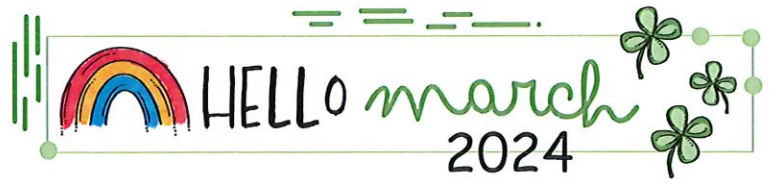


The St. Timothy Times

A newsletter for members and friends of
St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Preschool & Childcare, ELCA
Hudson, Iowa, 50643
Volume 14:3 MARCH 2024



March contains one of few saint commemoration days that spills out from the church into the surrounding culture. St. Patrick's Day is March 17th. More than just being a day for everyone to claim to be Irish, wear green, and drink some green beverages, the celebration has always been about honoring the legacy of Patrick himself.

Patrick was not Irish, but spent much of his life on the island. First, as a slave. Later, as a free man, he felt called by God to return to the place of his captivity to share the gospel with the people there. He is well-known for a number of things, many of which are myths, like that he drove the snakes out of Ireland. He is thought to have used a variety of techniques in his approach to conversion, including using a shamrock to teach about the Holy Trinity, making it a symbol for the saint and his celebration day. The real success of his evangelism is thought to be his living among the people, observing and listening, and learning their language before introducing them to his faith. In a history of conquest and forced assimilation, Patrick's approach to spreading the gospel still stands out.

Many people think that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland. He clearly didn't do that single-handedly, and there were some Christians in Ireland before he arrived to do his mission work. But it is believed that he went to places other Christians had never gone and successfully converted many people. His legend has taken on a life of its own since, but this 5th century saint remains very well-known and popular.

If you choose to celebrate St. Patrick's day this year, I invite you to take a moment to say a prayer of thanks for those who, like Patrick, have helped to spread the good news of Christ.

A portion of St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer for protection:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same.
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Coming Events

- March 6:** 5:30 PM Lenten Meal/Family Faith Night
6:30 PM Worship Service
- March 10:** Daylight savings Time, Reset your clocks!
10:15 AM Bible Study
Lily Orders Due
- March 11-15:** Spring Break
Preschool & Childcare Closed
- March 13:** 5:30 PM Lenten Meal
6:30 PM Worship Service
- March 17:** Baby Book Club; St. Patrick's Day
- March 18:** 6:30 PM Council Meeting
- March 20:** Spring Starts!
5:30 PM Lenten Meal
6:30 PM Worship Service
- March 23:** 9 AM-3 PM Fellowship Hall Reserved
- March 24:** 9 AM Palm Sunday Worship Service
Palm Sunday Brunch after worship
- March 27:** No Confirmation
- March 28:** 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service
- March 29:** Preschool & Childcare Closed
6:30 PM Good Friday Worship Service
- March 31:** 9 AM Easter Worship Service
Church Office will be closed April 1

A vertical graphic for Holy Week 2024. The background is a dark teal color with a large, light-colored palm frond. The text "Holy Week 2024" is at the top in white. Below it, the days and times of services are listed in white text.

Holy Week 2024	
Palm Sunday	9am Worship 10am Brunch
Maundy Thursday	6:30pm Worship
Good Friday	6:30pm Worship
Easter Sunday	9am Worship



Life at the preschool & childcare seem to be moving along smoothly. The inconsistency of the holidays and snow days are behind us, and the children have settled into the daily routine. The college students' schedules are set for the semester and new staff are getting a firm hold on their roles. It's a nice space to be in for a month or two; however, we are already planning for the summer and registering children for the 24-25 school year.

The toddlers continue to be a great joy to be around. It is a true delight to watch their language develop and to see how their gross motor skills change and develop on almost a daily basis. Ms. Kim and Ms. Tealeisha continue to improve the functioning of the room. In addition to doing a morning carpet time, they have begun incorporating centers into the children's routine. The nice weather has afforded the opportunity to go for walks, take a stroller ride or play on the playground.

The preschool teachers will be holding annual parent-teacher conferences during the week of March 4 – 7. Mrs. Haas and Mrs. Von Wald continually assess the children and chart their learning progress throughout the year. Conferences provide a great opportunity to provide affirmations about the child's growth and discuss a plan for the coming school year.

During the month of February, Mrs. Haas classroom celebrated the 100th day of school, the Librarian read stories to the toddler and preschool classrooms, and the preschoolers had their monthly chapel time with Pastor Dena. Additionally, the Black Hawk Public Health Nurse taught the children about dental health, demonstrated proper teeth brushing, and gave each child a toothbrush.

The school-age children continue to enjoy this beautiful weather. They go outside to run and play almost every day. Ms. Angela from Iowa State Extensions led a program with the school-aged children on valentine's day, and Ms. Poyner and Ms. Amanda have been spending extra time organizing the school age children's resources and play space.

Thank you to Preschool & Childcare Board members, Jan Madson and Kris Hargen, for the staff valentine's day treats. The staff truly appreciated the cookies and thoughtfulness.

The center will be closed the week of spring break, March 11 – 15 and again on Good Friday, March 29, 2024.



Council Notes



The St. Tim's Council met on February 18 after worship. As we are at the beginning of the new year, there was not a lot of business to discuss, as committees are just getting their feet on the ground.

Pastor Dena approached the council about creating a survey to gauge the congregation's thoughts about supporting our exploration of expanding child care in the community.

Family Faith Night will be March 6, and we will be packing health kits and learning about peace. The council will also try meeting on a Monday evening, March 18, at 6:30.

~Tiffany Ahrens

Hudson Ministerium Progressive Dinner

We had our first Hudson Ministerial Association progressive dinner on February 1st. Members of the community were invited to a meal with one course at the Community Church, one at St. Timothy and one at the Methodist Church. It was a fun evening with lots of food. Thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success!

~Pastor Dena Gable

Pictures by Pastors Dena & Lee Gable



ELCA World Hunger

We are supporting the ELCA World Hunger program by collecting coins from the piggy and barn banks and from the large pink piggy bank in the sanctuary.



If you have not already picked up a piggy or barn bank, we have some available in the narthex. Fill your bank and bring it to church on Easter or within a few weeks after. Donations to the large piggy bank can be dropped in during our Sunday offerings.

This collection will be used to fight hunger in the US and around the world. Thank you for supporting this project.

Sound System

At the annual meeting on January 28, the congregation approved that we could start fundraising for a new sound system.

It was recommended by the Tech Team to fundraise \$45,000 and spend it on the proposed audio-visual system by DB Acoustics. Any money that would exceed this amount would go directly to technology expenses related to worship.

This will be done in three stages: **1) Sound System:** this would help simplify our sound system setup, making it easier for congregation members to run. Our current speaker system would be updated, making the sound more uniform throughout the sanctuary. An ambient microphone would be installed which would make it possible for our livestream audience to hear responses of the congregation, leaving less dead air. **2) Live Streaming:** We would be getting a camera that would be able to pan and focus on different areas of the sanctuary during service, and would be fully integrated into the new sound system, eliminating a lot of our sound issues on the livestream. The new video system would also give us the capability to record services and special events and keep them. **3) Projector:** a new long life digital projector (without an expensive bulb that needs to be occasionally replaced). Two lights need to be removed on each side of the cross, and new screen paint applied on the wall for a clearer picture.

We have a display of envelopes on the narthex wall for this fundraiser, along with a chart to see our progress. If you would like to donate toward this project, please make checks payable to St. Timothy Lutheran Church and indicate "Sound System" in the memo or on the envelope. Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate, brought to the office or mailed (P.O. Box 567, Hudson, IA 50643).

A big thank you to those who have already given. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Check the chart on the wall in the narthex to watch our progress toward the goal! Thank you for your consideration of donating toward this project, one that will enhance our service for everyone.



Family Faith Night

The February Family Faith Night was all about love. We learned about Jesus welcoming the children who came to hear him teach. We learned how Jesus loves children, and how we must have the minds of children to enter the kingdom of Heaven. We made Valentines for the people who are special to us, and enjoyed watching friendships grow between some of our youngest. We hope you can join us on March 6, where the Youth and Family Ministry will be serving Macaroni and Cheese and pulled pork for the meal and we will be assembling relief kits for refugees.

~Tiffany Ahrens

LOVE

Pictures by Pastor Dena



Easter Lily Orders Due Soon

If you would like to provide an Easter Lily for our Easter service, please do so by March 10.

Extra forms can be found on the narthex table. Please make your check payable to St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Payments can be brought to the office, put in the offering plate, or sent to us at: P.O. Box 567, Hudson, IA 50643.

I love my church family!

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

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Return Service Requested

Sunday Schedule:

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

Fellowship for all ages @ 10:00

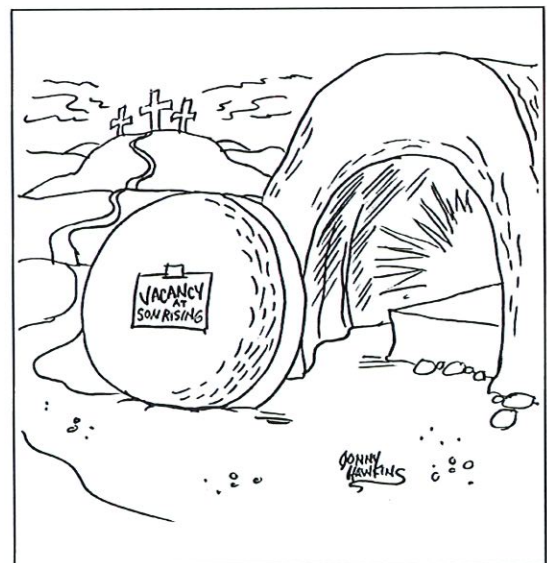
**Online Facebook Live St. Timothy Lutheran
Church Hudson Iowa @ 9 a.m.**



Our Mission:

All in God's Name—

Loving, Serving, Welcoming



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