

The Messenger

June 2015



St. Timothy Lutheran Church

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

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 now what?! The Holy Spirit is loosed on the world, in our midst and in our hearts. So what should we expect? What does God expect? What does the Holy Spirit expect? I'm not 100% sure I know the answers to those questions, but based on the story in Acts 2, one thing I can say for sure, everything has changed – life as we knew it before is completely changed. I think the little video we watched at worship on Pentecost Sunday summed it up pretty well. Jesus' disciples could not stay *inside* anymore. They had no choice but to go *outside* to **share** the Good News.

And how appropriate that lead-in makes for the rest of what I want to say. Two primary things – no, make that three primary things! Thing one is to **share** with you some thoughts from our *Rediscover Macedonia A spirit of gratitude and generosity* workshop; thing two is to talk a little about **sharing** in the life of St. Timothy; and thing three is to **share** with you some ideas for our multi-generational summer (Sunday school) spiritual development time. So here goes!

Thing one. Four of us from St. Timothy were able to go to the first of two *Rediscover Macedonia* workshops at St. Mark's in Yorktown on May 16. (The second workshop will be in August, and I hope that we can have several more folks go with us.) The biblical centerpiece for this encounter is found in 2 Corinthians; the key verses follow:

2 Corinthians 7:16

¹⁶I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

2 Corinthians 8:1–5

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for *the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints* — ⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us. [Emphasis added.]

From these verses were derived seven key principles: Gratitude, Generosity, Abundant Joy, Give Freely, Sacrifice, **Share**, and Commitment. In regards to sharing, although it was only briefly introduced in the first session, the “art” (my word) of sharing will be discussed more fully in the second session. To me, it is the most key element of the seven principles.

Thing two. Recently I **shared** an idea with one of our members, Sue, that I had heard raised from another member, Sandra; to which Sue replied, “we need to **share** these ideas more

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broadly. We need to be talking about these great ideas.” So... here are a few:

- Let’s get a community garden plot going on part of the vacant lot that we own, rather than paying to have it mowed every week.
- Let’s look at getting a shelter for battered women/mothers built on another part of our vacant lot... using God’s given resources to the best of our ability.
- Now that we know that we are *Earthbound* (A six-session video series that we presented around Earth Day), let’s take a look at how we can make our facility much more energy efficient, reducing our carbon footprint and energy consumption.
- And oh, by the way, while we are at it, let’s build a covered drop off space for those who are entering our facility with canes, walkers and wheelchairs.

Those are just a few of the ideas that have been **shared** lately. I look forward to hearing more conversation about each one –

AND the other ideas you have of ways we can **share** the Good News through our actions.

Finally for now, some thoughts about our plans for a multi-generational faith **sharing** experience for this summer. Over the last couple of weeks (and for many weeks to come) many of us have been having conversations about gathering on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall through the summer for a multi-generational faith **sharing** time, centered around one or more of the Lectionary readings for the day. It is clear from the leading faith development thinkers of our day that the old way of “dropping kids off” for Sunday school, and keeping them segregated from the adults is NOT the best way to pass on the faith.

So there are all the things for this month. I hope you will pray about each and every one of them that the Holy Spirit who launched the church on Pentecost will renew our lives together as we **share** the Good News in our words and deeds.

Grace and Peace to you. Pastor David

[Pastor David recently received a “note” from Ruth and Faith Garver that was addressed to all of the folks in St. Timothy, and so he asked if he could share it with the congregation by putting it in the Messenger. The following is the note.]

The outside of the card read:

*“Warm thoughts can make
the sun a little brighter,
the sky a little bluer,
the world a little nicer.*

And inside the following:

My St. Timothy Family,

I want to take time to thank each and every one of you. Many years I had been looking for a place where my family and I are welcomed in. Sadly, I went to a few where after the first visit I never returned. It felt as if something was missing or we were unwelcomed. When Faith and I entered St. Timothy I felt we had finally come home. We have been able to share good times and have a second family to lean on and turn to when things were bad. You also gave my daughter hope [that] she wasn’t alone in being a special needs sister.

As I am writing this I’m holding back tears of joy. I have never been so welcomed in a place as I have with everyone here, and so blessed to have each and every one of you in our lives. I look forward to the many years to come with you. When we joined, we didn’t join a church, we joined a family.

May the Peace and Blessing of the Lord be with you all
Ruth and Faith Garver

[And the Pastor would like to add his thanks to the people of St. Timothy for “sharing the Good News” in this very real way!]

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A new way of looking at stewardship

Slowly – but surely – we’re expanding upon the way we have looked at “stewardship” over the past years. We traditionally have considered stewardship to be generous giving of our time, talents and treasures. This approach is still very valid and important in the life of our congregation. But viewing stewardship from the perspective of growing “stewards” gives a new, exciting meaning to these three components.

What are stewards? They are caretakers who live in a place that is not their own. They are allowed to make full use of the owner’s property in exchange for taking good care of it. They are the protectors of all that has been given to them.

GENEROSITY

When has another person given you a gift of grace? When has someone surprised you with a generous gift? When have you experienced abundant joy as a result of giving?

ABUNDANT JOY

When have you experienced the abundant joy of giving? When has your extreme poverty overflowed in generosity? How have you found joy when you live with little and live with much?

GIVE FREELY

When and where have you given something freely? What does it feel like to give something away with no strings attached? What would others be willing to testify freely about your giving?

SACRIFICE

What form does “giving according to your means” take in your life today? When has someone made a sacrifice to give you something that seemed excessive? When have you made a sacrifice so that you could give beyond your means?

COMMITMENT

When has love taken you to a place you never expected to be? When have you given yourself first to the Lord? When have you wanted something so badly that you risked something important to get it?

From the ELCA’s *Rediscover Macedonia Workshop* materials

Everything we are and have belongs to God. Jesus tells us that we should remember that we are stewards, not owners, and we should take good care of what God has entrusted to us. This includes our families our bodies, our environment, our time, and our money. We are good stewards when we acknowledge that all these things are gifts from God for us to use responsibly. Our goal is to grow as “stewards” in thankfulness for all that God has given us.

In his letter to the Corinthian church, Paul describes characteristics of good stewards which he found in the Christians in Macedonia. Midst poverty and adversity, these Macedonian Christians were shining examples of committed stewardship, displaying the principles found in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. **As we grow as “stewards,” here are some questions we can ask ourselves.**

While stewardship encompasses many areas, we at St. Timothy have recently been focusing on being **good stewards of the environment – of creation**. The following article on helpful tips, along with information on an environmental center, may be of interest as we work on becoming better stewards of God's creation.

Tips to Help Care for Creation

Change your lifestyle

- 1. Reflect on your lifestyle.** Take time to think about your lifestyle—the choices you make or the commitments you have or the habits you practice or the things you own.
- 2. Adopt a change of lifestyle to “simple living.”** We cannot depend on technological changes to make a difference. We must adapt our lifestyles to a radical Earth-friendly posture.
- 3. Purchase green.** There are many books that help you to purchase products that are friendly to the environment.

Transform your home into an Earth-friendly place

- 1. Understand the environmental connections of your living space.** Our homes are directly connected to every dimension of the environmental crises and the ecological concerns that we face. Here are just a few examples:
 - Food in the refrigerator has traveled by truck from great distances
 - Food has been raised using pesticides and chemical fertilizer
 - Pesticides and herbicides used on the lawn get into the air, water and soil
 - Cleaning products - from laundry detergent to window washing fluid with toxic substances that pollute
- 2. Do an environmental assessment of your home:** Take a room and assess everything that makes a negative environmental impact. For example, look at your kitchen in terms of refrigerator settings, paper use, food choices, detergents, cleaning products, natural lighting, water-use practices, recycling, food conservation, composting of food wastes, and so on. Then go room by room in your house and make the changes necessary to make a difference.
- 3. Reduce, recycle, reuse.** Seek to reduce your trash to a minimum.
- 4. Reconsider eating patterns and food choices:** Buy locally rather than purchasing food that traveled halfway across the globe. Eat organic and eliminate pesticides and herbicides in your diet. Purchase fair trade products.
- 5. Green your lawn and garden:** There are organic ways to grow a lawn without pesticides or herbicides. Plant low maintenance grass. Put trees in strategic places to lower heating/cooling costs in your home.
- 6. Green your Christmas:** There are many thoughtful suggestions for gifts and wrapping, for decoration, for being generous to your family and generous to others. Have a live tree that can later be planted in your yard or at your church.
- 7. Make it a family thing:** We are doing all this for future generations. Share with your children what you do for God's creation and why you do it. Reinforce what your children are learning at school about the environment. Go together to local parks, nature centers, and natural museums.

From *Web of Creation: Personal Lifestyle* <http://www.webofcreation.org>

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Brock Environmental Center – Protecting the Chesapeake Bay



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has saved a national treasure by building the Brock Environmental Center. This center, located at 3663 Marlin Bay Drive (off Shore Drive) exists to help save and protect our coast line. The building is a bit hidden but well worth the trip to see how

they have re-used resources to create the building and provide a learning environment for the public to learn how to conserve our resources. It is an amazing place and well worth the trip!!

To get a tour of this amazing building, contact brockcentergreentours@chf.org or call 757-622-1964, Ext. 3312. They have great ideas on how to save water, energy and materials, and provide creative education for children.

BOTTOM LINE: Where to start growing Stewards of what God has entrusted to us: **Communication! Conversation!**
Share thoughts, ideas, and experiences with fellow members.
Spread the word!



- Exciting news from the trenches of the St. Timothy Chancel Choir! Three new choir members have joined our ranks in the past month. They are: Claudia Daley, Jim Dombey, and Jenny Schirmer. Our choir is very blessed with so many talented volunteers!
 - The Chancel Choir has had a very successful year in supporting worship through song. We will break for the summer in mid-June and reconvene for the Choir Kick-Off on Wednesday, Sept 9, 2015 at 6 PM. On the menu: eating, singing, and workshopping our skills!
 - Our youth have fiercely added to the musical witness of the church in Sunday morning services this year. A special thank you to: Andre Baines, Maren Corliss, Faith Garver, Abby Mantta, Emily Martinez, Abigail Patrick, Jonathan Shinabarger, Caitlynn Van Nurden, and MacKenzie Van Nurden.
- All adults/teens are welcome to join the Chancel Choir and/or perform in small ensembles. Just let Kelly know your interest.
... from the desk of Kelly Montgomery

United Lutheran Appeal Results

We had a wonderful response to our United Lutheran Appeal campaign. **Members donated \$595 to the many mission partners** who care for the elderly, and the imprisoned, find loving homes for children, shelter those who suffer from mental illness, teach our children through camping experiences, and educate our pastors.

Here's a breakdown of designated amounts:

"Divide evenly among all"	\$200
Caroline Furnace	\$40
Grace Inside [Chaplain Ministry]	\$10
Seminary	\$50
VA Lutheran Homes	\$45
Lutheran Family Services	\$250

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"The Experience" Touring Choir

at

St. Timothy on Sunday, June 21

5:30 pm Welcoming Dinner
7:00 pm Performance

Imagine over 50 high school students from **Christ Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC**, taking time from their summer vacation to share their faith in Jesus Christ through contemporary song, drama, dance, visual arts and much more. This is their mission: to *Tell the Story* of Christ to the world.

These students have taken time each week during the school year to put together this year's show just for you and your family to hear about God's love in a new way that will touch your heart.



Come and enjoy a family-friendly night of laughter, music and worship. Bring your friends -- the evening's performance is free and open to the public.

This group was at St. Timothy last year. We now have the opportunity once again to experience this very joyful, uplifting event.

We are asking for volunteers to host groups of two or more students in their homes Sunday night after the

performance. See Rick Corliss if you would be willing to be a host.

(If you are unable to directly host students but wish to help, contributions towards paid lodging would be welcomed.)

Attention all Altar Guild Members!!

There will be a scheduling meeting **on Sunday, June 14th**, in the robing room directly after worship. Please bring your day planners. If you are unable to attend, please let Claudia or Delores know which Sundays you are available to serve. Thanks, again, for your continued service to this necessary ministry.



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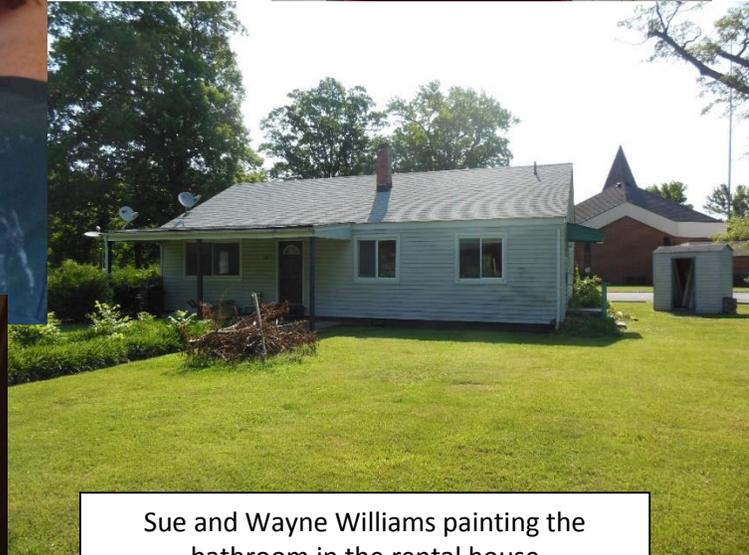
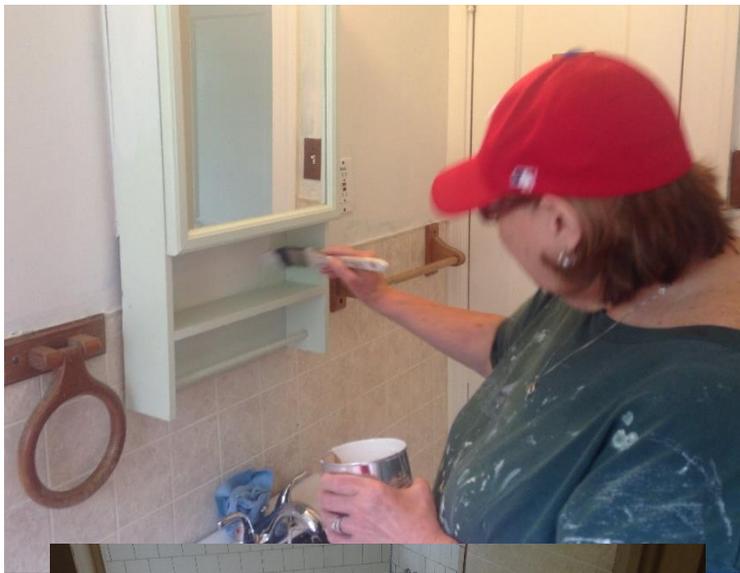
Rental Property

As many of you already know, St. Timothy's rental property – the one-story house to the right of the main church -- ,is currently undergoing some renovation and updating as we prepare for new tenants to move in at the beginning of June. Items already completed include:

- New floor joints installed where there was some rotten wood
- Walls repaired
- All rooms painted
- New bathroom floor installed
- Electrical problem resolved
- New carpet installed
- Brush cleared from around the house
- Sand placed under the house to help alleviate the ground water

Our painters were Betty and Duke Coolman, Jim Dombey, Sue and Wayne Williams, Betty Kaye Schomburg and Jeff Daley. Rick Corliss provided general coordination of the work.

Our new renters are Mr. and Mrs. Winters. Mrs. Winters works at Fairlawn Elementary School. Her husband is in the Navy.



Sue and Wayne Williams painting the bathroom in the rental house

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-- YOUTH CORNER --

Synod Youth Assembly (June 5-7 at Roanoke College)

What Makes Youth Assembly Different?

Hundreds of kids screaming songs together at large group, spontaneous games of ninja, and small group conversations about faith. When you think Virginia Synod youth events the aforementioned images may come to mind. However, there is one youth event that may not fit into the typical box: The Synod Youth Assembly. There are still great conversations and some beloved youth songs led by Pastor Dave Delaney, the Synod's director for youth and young adult ministry, but Pastor Delaney says that this event that coincides with Synod Assembly is unique.

So what makes Youth Assembly so different from the other gatherings? "The purpose for this event is for the youth to experience and learn about the life of the church beyond their congregation," said Delaney. It is also intended to cast a vision for the participants to not just focus on themselves, but to see what we can do together as the body of Christ. Numbers are intentionally kept small – only 2 or 3 from each congregation. While other events focus on our spiritual growth within one's own community, this event gives youth a chance to see the church from the Synod, national and worldwide perspective. "Youth Assembly allows the youth to see a different side of the church," said Maren Corliss, president of the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board. St. Timothy's delegates are Emily Martinez and Abby Mantta.

From *Weekly Update*, Announcements from Around the VA Synod 5/14/15

ELCA Youth Gathering (July in Detroit)

St. Timothy has 7 youth and three adults attending this gathering. The youth are Emily Martinez, Maren Corliss, Richard Corliss, Zachary Highsmith, Abigail Patrick, Abby Mantta and Caitlynn Van Nurden. Adults are Ben Alger, Sara Hold and Patricia Corliss. The youth at the Gathering will be collecting diapers as their "love offering" this year. Our youth will be collecting money for diapers to add donations from across the country.

NOTE: The Spaghetti Dinner and pie auction raised \$480 which will go towards the cost of sending our youth to Detroit.

Congregation Council Notes

These summary notes are from the council's May 14 meeting. *The complete minutes may be found in the white binder on the bottom shelf of the table in the Narthex.*

- Jim Somerville and Joan Hanson presented a Bequests Policy to the council which was accepted.
- John Kuehl presented information about a new insurance policy for the church. The new policy, with

Church Mutual, will be about \$1,500 less than the policy we have now. The council accepted the new policy.

- Brenda Conway is planning an organizational meeting for the Congregational Life committee. Bonnie Mantta has resigned from head of the committee.
- Pastor David has requested that anyone who has an announcement to be made to the congregation should write it on a card and give it to him before the service and he will make the announcement.

From Congregation Council Secretary Sue Williams

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Anniversary

Jim Somerville June 01
Rick Corliss June 01
Richard Durham June 04
Sandi Baines June 05
Sam Groce June 05
David Crane June 07
Stephen Holmsten June 07
Eileen Stouter June 11
Zachary Highsmith June 12
Harvey Hunt June 13
Suzanna Swegan June 14
Sue Schafran June 16
Mia Baines June 16
William Crane June 17
Emily Martinez June 19
Makenzi Malone Holmsten June 20
Francis Wilson June 23
Claudia Daley June 23
Cameron Meyers June 30

Brian & Connie Anderson June 08, 1996
David & Nancy Crane June 09, 1984
Rob & Camille Grabb June 12, 1971
Bill & Sandi Baines June 15, 1968
Dorman & Elinor Dove June 16, 1956
Luis & Kathy Matos June 17, 1995
John & Linda Kuehl June 18, 1966
Douglas & Lynn Becker June 20, 1987
JD. & Marcia Logwood June 26, 1971
Michael & Dayna Miller June 28, 1975



Hal and Irene Bush
1045 Sunnyside Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Mike Lombardo
107 S. James Landing Court
Smithfield, VA 23430

Wally and Dottie Erb
150 Cayuga Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Trish Pounds
1205 Brookside Landing
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Roy Fehmel
966 Kelso Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Peggy Shelby
645 Minute Men Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Louise Frizzell
1613 Springwater Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Al Young
5345 Marian Lane, #101
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Send a note . . . Make a call . . .

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St. Timothy "Longest Day"

Sunday, June 21

The Longest Day" is a team event to raise funds and awareness for the Alzheimer's Association. Held annually on the summer solstice, the duration of this sunrise-to-sunset event symbolizes the challenging journey of those living with the disease and their caregivers.



St. Timothy's team will be doing a number of different activities on June 21. We still have room on the team

for more members. You can also support the team by making a donation to any of the team members; just look for a purple tee-shirt. The team's goal is to raise \$1,600 – one hundred dollars per hour – for the 16 hours of daylight. All money raised stays here in the Hampton Roads area and is used to provide care and support for those facing the disease. **If you wish to join the team, please contact Jim Somerville at 567-5023 or Ljsomerville0823@gmail.com.**

Here's a timeline for events on Sunday, June 21. All events will be at St. Timothy Lutheran Church.

6:00 A.M. – Sunrise opening service with special music. Everyone is welcome to come.
8:30 am to 9:45 am - Father's Day Breakfast (prepared by the Longest Day team). Donations will be accepted.
10:00 am to 11:45 am - Worship Service with Holy Communion
11:45 am - Lunch / Brunch – Donations will be accepted.
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm - Learn to crochet mats from plastic bags which will be given to homeless.
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm - Laughing Yoga
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm - Individual events: Scrabble, Reading, Knitting, (taking a nap).
The evening continues with a dinner and performance by **The Experience** Touring Choir.

Member photos wanted for Thrivent Calendar.

Each year Thrivent Financial creates a unique wall calendar for churches, schools, and other institutions. They also offer a smaller version free for members. For the 2015 calendar, Thrivent is inviting members to share their story in pictures. "A picture is worth a thousand words" is the theme. Your photo could be part of the 2016 calendar. If you are a Thrivent member, you can submit a photo and story behind the photo. Just go to Thrivent.com/calendar by July 11. To order a free calendar, watch for the summer issue of the Thrivent Magazine.



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Lutherans Online to be phased out.

Beginning May 10, Thrivent will discontinue various features on the Lutheran Online website, with a plan to eventually discontinue the entire site by the end of 2015. Initial discontinued phases include Games, Single Seeking, Music, Classifieds, etc. The Lutheran Art page will be moved to an internal Thrivent website. In June, the genealogy page will be discontinued. Users should copy their family information and move it to another site or location. If you are not a Thrivent member and would like to become one, or learn more about Thrivent, please see Rick Corliss or Jim Somerville



DON'T FORGET: Summer is just around the corner. Members will be taking well-deserved vacations and enjoying other warm-weather activities. Please remember that your church relies on your regular offerings to continue with its ministries during this time.

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