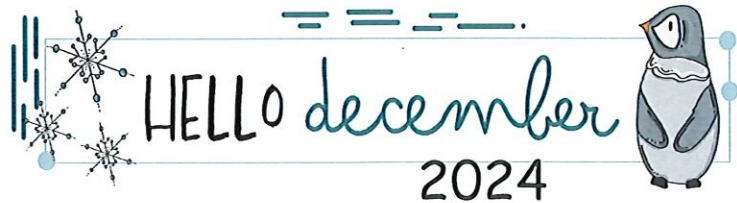


The St. Timothy Times

A newsletter for members and friends of
St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Preschool & Childcare, ELCA
Hudson, Iowa, 50643
Volume 14:12 DECEMBER 2024



The decorations are up, celebrations are underway, gifts are being exchanged. It is the holiday season, or as some people say, the season of goodwill. This is a season we think of generosity and charity. Gifts are given to family and friends and to people in

need, the bell ringers are out for the Salvation Army, requests for year-end donations to non-profits are coming in the mail. We are reminded as the cold sets in that God came to earth to change the world, and we can be a small part of that change.

I don't think goodwill and generosity are confined to one season, and I don't think the ways the world has changed are only evident at Christmas, but there is something to be said for an annual reminder of who we are called to be in a world that needs hope.

In a time of political oppression, the birth of one child brought hope to shepherds in a field tending their sheep, travelers from the east in search of signs in the stars, and a young woman who sang of justice. In our own search for a hope-filled future, we find the same promise of God-with-us, a Savior. Hope for a world in which oppression no longer exists, where the poor are lifted up and the hungry are fed and peace prevails in all nations is what inspires us this season. A reminder that there is more than meets the eye when God is among us.

I pray that we can hold onto that inspiration, to the generosity and goodwill, and most importantly to the hope that breaks into our lives in this season. I pray that you will have joyous celebrations and quiet moments that are meaningful. And I pray that as we roll into a new year, we will remember that God is still with us setting the world right in small and big ways and calling us to live in those ways of generosity and goodwill, freedom and peace.

Hope is a year-round endeavor. May we always be able to find it.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Dena



Coming Events

- December 1: 5:30 PM Serving Meal at Three House
- December 2: 8 AM Men's Breakfast at Village Inn, Waterloo
Poinsettia Orders Due
- December 4: 5:30 PM Family Faith Night/Kid's Program Rehearsal
- December 5: 5:30 PM Staff Christmas Party
- December 8: 10 AM Baby Book Club
10 AM Kid's Program Rehearsal
10:20 AM Bible Study
- December 10: 10:40 AM Preschool Chapel
1 PM Conference Pastors at St. Tim's
- December 11: 2 PM NewAldaya Christmas Party
6:30 PM Food & Faith
- December 12: Annual Committee Reports Due
6:30-8 PM Women's Ministry at Community Church
- December 15: 10 AM Kid's Program Rehearsal
- December 16: 6:30 PM Council Meeting
- December: Newsletter Due
10 AM Ruth Circle
- December 19: 6:30 PM Preschool Christmas Program
- December 21: 2-4 PM Pastor's Advent Open House
- December 22: Kid's Christmas Program
- December 24: 5 PM Christmas Candlelight Service
- December 25: Office, Preschool & Childcare closed
- December 26-27: Preschool & Childcare closed
- December 29: 9 AM Lessons & Carols Service
10 AM Fellowship, Share Your Holiday Treats
Mitten Tree Items Due

Each Week:

- Tuesdays: 9:30 AM Staff Meeting
6-8 PM AA Meeting
Dec. 24: 7 PM AA (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 31: 6-8:30 PM Potluck & Meeting at Community Center
- Wednesdays: 2-3 PM Confirmation (No Confirmation Dec. 25)



Mitten Tree

For December's Outreach project we have a mitten tree set up in the narthex. We are collecting socks, gloves, mittens, hats and scarves for St. Timothy's Preschool & Childcare and Hudson schools.

Please bring your items by December 29.



Food & Faith Night

We had a wonderful night together at Mulligan's, with good food and great conversations. We ended up with 19 attending! Come join us for our next gathering on December 11.



New Members Welcomed



On November 24, we welcomed new members! Pictured above are the Rubendall, Yarger and Randall families. Not pictured are Dawn Randall, the Allen and Engel families. We are glad to have you as part of our community of faith.

During fellowship we celebrated the day with a pie social and decorated our church for the Advent season. Thank you to everyone who baked the pies and helped with the decorating. Thank you Tara Kane for making new bows for our wreaths and swags.

Family Faith Night

Who is our neighbor? That was the question that we explored on our November Family Faith Night. We learned the story of the Good Samaritan, when someone asked Jesus who is our neighbor. We read the story Who is My Neighbor? and talked about how Jesus calls us to love all other people, and to help anyone who needs it.



Our next Family Faith Night is Wednesday, December 4th. We will be having pizza and assigning parts for our Christmas program on December 22. If you are interested in having your child participate but are unable to make the first rehearsal, please contact Tiffany Ahrens, Abbie Schrader, or Elly McChane to let us know so we can have a part ready for them. We are excited for this year's program!

In Search Of...

The Youth and Family Ministry Board is looking to borrow some items for our Christmas program on December 22. If you have any larger home decorations, or yard decorations that you would be willing to lend us, we would appreciate it! You can contact Tiffany Ahrens, Elly McChane, Abbie Schrader, or Pastor Dena if you are able to help.





ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN
**PRESCHOOL
& CHILDCARE**
WE NURTURE THE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

Clara Nehmer
Director



Holiday Greetings to all!!!

Just as everyone is settling into a good routine, the holidays come along. But the Christmas season is a very exciting time for the children, and it is great fun to experience their excitement and anticipation for the Christmas celebrations!

Mrs. Haas and Mrs. Lyon's classrooms have begun preparing for the annual Preschool Christmas Program. This year's program is on Thursday, December 19 @ 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be a milk and cookies reception in Fellowship Hall following the program.

Another annual holiday tradition is the staff dinner on Thursday, December 5, at 5:30 p.m. in fellowship hall. This dinner is a small way of showing gratitude for the amazing staff members of both the church and the preschool and childcare. Board members help to prepare and serve the meal, so that staff may enjoy the opportunity to socialize outside of the work environment. Thank you to everyone who helps to make this meal possible.

Below is a reminder of the Christmas schedule for the P&CC
 Mon., Dec. 23 - (No School Day) Center Open: 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Tue., Dec. 24 - (No School Day) Center Open: 7:00 a.m. to 12 NOON
 Wed., Dec. 25 - **Center Closed**- Merry Christmas!
 Thurs., Dec. 26 - **Center Closed**
 Fri., Dec. 27 - **Center Closed**
 Mon., Dec. 30 - (No School Day) Center Open: 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Tues., Dec. 31 - (No School Day) Center Open: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Wed., Jan. 1/2025- **Center Closed**- Happy New Year!
 Thurs., Jan. 2 - (No School Day) Center Open: 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Fri., Jan. 3 - (No School Day) Center Open: 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday, January 6- St. Timothy P&CC resumes normal schedule
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Council Notes

The November Council meeting was financially focused, as the proposed budget for 2025 was presented and discussed. After a few suggested adjustments, the next draft will be presented at the December meeting to get the proposal finalized before it is presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 26th.

The next thing that was on almost every agenda item after the budget was Advent and Christmas. The worship team is making plans to decorate the sanctuary, the youth and family ministry team has plans for the Christmas program rolling, and Pastor Dena is getting ready for her busy season.

Committee Annual Reports are due December 12, please email them to secretary@sttimothyhudson.org. The next council meeting will be Monday, December 16.

Birthday Celebration



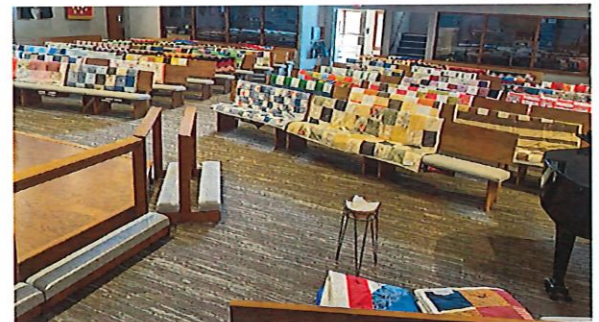
We celebrated Winnie Hatch's 80th birthday during fellowship on November 10th.

Outreach Board members Joyce King and Deb Fisher served the cake.

May you always be blessed, we are

thankful that you are part of our church family.

Quilt Blessing



Our Friday Quilters continue to stay busy making beautiful quilts! In November they presented a quilt to each member of our church who served in the Armed Forces. The quilts and some afghans pictured above were taken to Des Moines to the Veterans Home and Refugee Support Services (DMRS).



**St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Preschool & Childcare,
ELCA**

1 Thelma Court
Box 567
Hudson, Iowa 50643-0567
319-988-3571

secretary@sttimothyhudson.org

Web: www.sttimothyhudson.org

Facebook: St. Timothy Lutheran Church Hudson Iowa

Pastor Dena Gable

Office: 319-988-9006
pastor@sttimothyhudson.org

Clara Nehmer, Preschool & Childcare Director

Office number: 319-988-3633
preschool@sttimothyhudson.org

Return Service Requested

Sunday Schedule:

Worship @ 9:00 a.m. w/children's
messages and weekly communion

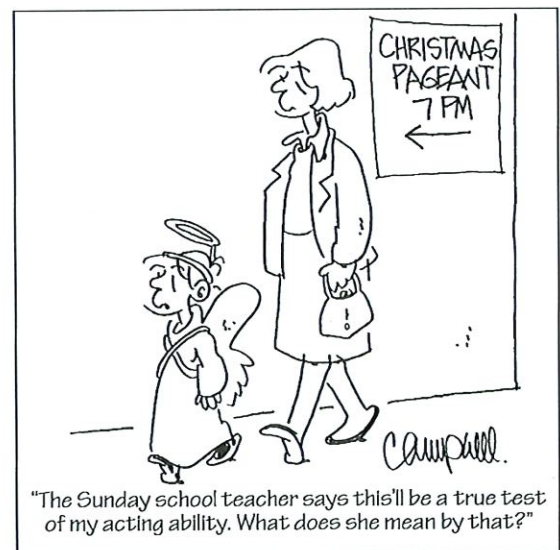
Fellowship for all ages @ 10:00

**Online Facebook Live St. Timothy Lutheran
Church Hudson Iowa @ 9 a.m.**



Our Mission:

***All in God's Name—
Loving, Serving, Welcoming***



**Laughter is Good for the Soul,
A Monthly Church Chuckle**