundered, we'd like to start a collection here at church for re-using these items. If you have any cluttering your child's closet, please wash and donate! A receptacle will be set up at church.



A Message from WELCA

WELCA extends heartfelt thanks for your generous support of the CWS Mother's Day Blanket Sunday. Because of your donations—and with additional funds contributed by WELCA—a total of \$1,000 will be given to Church World Service.



"And don't forget to do good and share with those in need."
— HEBREWS 13:16

Together, we are helping to wrap neighbors in comfort, hope, and compassion.

Heart 'n Hands Mission Update

A Hearts 'n Hands moment



While there is no shortage of "thank you's" when we distribute clothing at our various mission partner locations, occasionally we bring tears of joy to those we help. Pictured here is Paula White of Helping Hands ministry in Passaic with Yuderkaminaya who was ecstatic to find a blouse that matched shoes she found last month in our donations.

As our ministry continues to grow, we are in a time of transition. Cathe and Bob Davidson have moved to the Poconos. They are maintaining their St. Timothy membership and will continue to support the mission in administrative and weekly activities as they are able. Nancy and Cliff Konnerth are assuming leadership roles, and Craig Beyer is a vital member of our logistics and delivery team. We've also welcomed the help of Isabella and Amelia, sophomores at West Caldwell HS now volunteering monthly to help sort as well as our own Troop 107 scouts for a couple of service hours during their Monday night meetings. Our ministry will continue thanks to the support of you - the St. Timothy congregation - and dedicated volunteers like this. We have many opportunities for you to join us in assisting those in need.

Thank you all for your donations and spreading the word on this most appreciated ministry of our church.



North Jersey Interfaith Cares Mission Update



While there is no NJIC will be meeting with a refugee family from Ukraine recommended to us by Church World Service. The family consists of a mother and her three sons, ages 15,16, and 19. Preliminary reports are they are very enthusiastic about assimilating to their new life here in New Jersey (Clifton to be exact) and we would be a good fit to their needs. They are well on their way to learning English already and mom has a childcare job. Stay tuned for details. 😊

Christian Education Update



Our Sunday School teaching year has finished with the last teaching day on May 17th. Also, on May 17, two of our younger students received communion for the first time at the 10:30 service.

Veronica Goskowski and Henrik Johnsson processed in with the Bell Choir, and accompanied them in the opening hymn. They both did a great job ringing the bells! Pastor Kimberly gave them great instruction on taking part in the Lord's Supper. "A Place for You" explains the beloved story of Jesus welcoming you to his special meal of Holy Communion.

In His Name,
Laura Dec



The 4th grade wrapped up the year with the ten commandments and... their mailbox beautification project! You can now admire Luther's Rose in both the sanctuary and from our parking lot. Nice job, Jackson, Spencer and Nicholas.

Have a great summer!



Books of the New Testament



Word list:

ACTS
COLOSSIANS
CORINTHIANS
EPHESIANS
GALATIANS
HEBREWS
JAMES
JOHN
JUDE
LUKE

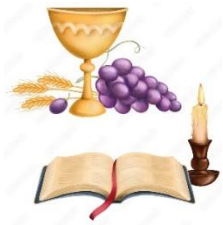
MARK
MATTHEW
PETER
PHILEMON
PHILIPPIANS
REVELATION
ROMANS
THESSALONIANS
TIMOTHY
TITUS





Weekly Tuesday Events ~ June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

Meditation with Movement at 1pm. Can't make it every week, no problem: cost is \$40 cash per month, pay as you go. When there's a 5th Tuesday in a month, please contribute the extra \$10 for our wonderful leader, Tara. No mat needed, but a bottle of water suggested. Parlor.



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.

Confirmation ~ June 7th

Celebrate with Andrew Inciardi, as he claims as his own the promises made at his baptism, through the sacred rite of Confirmation, during 9:30am worship on June 7th.



It is a time for him to identify more deeply with the Christian community and to participate more fully in its mission.

Please pray for him as he continues on his faith journey.

Needleworks Groups ~ June 10th and 24th



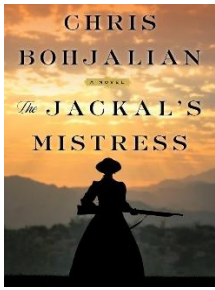
Angels Circle and Nellie's Knit & Crochet meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Fellowship Hall.

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!

Bookworms Book Club ~ June 13th

The Jackal's Mistress: inspired by a dangerous true story of forbidden friendship.

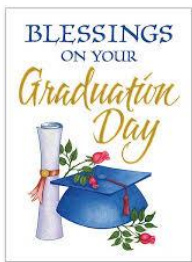


The wife of a missing Confederate soldier discovers a wounded Yankee officer. He is her enemy. But he's also a human being. What is she willing to risk for the life of a stranger? *—from the author's website & book trailer*

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.



Graduation Sunday~ June 14th



All are welcome to Graduate Sunday on June 14th at 9:30am, a special occasion where we recognize our graduates. Let us come together as a church family to honor these outstanding scholars, reflect on their journey and celebrate their achievements.

Hymn Sing @ Alps at Wayne ~ June 17th



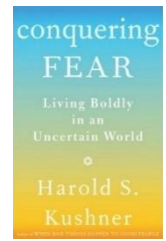
Spend an hour engaging the shut-in and rehabilitating population of this care facility with familiar song. Lyric sheets provided, just bring your voice and sunny disposition!

Students needing Community Service hours - this is a fine way to check off some requirements! Our singers go once a month generally on the third Wednesday, even over the summer.

Meet in the Lobby at 10am – 1120 Alps Road, Wayne New Jersey.
Questions? See Carolyn Russo

Adult Book Group ~ June 18th

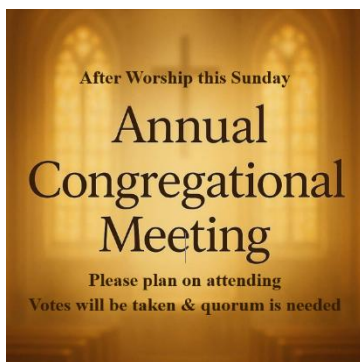
Come join us as we continue reading *Conquering Fear* by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner.



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

Annual Meeting of the Congregation ~ June 28th



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place in the sanctuary directly following worship on Sunday, June 28th at approximately 10:30am. The purpose of the meeting is for the elections of church officers and for the congregation to receive reports from Committees.

Please plan to attend.



6/1 Christine Bedi	6/15 Nathaniel Corbett
6/2 Sarah Konnerth	6/17 Karen Schulze
6/5 Richard Kremen	6/19 Matthew Riotto
6/8 Colleen Duffy	6/24 Anna Muschko
6/12 Caroline Corbett	6/26 Richard Koegel
6/12 Amber Venturelli	6/28 Richard Wantula
6/13 MaryLou Wedemeyer	6/29 Ute Kattner-Horn
6/14 Barbara Johanson	6/30 Eleanor Liljegren



6/4 Carol & George Labadie
6/8 MaryLou & Richard Wedemeyer
6/10 Terri & Kevin Loftus
6/23 Lisa & James Koppenal

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!



Pastor Vacation ~ July 14th-20th

August 3rd-15th

TIPS Contributions for September Edition ~ August 10th



Nothing is too hard for God,
and miracles happen every day.

Big miracles.

Little miracles.

In-between ones, too.

I'm praying for yours.



*No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived what God has prepared
for those who love him.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 NIV



It is wonderful what miracles God works
in wills that are utterly surrendered to Him.

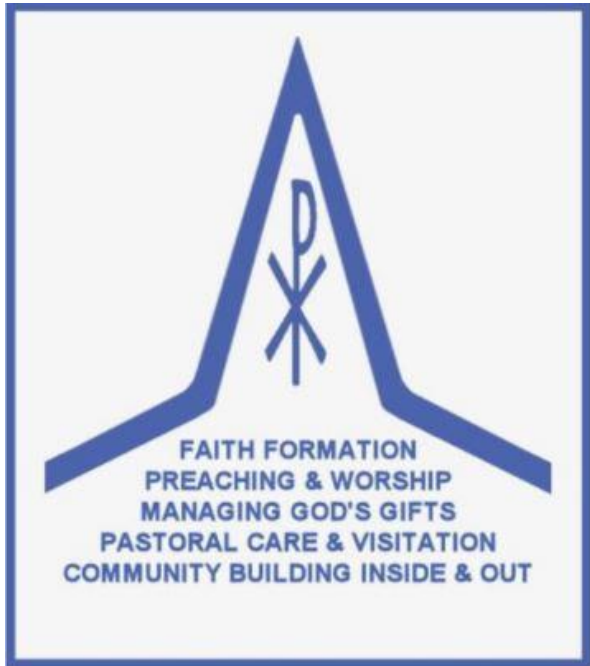
HANNAH WHITALL SMITH





DATE	Altar Guild	Ushers	Acolyte/Cantor	Assisting Minister	Reader	A/V
June 7 <i>Confirmation</i>	Lori VanDerStad	Karen McAleer Jeff Riotto	Spencer Eggers/ Fallon Goskowski	Garey Goskowski	Josh Abrahamson	Craig Beyer
June 14 <i>Blessing of Graduates</i>	Nancy Farina	Jeff Riotto Karen McAleer	Kaila Gabel/ TBD	Lori VanDerStad	Robin Koegel	Samantha DeRose
June 21	Valerie McGrath	Lori VanDerStad Laura Dec	Jackson Scillieri/ TBD	Art DeRose	Colleen Duffy	Compton Cooper
June 28 <i>Annual Meeting</i>	Terri Loftus	Doug Zangrilli Tom Sajban	<i>No acolytes until Fall</i> Garey Goskowski	Carolyn Russo	Marie Beyer	Karen Sajban

St. Timothy Business & Service Directory



BUSINESSES



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Ultimate Aire Systems, Inc.

Jeffrey W. Clapp
President

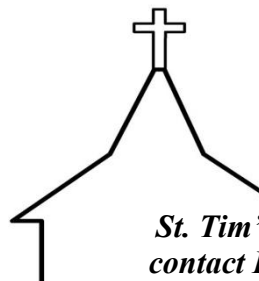
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