

# The Messenger

April 2015



## St. Timothy Lutheran Church

1051 Kempsville Rd.  
Norfolk, VA 23502  
757-461-3931

[www.sttimothyelca.com](http://www.sttimothyelca.com)

The Rev. David Penman, Pastor  
757-202-0105

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Well Spring has sprung, at least according to the calendar, and Easter – the day and the season – will soon be upon us. I hope you found last month's article helpful and maybe even uplifting as we entered into our Lenten journey together. (By the way, I welcome feedback on all of my articles; so feel free to let me know what you think.)

In our Proper Preface (part of that stuff we say before communion) during the season of Lent the pastor says: "You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast..." which got me to thinking – I wonder how many folks know anything about the word/idea of "paschal." So I thought I'd look it up in my electronic dictionary and here's what I got:

paschal |'paskəl|  
adjective formal

**1** of or relating to Easter.

**2** of or relating to the Jewish Passover.

ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French, from ecclesiastical Latin *paschalis*, from *pascha* 'feast of Passover,' via Greek and Aramaic from Hebrew *Pesah* 'Passover.'

What I found interesting about it is that we, the "Church," relate the term to number 1, when the root of the word came from number 2!

All of which leads me to ponder a couple of things. First, how much closer we are in faith to our Jewish brothers and sisters than we practice, and from that thought, I wonder what the world would look like if we more actively shared "the paschal feast?" Maybe we should try that next year!

Secondly, I wonder what the "paschal feast" means to others outside of our regular worshiping body. I know that for some folks, Easter is one of the few times during the year that they make it their priority effort to get to worship, but I wonder more about those who have not yet heard (or understand) the "good news" of Jesus Christ. As I am writing this we at St. Timothy are in the midst of our "sheltering week." So I extend my wondering to our guests who have been with us this week. I wonder how many of them make it to worship at any time during the week? What are their opportunities? Who opens the door to them? I know that PIN (People In Need) ministries makes a service available every Sunday down on the water front... but still – how many folks are we missing? And let's not

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forget how many folks are living in the homes within a mile radius of STLC and still are not connected to a worshipping community... I wonder what we are doing to reach out to them...

May the God of grace and peace keep you in God's everlasting love,

Pastor David

I look forward to a new Springtime and an renewed ministry time together!

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## **Holy Week Services at St. Timothy**

*Wednesday, April 1 (no Service)*

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – Worship at 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3 – Worship at 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 4 – 9 p.m.

At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1489 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach  
Pastor David participating  
Refreshments following

Easter Sunday, April 5

8:45 a.m. – Easter Breakfast

9:30 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt for children

10:00 a.m. – Worship with Holy Communion



At the Easter Sunday Service, we will be receiving the following new members into our fellowship:

- The Reverend Robert and Mrs. Linda Vogl
- Ms. Ruth Garver

We rejoice in having these folks join in our ministry both within our congregation and throughout our community, country, and world.

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## -- Caring for Creation --

### "Do Something . . . for the Earth" Sunday, April 19

In creation, God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth and all that is in it. God is the owner; we are the stewards. Creation is our first stewardship. On Sunday, April 19, in recognition of our responsibility to care for creation, and in conjunction with world-wide Earth Day (April 22), St. Timothy members will be celebrating the earth and caring for creation around our church and in our neighborhood. Rob Cunningham is coordinating this effort for the Stewardship Committee. We'll all be sprucing up the grounds around the church, pruning shrubs, planting flowers, and caring for plantings that may need some "TLC." As participants in Norfolk's "Adopt a Street" program, we will also be picking up trash along Kempsville Road, from the Route 64 overpass to Lowery Road. There will be creative things to do for everyone -- all ages and interests.

Come "casual" to church that Sunday, wear your yellow "God's Work. Our Hands" tee shirts, and bring your rakes and garden gloves. We'll also have lunch along with our work. It should be a wonderful, fun time as we celebrate our creation with people all around the world.

## New Adult Forum starting April 12

As part of our focus on caring for creation and the environment, we will be starting a new Adult Forum class for adults on Sunday, April 12, entitled "**Earthbound: Created and Called to Care for Creation.**" This 6-week course, with videos and discussion, will be led by Pastor David. Topics for each Sunday are:

1. Created/Called (justified and free to serve the world)
2. Here/There (creation is earthly, material and good)
3. Domination/Dominion (above creation, or part of it?)
4. Me/We (identity in social context)
5. Now/Forever (short-term benefit, or eternal creation)
6. Enough/Too Much (scarcity and abundance)

The Introduction to the course (from the Study Guide) describes the content as follows:

"Convicting" and also "encouraging" is how I describe this tremendous DVD resource for congregational study of creation care. I had a tendency to reduce language of creation care to bumper sticker slogans. *Earthbound* convicted me to hear God's calling to care for creation in my life. *Earthbound* encouraged me to use biblical and theological language when I engage in and explore the timely issue of creation care. Cultivating the Christian practice of creation care involves a dynamic process of

acting and reflecting. Nearly every participant in this study will have encountered practices of creation care some time in their life. Those practices may be as simple as learning early in life to turn off the lights when you leave the room or saving things for a potential second use. This DVD resource will encourage participants to reflect on the daily actions they take on behalf of creation and inspire participants to act as a witness to God's love and care for the world.

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# For your devotional life



*Christ in Our Home.* This quarterly devotional booklet is provided for members of our congregation by the St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church Women (ELCW). For each day, there is a scripture citation, a brief devotional reading written by Lutheran clergy or lay persons, a prayer, and a prayer concern. The April – June 2015 edition is available on the table in the Narthex next to the fellowship hall.

Prayers for Worship are found in the front of your *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book (pages 64 – 87). While many of these are used during our worship services, they are also very appropriate and helpful to include in your own personal devotional life

A copy of Luther's *Small Catechism* is at the back of your *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book, beginning on page 1160.



*The Lutheran.* This is the magazine of all the people of the ELCA. It is published monthly and contains encouraging and uplifting articles about what's going on within the church locally (through a VA Lutheran supplement), nationally and internationally. Copies of *The Lutheran* are available on the table in the Narthex, just inside the front doors.

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## -- YOUTH CORNER --

Our thanks to our youth for their involvement in our Palm Sunday service. As always, they were wonderful leaders of the congregation on this special Sunday. It's always a joy to have them participate in worship.

The group's upcoming schedule:

April 18 (Sat) Yard Sale 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.. Bring in donations the week of April 12.



May 9 (Sat) Spaghetti dinner, with a pie auction.



June 5 – 7 (Fri-Sun) Synod Youth Assembly at Roanoke College. The delegates are Emily Martinez and Abby Mantta.

*Of special note:* Maren Corliss will be ending her term as President of the Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Board. She will give her farewell speech to the Virginia Synod Assembly, occurring during this time.

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## St. Timothy Food Pantry

One of the very busy and long standing outreach ministries at St. Timothy is our Food Pantry. It has grown from a couple shelves of non-perishable food items kept on hand to give to anyone in need, to one of the largest agencies of the Food Bank of Eastern Virginia. In 2014 over 36 tons of food were distributed to over 1400 households.

While it is a vital ongoing ministry and backed by the entire congregation, you will not find it as a line item in our annual budget. While we do search for grants and other available funds to supplement our buying power, the pantry is primarily supported by members' generous donations of food items and cash. These gifts are above and beyond their "regular giving" for budget items.

Recently, the pantry refrigerator broke down and it was determined that repair was no longer cost effective; this caused a problem to pantry operations and needed an immediate solution. A new unit was identified and ordered, and then the congregation was informed of the need and asked to help cover the cost. We had a typical response . . . within two Sundays we received \$2330 to cover the \$2059 needed for the unit!! (the remaining balance will go into the pantry account and will be used to stock the pantry)

Stocking the shelves is a constant "fill them up" and "empty them out"!! In addition to a monthly delivery by the Food Bank (March order was over 4000 pounds), shopping at the Food Bank is done each Thursday morning (and often on Tuesday) generally filling two pick up beds and the back of an SUV, followed by the drive to the church to unload. Next . . . fill the shelves, empty the shelves . . . repeat as needed until all the supplies are gone.

Typical views of shelves and refrigerator (freezers are also available, when needed)

### OPENING



As you can see, any and all items you donate, as well as those purchased from the Food Bank and area markets, are distributed each week. There is never an item that isn't needed and welcomed!! USDA foods are also made available to qualified clients.

### CLOSING



The food pantry consists of several rooms midway down the hall of our educational wing. If you would like a tour of these areas, please contact Joan Hanson or Rob Cunningham. They'll be glad to show you around. Seeing the entire area, in person, really brings the mission "to life"!

**Thank You, St Timothy members, for your generous support of this vital community service**

Submitted by Joan Hanson

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## Serving Food Pantry clients involves lots of activities:



Joan Hanson keeps the paperwork up to date.



Sue Schafran and Joan and Jim Hanson prepare to open the pantry.



Jim Hanson, Amanda Hold, Sue Schafran and Rob Cunningham get ready to fill orders.



Jim Hanson and Rob Cunningham fill boxes of food for clients.

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## 2015 Sheltering Ministry Ends

Our in-house Sheltering Ministry has ended and it was a great success! A very special thanks to:

- Choir and Council, Chesapeake Clippers, the Grabb family, Oceans 11, London Bridge Baptist Church, and Fairlawn Elementary School for providing delicious meals and service over the week
- Lee and Eileen Stouter for providing the entire lunch for 70 people as they do every year
- The Alzheimer's Support Group which donated lunch supplies, candy, lunch team, and fresh flowers for each table
- Great Captains: Jeff Daley (all 7 nights!), Marcia Logwood, Kay Hunt, Sue & Gary Schafran, Jen & Paul Schirmer, Louis Matos, Susan Williams, Sara Hold & Claudia Dailey
- Margaret Reynolds for her annual donation of beautiful handmade thank-you notes



Lori & Dru Groce, & grandson Christopher, pack 65 lunch bags for the next day.



Eddie Domingo (rt) from London Bridge Baptist Church, has have been preparing two meals per week for sheltering for 7 yrs. He is pictured here with two of his annual volunteers.

A very special thanks also to all of you outstanding people who were involved in the success of this important ministry: those of you who helped with publicity, contributed money, contributed requested items, shopped, set up for shelter, borrowed TV hook ups for us, hooked up the TV, made phone calls, replenished breakfast items, set up and maintained the clothing tables, mopped bathroom floors, cooked delicious food, baked or brought yummy desserts, set tables, served food, waited tables, served drinks, made coffee, supplied lunches, made lunches, worked the



Lunch Captains Gary & Sue Schafran, along with John Kuehl, make sandwiches for the next day's lunches.



Jeff Daley gets ready for his job as Drinks Captain.

kitchen, cleaned up, volunteered multiple nights, replenished the bathrooms, emptied garbage cans, put the garbage on the street, cooked multiple nights, Captained multiple nights, cleaned up after shelter, organized, came early and worked every night, gave blessings, never said "no," and, as always . . . to Pastor and Sherri.

We are truly blessed here at St. Timothy to have such a wonderful, generous and gracious congregation. We are the little church with the BIG HEART. No challenge is ever too great for God's team.

The food was great, the help was super, and the homeless clients appreciated everything. So did we . . .

In His Name, the Sheltering Ministry Team

Submitted by Claudia Dailey

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# St. Timothy as Part of a Worldwide Lutheran Witness

Most of us know about and are involved in St. Timothy's ministries, both within our congregation and community. Many of us may *not* realize how we fit into, are a part of, and financially support the larger Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – beginning at the Tidewater Conference level, next in the state of Virginia, then throughout the USA, and finally, around the world. Below is a brief look at what makes up the ELCA and the universal Lutheran church and the ministries undertaken at various levels *beyond* our congregation. Many of the ministries within St. Timothy link directly to these missions.

***We are not alone! We are truly part of a much larger, worldwide effort to do God's work! And we continue to financially support all these ministries with our benevolence offerings each month.***

**At the regional level – Tidewater Conference.** The Tidewater Conference, one of eleven conferences in the Virginia Synod, consists of thirteen Lutheran congregations in Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach. The pastors of these congregations form a close knit group of colleagues who work together to strengthen the witness and mission of the ELCA and Virginia Synod in the Tidewater area. They gather monthly to discuss matters of theology, of mission, and of mutual ministry - how our congregations can work together to be a light for Christ - and for mutual conversation and consolation. The dean serves the Office of the Bishop by working to strengthen their ministerium, offering pastoral care and support to the pastors of this conference, providing conflict resolution for congregations, installing pastors newly called to a congregation, and representing the Bishop on those occasions when he is not available for special events.

The Dean of the Tidewater Conference is The Rev. Cathy J. Mimms, Associate Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Laskin Road, Virginia Beach.



**At the state level – the Virginia Synod:** St. Timothy is one of the 153 congregations of the Virginia Synod of the ELCA. Headquartered at Roanoke College in Salem, VA, the Virginia Synod has congregations from far southwest Virginia to the Atlantic coast. The Virginia Synod is one of 65 synods within the ELCA. The average sized Lutheran Congregation in Virginia worships 85 people per Sunday.

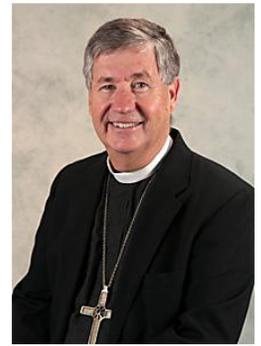


Ministries of the Virginia Synod include, among others:

- ACTS (The Ambassadors Community for Theological Study -- Lutheran faith courses for lay persons)
- Campus Ministry
- ELCA Malaria Campaign
- Papua New Guinea Partnership
- Power in the Spirit (inspirational conference for all ages who wish to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, workshops, and fellowship)
- Roots and Wings (a ministry for families of children from birth through grade 5)
- Rostered Leaders' Spouses (fellowship and support group)
- United Lutheran Appeal (supporting 8 Lutheran charities/mission partners at once)
- Virginia Lutheran Men in Mission
- Virginia Synodical Women's Organization
- Week of Service (in conjunction with ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday on Sep 13, 2015)
- Youth Ministry

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Bishop James Mauney has been leading us since 1999. Bishop Mauney was born in Lynchburg, VA, on June 21, 1952. He grew up in Norfolk where his father, The Rev. Marshall Mauney, was pastor of First Lutheran Church. He graduated from Granby High School and from Lenoir Rhyne College, where he met his wife Lynda. He received a Masters of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 1978, a Masters of Sacred Theology in New Testament Studies from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in 1994, and a Masters of Sacred Training in Old Testament Studies from Southern Seminary in 2009. He and Lynda are parents of one daughter, Mem. She and her husband Jason Zolak, have a beautiful daughter, Charlie.



Explore the Virginia Synod further at <http://www.vasynod.org>.



**At the national level – ELCA and its Headquarters in Chicago, IL.** The Virginia Synod is one of 65 synods of the ELCA. The ELCA was formed in 1988 from a merger of three Lutheran churches: the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA currently has over 9800 congregations and 4 million members in all 50 states.

There are over 17,000 leaders on the ELCA roster including 981 associates in ministry, 61 deaconesses, 192 diaconal ministers, and over 16,500 ordained clergy. In 2013, 24% of clergy on the ELCA roster were women. In the ELCA's eight seminaries, the numbers of women and men preparing for ministry are about equal.

Under the banner "God's Work. Our hands," the ELCA works diligently in numerous ways to support:

- Congregations and synods as growing centers for evangelical mission
- Colleges, universities and seminaries
- Leadership programs for both clergy and lay persons
- Relief and development global concerns such as malaria, world hunger, disaster response, and refugees
- Over 240 missionaries in more than 40 countries
- Public concerns including advocacy, community based organizing, justice for women, racial justice, social issues, and volunteer opportunities

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton is the ELCA's presiding bishop. She was elected as the ELCA's fourth presiding bishop at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Born in Cleveland on April 2, 1955, she earned a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio.

Bishop Eaton's husband, the Rev. T. Conrad Selnick, an Episcopal priest, is vice president for advancement and church relations at Bexley Seabury Federation. They are parents of two adult children, Rebeckah and Susannah.



Explore the ELCA further at <http://www.elca.org>.

**At the international level: The Lutheran World Federation.** The ELCA is one of 142 member churches of the



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Lutheran World Federation. The call of these member churches, in 79 countries all over the world, is to walk alongside their Lutheran brothers and sisters to grow the church and to do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities everywhere. Their efforts include:

- Building networks for dialogue and exchange among theologians
- Encouraging study, conversation and reflection to raise awareness and build unity
- Encouraging respectful discussion on issues that could divide us
- Engaging in dialogue and relationships with international Christian bodies
- Working with ecumenical partners in theology, mission, development and advocacy
- Encouraging member churches to work with other faiths for peace, justice and reconciliation

Explore the Lutheran World Federation further at <http://www.lutheranworld.org/content/about-lwf>.

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## A Thank You from the ELCA for our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Good Gifts" Offering

We received a nice thank you letter from the ELCA Headquarters for the \$1,480 we collected to purchase pigs, honey bees, a family farm, school supplies, etc., to support the church's "Good Gifts" mission and ministry. Our support for the national church, when combined with gifts from churches around the country, enables us to do more worldwide than we ever could as a single congregation.

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★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

Happy  
Anniversary

Matos, Luis	April 01	Sherri & Jim Meyers	April 10, 1983
Schirmer, Jenny	April 03	Sam & Margaret Reynolds	April 10, 1976
Durham, Michael	April 04	James & Joan Hanson	April 21, 1963
Holmsten, Sherri	April 10	Diane & Thomas McLane	April 30, 1977
Carroll, James	April 11		
Curtis, Carole	April 13		
Meyers, Sherri	April 15		
Miller, Patty	April 15		
Gunter, Nancy	April 16		
Becker, Lynn	April 16		
Miller, Abbie	April 18		
Nikolas, Brooke	April 19		
Riley, Stick	April 19		
Swegan, Justin	April 20		
Obney, Linda	April 20		
Garst, Erin	April 21		
Dombey, Jim	April 26		
Colonna, Dionne (Cunningham)	April 26		

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