

September 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

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

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Church Council

Cliff Konnerth	President
Garey Goskowski	Vice President
Karen Sajban	Treasurer (non-council member)
Marie Johnsson	Secretary
Craig Beyer	
Gloria Cooper	
Alisa Corbett	
Laura Dec	
Art DeRose	
Colleen Duffy	
James Koppenal	
Valerie McGrath	
Jeff Riotto	

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*Christian Ed includes: -Sunday School for children & adults -Confirmation class -Adult Forum		1 <u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion <u>7 pm</u> Worship committee meeting	2	3	Office Closed 4 <u>6 pm</u> AA	5
6 <u>9:30am</u> Worship followed by  <u>1pm</u> AA	Office Closed 7 	8 <u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion <u>7:30 pm</u> Council mtg	9 <u>9:30/10:30am</u> Needleworks <u>7:15pm</u> Alleluia Choir Rehearsal	10	Office Closed 11 <u>6 pm</u> AA	12 <u>10:30 am</u> 
13 <u>9:00 & 10:30am</u> Worship <u>9:35am</u> Christian Ed* <u>1pm</u> AA 	14  Content Due <u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands <u>7pm</u> Scouts (tentative beginning of year)	15 <u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion <u>7 pm</u> Christian Ed mtg	16 <u>10am</u> Hymn Sing <u>7:15pm</u> Alleluia Choir Rehearsal	17 <u>10:30 am</u> Adult Book Group	Office Closed 18 <u>6 pm</u> AA	19
20 <u>9:00am & 10:30</u> Worship <u>9:35am</u> Christian Ed* <u>1pm</u> AA 	21 <u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands <u>7pm</u> Scouts	22 <u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion	23 <u>9:30/10:30am</u> Needleworks <u>7:15pm</u> Handbell Choir Rehearsal	24	Office Closed 25 <u>6 pm</u> AA	26
27 <u>9:00am & 10:30</u> Worship <u>9:35am</u> Christian Ed* <u>1pm</u> AA 	28 <u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands <u>7pm</u> Scouts	29 <u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement <u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/Holy Communion	30 <u>7:15pm</u> Alleluia Choir Rehearsal		 Symbol indicates Sundays with Coffee Hour following the later service in Fellowship Hall	 Collection box available starting 9/6 through 11/1; see article for list of requested items



“The Word is the gospel of God concerning his Son, who was made flesh, suffered, rose from the dead, and was glorified through the Spirit who sanctifies.” — Martin Luther

For those of us born and raised in the Lutheran tradition, the gospel of Jesus Christ means that we are saved by the grace of God and not *any* of our own works. Martin Luther wrote and said in just about every way imaginable that nothing we do impacts our salvation. It is entirely the work of Jesus Christ.

There are a lot of other Christians that believe that as well. There are also quite a few, who preach and teach that people do need to work hard to get into heaven. There are also some, who believe that *gospel* pertains to every word of the bible taken literally. And some others believe that having specific power from the Holy Spirit is proof of salvation. The point is that not all Christians define the *gospel* the same way.

How do you define it? This is a question worth answering. You don't have to answer it in the words of Martin Luther to be Lutheran. You don't have to find the exact right words in order to prove you are a Christian either. But, it is a question worth answering for yourself.

The word and the biblical concept of *gospel* originate with the Greek word, euangelion. It means good news and was often a message sent from the Emperor/Ruler to the people about battles won or a royal birth. The apostles used it to express the good news of Jesus Christ. For Paul that centered on Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, which has secured our eternal salvation.

That is good news! But it doesn't answer all the challenging questions of faith. Being a Christ follower isn't only about what happens after death. Yes, we are promised eternal life, but is there good news for us here in this life?

Yes! Martin Luther wrote that because we can rest assured we are saved, we are free to focus our energy on caring for our neighbor. And we aren't left to flounder around on our own to do that, we are gifted by the Holy Spirit to do Christ's work in this world. In other words, the church isn't just a vehicle to preach God's grace in the world. The church is also a means to care for the poor, the prisoners, the immigrants, and the sick on behalf of Christ.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is that we are loved from the moment of our birth until forever. It is also that we are instruments of that love here in this world. Church is the place to hear the gospel, live the gospel, and share the gospel.



Christian Education Ramps Up



Wahoo!!! It's Sunday School time again! All of our classes will begin on Sunday September 13 at 9:35 am. We will continue with our Godly Play class (3yrs. thru 3rd grade), our 4th & 5th grade class and our Confirmation class (6th, 7th & 8th grade). The Adult Bible Study is in the SonRise Bistro (Lower Level). They will continue watching The Chosen and having spirited discussions each week. Each week is a "stand alone" class, so the commitment isn't a weekly obligation.

Sunday School Registration forms are available online again this year for parents to fill out for the 2026-2027 school year (see below). They have been updated this year to make them more user friendly for our teachers.

In His Name,
Laura Dec

Dates to remember:

Sept. 13 – Regular Worship Schedule resumes:

Worship service 9:00

Sunday School begins at 9:35

Worship service 10:30

Oct. 25 – Reformation – service time to follow



REGISTER FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL

[Click HERE](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMYENzJi5qOEZlhp6pGsubjIDZE24fsEYEnzmz72o7hDVP_A/viewform?usp=dialog) to complete your registration or type the url into your browser:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMYENzJi5qOEZlhp6pGsubjIDZE24fsEYEnzmz72o7hDVP_A/viewform?usp=dialog

(Paper forms available upon request.)

Training Lay Preachers in the NJ Synod

How exciting! The Synod Leadership Mission Team will again coordinate the program to prepare lay members to preach in their congregations. This is the program attended by our very own Colleen Duffy and Samantha DeRose last year!



Lay Preacher

Do you feel you might have a gift for preaching?

Are you interested in the chance to learn about some theological and practical approaches to preaching in a Lutheran context?

Then please feel encouraged to explore this opportunity by *speaking with Pastor Kimberly* at your earliest convenience. Registration closes on September 1st (or when all slots are filled)!

The Zoom-based course begins Tuesday, September 8th, meeting for eight weeks from 7:30-8:45pm. Topics to be covered include:

- Lutheran Theology Basics, focusing especially on the law/gospel distinction
- Worship Basics
- Bible Basics
- Practical Preaching Leadership, such as structure of a sermon, delivery, preaching resources, etc.

The program culminates with an all-day Saturday retreat on November 14th

Coffee Hour resumes September 13th



As the program year kicks off, so too does Coffee Hour. Come for an eye-opening beverage and a little treat for your sweet tooth after Worship on most Sundays in Fellowship Hall. The casual and good conversations are what give the Hall its name!

Both online and paper sign-ups are available to act as host/hostess for these congenial gatherings. [Click HERE](#) or use the QR code for the online SignUp Genius.



Memorials

During the summer, gifts have been given to the St. Timothy Memorial Fund in memory of: Ray Lender and in honor of three valiant RNs – Nancy Farina, Carol Neilson and Barbara Johanson – for loving care “above and beyond!”

There were no memorial purchases.



No additional Memorial Garden pavers have been purchased during this period; our paver total stands at 119. 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 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!

The “Thank You” notes are pouring in...

The Endowment Committee made selections and donations totalling \$29,699 to a number of worthy Local, National and Global causes based on ballots submitted in early Summer, amounts as follows:

Local: Heart ‘n Hands Mission (\$1,500), North Jersey Interfaith Cares (\$1,900), St. Stephan’s Grace Community (\$3,350), Wayne Interfaith Network (\$1,500), New Hope Community Ministries (\$500), Wayne Township Memorial First Aid [in memory of Pete Johanson] (\$1,150);

National: NJ Synod ELCA [Domestic Disaster Response] (\$3,100), Equal Justice Initiative (\$2,00), Feeding America (\$1,650), Tunnel to Towers Foundation (\$1,650), Wounded Warriors Project (\$1,500);

Global: Church World Service (\$2,475), Doctors Without Borders (\$2,475), NJ Synod ELCA [Lutheran World Relief] (\$4,949).

The 2025-26 committee of Ed Cleaver, Cliff Konnerth, James Koppenal, Eddy Schloesser, Lori VanDerStad and Council Liaison Colleen Duffy are grateful to you for your input in choosing charities representative of this congregation’s heart.

See the bulletin board outside the Godly Play classroom for the original notes!



Wayne Interfaith Network Mission Update

Due to a recent small electrical fire at the Wayne Community Center, food pantry donations are on hold. It is hoped that the building will re-open at the beginning of September.



Look for updates via weekly eblast and Announcements
for when items will again be collected.

Adult Fellowship & Spiritual Activities

Adult Book Group: meets each 3rd Thursday at 1pm

Come join us as we begin reading The Faiths of the Founding Fathers by David Holmes. This being the 250th Anniversary year of our nation's founding, Holmes offers an account of the religious culture of the late colonial era and the various forms of religious and enlightenment beliefs that flourished in America, highlighting the profound effect this intellectual movement had on the founding generation. We'll examine the individual beliefs of a variety of men and women who loom large in our national history. Every notable from George and Martha Washington, Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Dolly and James Madison and all the other founding personalities. Respectful of Christianity, they admired the ethics of Jesus and believed religion could play a beneficial role in society. An intriguing look at religion in America's founding culture and its effect on our modern culture as well.

Location: TBD; please call the Church Office
Great discussions, great fellowship, come join us!

-Barbara Westerberg and Art & Sandy DeRose

Adult Forum: meets each Sunday morning at 9:30am in the Parlor

We hear God's Word and share Holy Communion each Sunday Morning surrounded by a loving community, however, almost immediately upon leaving the church, we are deluged in a media-saturated world of 24 hour news bulletins and life-changing events. Our Adult Forum tries to reconcile the two vastly differing experiences.

Webster's first definition of "Communion" is "sharing the Sacrament of Communion; the next definitions describe our goal, *"the act of sharing; possession in common; participation; the act of sharing one's thoughts and emotions with another, or others; intimate conversation with deep understanding."*

Our's is a multicultural world. We see a bewildering array of concepts and ideas. We hear of ideologies that are at odds with our Church's Doctrine or our own moral or religious beliefs. How do we decide, or discern one concept from another? How do we make sense of it all and arrive at "truth?" Our Forum offers a way to share our thoughts with others of both similar beliefs, *and* those who might hold *differing*

beliefs, hopefully to reach understanding. Topics vary, some secular, some light, all are faith-based. We ponder ideas, discuss them and share ideas and concepts, both for the good, or those detrimental to our faith life. The discussion is light, at times fun, and friendships form. We might never reach a conclusion, but the seeds of understanding *are* sown. Our Forum offers a time and place in our Sunday morning worship experience to not only *hear* God's Word in Sacrament, song and sermon, but a chance to share each other's thoughts and form an understanding of our daily experiences.

Come find good fellowship in the Adult Forum each Sunday morning,
hear another's viewpoint, share a comment and *be* heard!
All are welcome. Come as you can, and leave as you must.

-Sandy and Art DeRose

Bookworms Book Club: meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:30am

Selections range from light-hearted fare to historical fiction to thrillers to soul-searching tomes. Books chosen for the remainder of this year include Wild Dark Shore, The Rose Code and The Secret Christmas Library. See the "Mark You Calendar section for information on September's title.

Our group is always willing to expand!

-Barbara Westerberg

Prayer Chain: by request

Matthew 7:7

*"Ask and it will be given to you;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be
opened to you."*

Jesus invites us to persistently ask, seek, and knock, promising God will respond with open doors. This encouragement removes the hesitation in prayer and calls us to approach God boldly.

Do you find yourself in need of extra prayers for a timely intercession, either for yourself or someone close in need?

St. Timothy has a group of dedicated faithful who will pray daily for your cause for a month at a time. Confidentiality is maintained across all levels, so you may share as much or as little when making your request.

Email or text Nancy Farina or call the office (973.694.8316) with your request.

Nancy's contact information is in the church directory.

Altar Flowers and Eternal Lights

There are still plenty of opportunities in 2026 to support the weekly Altar Guild mission of adorning the sanctuary in sacred candlelight and Sunday fresh flowers.

Celebrate special occasions, think birthdays, milestones & achievements, anniversaries, and the like with your \$25 floral sponsorship. Sponsors are invited to take their bouquets with them after the last Worship service on Sunday or pick-up during the week. Otherwise, pastor and the guild find grateful recipients.

Honor a deceased relative or friend by your \$5 candle sponsorship. See the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board or online. Please make checks out to St. Timothy Floral Fund or St. Timothy Memorial Fund with eternal light in the memo, accordingly.

Flowers: [Click HERE](#)

Candles: [Click HERE](#)



Dates still available:

Sept 6 (2 slots)	Sept 6
Sept 13 (1 slot)	Sept 13
Sept 20 (1 slot)	Sept 20
Sept 27 (2 slots)	Sept 27
Oct 4 (1 slot)	Oct 4
Oct 11 (2 slots)	Oct 11
Oct 18 (2 slots)	Oct 25
Oct 25 (2 slots)	Nov 29
Nov 1 (2 slots)	Dec 6
Nov 8 (2 slots)	Dec 13
Nov 15 (1 slot)	
Nov 22 (2 slots)	
Nov 29 (1 slot)	
Dec 6 (1 slot)	
Dec 13 (2 slots)	
Dec 20 (2 slots)	
Dec 27 (1 slot)	

Dates still available: Sept 6

Sept 13

Sept 20

Sept 27

Oct 4

Oct 11

Oct 25

Nov 29

Dec 6

Dec 13



Gratitude for Blankets

A separate note has arrived for the blankets purchased by sponsors in honor of mothers and mother-figures in May:



St. Timothy Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your outstanding
support of CWS Blankets! We
are so grateful to have you as
a partner in this important ministry.
Your \$1,000 gift will help to
provide warmth, hope, and a
tangible sign of God's love
when people need it the most.
Thank you,
Tiffany

North Jersey Interfaith Cares Mission Update

As last reported, NJIC was meeting with CWS and a refugee family from Ukraine to determine if we could help them. We have since agreed to help Olha Polek and her sons, Okeksii, Yevhen and Yosyp. She is very determined to make it on her own and has only asked for emergency assistance over the past two months. Thanks to a generous donation by our endowment funds, we were able to buy them a new washer and dryer. We were also able to fund their refugee status renewal which required a substantial fee (\$1,000 per person) to reapply.



We have also maintained social ties to our past families and helped the Rodriguez family with some emergency auto repairs.

As always donations to NJIC are appreciated. Newjerseyinterfaithcares.org
Thank you, St Timothy for your continued support of our new neighbors!

😊 Cliff Konnerth

Newsletter October edition

Chairpersons and program leaders are reminded to submit articles and relevant information to the office on the 2nd Monday of the month. That is on October 12th for publication in the November newsletter.



The congregation is also invited to contribute content of milestone celebrations or community achievements so that your St. Timothy family can share in your joy!

Send these notices at any time.

Heart 'n Hands Mission Update



MetroChurch North Haledon serving Paterson:



We have a new connection at MetroChurch, Graham and Kathy! MetroChurch partners with Good Shepherd Mission in Paterson to provide prayer, food, and clothing to the community in need every 3rd Sunday.

P.F. Chang's Dine to Donate:

Thank you to all who participated At PF Chang's Dine to Donate. P.F. Chang's is proud to support local schools, teams, community groups and nonprofit organizations! We



received 10% back on all food and non-alcoholic beverage sales. We received a check for a little over 180.00 which

amounted to 80 people participating! Thanks to Craig for going around to the diners and explaining our mission!

Hoboken:



We continue to go to St Matthew's to distribute clothing and toiletries during their Lunchtime Ministry once a month. The mission provides their Hoboken neighbors with a warm meal, a compassionate community, and a peaceful place to spend the morning.

Christ House/St Luke's/St Paul's and Good Shephard Paterson:

We have expanded our delivery to Christ House, which has provided a beacon of hope for area residents since 1997, to twice a month. The non-profit community organization serves as an arm of St. Luke's Baptist Church to provide outreach to area residents by providing food, clothing, and more.



Annual Seafarers International House Collection



Time to think Christmas for the men and women who sail the seven seas serving our needs. Holiday time can be lonely when far, far from home. Seafarers International House ministers to the people in port throughout the year, counseling, providing every facet of pastoral care. At Christmas, the chaplains visit ships in the harbor delivering gifts to over one thousand seafarers.

St. Timothy WELCA has been a partner in "Christmas at Sea" for many seasons. Please help us with giving of a donation from the list provided below:



- Sweatshirt ~ M, L, or XL
- Socks ~ Crew style
- Large bar of chocolate or can of nuts or healthy snack bar
- T-Shirt ~ M, L or XL
- Knitted winter cap

From **September 6th through November 1st**, a box will be in the Fellowship Hall level next to the elevator to capture our booty and make "Christmas at Sea" another success!

Speak with Debbie Andersen if you have any questions.



Weekly Tuesday Events ~ September 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th

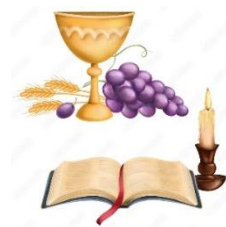
Meditation with Movement at 1pm in the Parlor (or sometimes Fellowship Hall). Tara, our awesome instructor, leads us through a series of stretching and strengthening motions within a quiet, contemplative atmosphere. The pay-as-you-go fee schedule allows for regular or sporadic participation.



The cost is \$10 cash per session. This activity is open to the community, so feel free to share with interested friends and neighbors! Call the office or see Nancy Farina for more information.
No mat needed but BYO water!

Bible Study with Holy Communion at 2pm in the Parlor.

Is the Spirit moving you to a deeper understanding of Scripture? Unable to get to church on Sunday mornings but still want to participate in the communal action of Communion and reading of the gospels?



Join Pastor Kimberly on Tuesday afternoons as she leads discussion of upcoming lectionary passages followed by the distribution of Holy Communion!

Special Congregational Meeting ~ September 6th



Church Council is requesting attendance of voting members for the purpose of voting on an expenditure to repair and upgrade our solar panels. Details will be provided at the meeting in the sanctuary directly after the conclusion of Worship.

Needleworks Groups ~ September 9th and 23rd

After a little down time, our dedicated crafters again pick up their needles, pins and hooks!

The Angels Circle meet at 9:30am and Nellie's Knit & Crochet gather at 10:30am. Both groups assemble for about an hour and a half.



Can you tie a knot? Can you pin together fabric? If so, why not join us?
All volunteers are welcome!

Coffee Hour Resumes September 13th



As the program year kicks off, so too does Coffee Hour. Come for an eye-opening beverage and a little treat for your sweet tooth after Worship on most Sundays in Fellowship Hall. The casual and good conversations are what give the Hall its name!

Both online and paper sign-ups are available to act as host/hostess for these congenial gatherings. See the paper form on the bulletin board or online via SignUp Genius ([click HERE](#) or scan the QR code).



Bookworms Book Club ~ September 12th

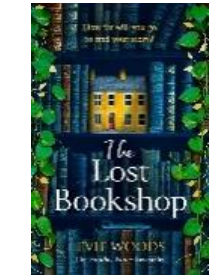
On a quiet street in Dublin, a lost bookshop is waiting to be found...

For too long, Opaline, Martha and Henry have been the side characters in their own lives.

But when a vanishing bookshop casts its spell, these three unsuspecting strangers will discover that their own stories are every bit as extraordinary as the ones found in the pages of their beloved books. And by unlocking the secrets of the shelves, they find themselves transported to a world of wonder... where nothing is as it seems.

—from goodreads

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.



Hymn Sing @ Alps at Wayne ~ September 16th



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

SEPTEMBER

9/2	Laura Kong	9/15	Jennifer Andersen
9/2	Adam O'Mealy	9/16	Douglas Gabel
9/3	Reimund Breimer	9/22	Kevin Phelan
9/4	Danielle Andersen	9/24	Andrew Gaffney
9/9	Caroline Parody	9/25	Bob Davidson
9/9	Hannah Wantula	9/25	Erin Neglio
9/11	Monica Mains	9/25	Doug Zangrilli



9/10	Laura & Michael Dec
9/15	Susan & Chris Phelan
9/19	Anna & William Muschko
9/29	Pamela & James O'Mealy

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!



All Saints Information Collection ~ all month

TIPS Contributions for November Edition ~ October 12th

Oktoberfest ~ October 17th

Reformation Sunday Brunch ~ October 25th

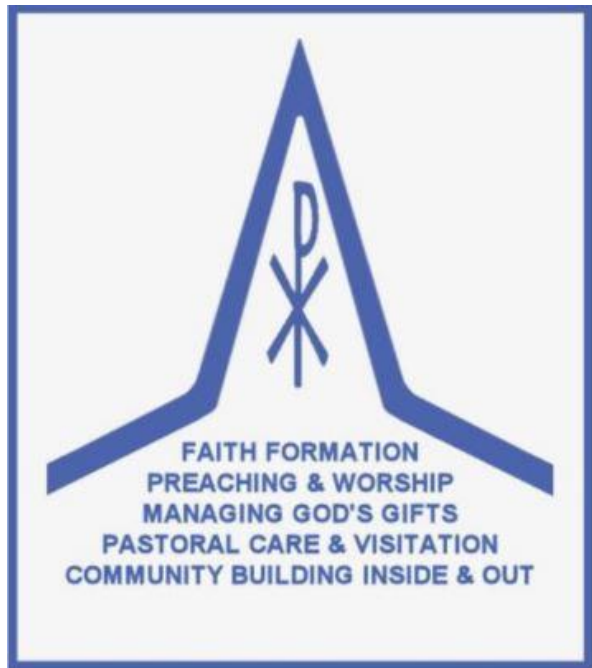
Annual Budget Meeting ~ October 25th

Synod Germany Trip ~ October 26th – November 5th

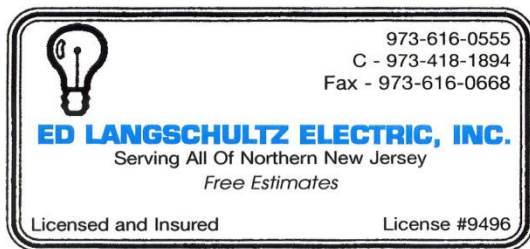


DATE	Altar Guild	Ushers	Acolyte/Cantor	Assisting Minister	Reader	A/V
Sept 6 <i>Labor Day</i>	Nancy Farina Valerie McGrath	Chris & Sue Phelan	(C) Fallon Goskowski	Garey Goskowski	Anne Loffredo	Compton Cooper
Sept 13 <i>Sunday School Kickoff</i>	Terri Loftus	Doug Zangrilli Lori VanDerStad	(A) Jackson Scillieri (C) TBD	Robin Koegel	Art DeRose	Samantha DeRose
Sept 20	Lori VanDerStad	Laura Dec Tom Sajban	(A) Jayden Fagan	Lori VanDerStad	Karen McAleer	Karen Sajban
Sept 27	Debbie Andersen Karen Sajban	Sue & Chris Phelan	(A) Herbert Eggers	Laura Dec	Colleen Duffy	Craig Beyer

St. Timothy Business & Service Directory



BUSINESSES



Laura Dec, Consultant
Midnightangel2@optonline.net
www.tastefullysimple.com



Simplified Lifestyles through
Convenient & Unique Gourmet Foods

(973) 835-2348

ID# 0059231



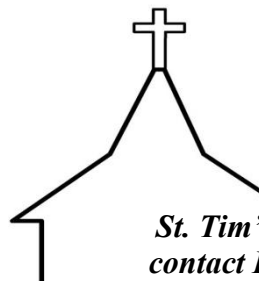
Evalyn Johnson's Granddaughter:



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

505 Saddle River Road
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

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