



"A voice of one calling:
'In the wilderness prepare the way
for the Lord; make straight in the
desert a highway for our God.'
– Isaiah 40:3

December is here, and with it,
the beautiful and profound
season of Advent. This time of year
often rushes past in a blur
of shopping, parties, and busy
preparations. But the true spirit of
Advent, as captured by the prophet
Isaiah, calls us to slow down, listen
to a voice crying out, and actively
prepare the way for the Lord in our
hearts and in our community.

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Newsletter Deadline is the Wednesday
before the last Sunday of the month.

St. Timothy Web Site
sainttimothypdx.org

At St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Advent is not just a countdown to Christmas; it is a spiritual journey of hope, peace, joy, and love. It's an opportunity to reflect on God's promises—both the promise fulfilled in the birth of Jesus and the promise of his return. The wilderness that Isaiah speaks of can be the dry, distracted, or weary places in our own lives. This December, we are invited to level the mountains of our anxieties and fill the valleys of our doubts, creating a straight path for Christ to enter.

Gathering and Serving in Anticipation.

This month, we invite all our neighbors in Portland to join us as we journey through this season of expectant waiting. Our worship services every Sunday are dedicated to deepening our reflection on the weekly Advent themes, illuminated by the lighting of the Advent wreath. We will feature special music from the St. Timothy Choir, blending traditional hymns with contemporary praise to uplift your spirit. Beyond our doors, the call to "prepare the way" extends into our service to the community.

St. Timothy's commitment to Caring, Sharing, and Daring shines brightly as we support our neighbors through our Food Pantry (open Monday-Thursday). We encourage you to participate by donating non-perishable food items or volunteering your time to help those in need. In a city like Portland, preparing for the Lord means being Christ's light and hands to the marginalized, ensuring that the good news of God's love is tangible for everyone.

Looking Ahead to Christmas

As Advent culminates, we will gather for our special Christmas Eve service, a time to celebrate the miraculous fulfillment of God's promise: the birth of the Prince of Peace.

We pray that this December finds you not just busy, but blessed with the true anticipation of the season. May you find time for quiet reflection, feel the strength of our community, and hear the call to make a straight path for the Lord in your life.

We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior with you. *What part of the Advent season brings you the most hope?*



**St. Timothy Church Council meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.
 December's meeting:
 December 9th at 6:00pm
 at Karen O's house.
 Contact a council member
 for more information.**

Nominations for Church Council 2026: Some members received emails inviting them to serve on council. We are recruiting for Financial Secretary and President as well as at large. If I missed you and you are interested or want more information, please contact me at 503-760-6819 | sherrywil@comcast.net.

December Worship Services				
If you are unable to make your scheduled Sunday, please contact another person to take your place.				
	December 7th	December 14th	December 21st	December 28th
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada
Assistant	Ray W	Sherry W	Shannon H	Ray W
Lector	Shannon H	Cathy He	Mary F	Lisa S
Usher	Allen P & Tim H	Skip & Marcia E	Gladys K & Tim H	Steve & LeAnn T
Communion	Cathy H	Marie R & Karen O	Cathy H	Candace O & Gladys K
Tiny Tims	Daniel R	Michelle G	Karen O	Amanda M
Video & Sound	Ray W	Ray W	Ray W	Ray W
Counters	Tim H & Candace O	Cathy H & Ray W	Tim H & Mary F	Candace O & Ray W
Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.
Care Coordinator	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.



A Note from your Parish Nurse!

Weather is getting colder!

SOCK IT TO ME! Health Ministry is collecting warm socks for winter packs to give out through the food pantry.

Please consider donating a pair or a pack of socks!

Karen Olomua
Parish Nurse

Stewardship

Stewardship Sunday is over, pledges have been gathered, and information has been shared with our treasurer so she can determine our yearly budget for 2026. Thank you to everyone who turned in their pledges.

I noticed, however, that several of you did not fill out the back of the pledge card for Time and Talents. Many of you have been doing the same thing for many years, so you probably didn't think it was necessary. It is important. The information is gathered and passed on to the committee heads each year, allowing them to plan for meetings, events, and regular Sunday worship duties. I will be passing out a sheet on Sunday for the various committees. Please take a moment to list your name under any committee for which you are willing to participate. Thank you.

Shannon Holley, Stewardship Committee



Amanda Kimber
Julia Standley
Dave Vecsi
Tim Jupp
Tim Henderson
Alex Verdier
Karen Burger
Joshua Tobias

Cathy Henderson
Redley Sam
Christine Lutz
Barbara Swayze
Kate Henderson
Betty Canham
Bill Haase
Jan Ruppert

December 2025

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 David Douglas Bazaar
7 9:20am Choir Practice 10am Worship	8 10 am-1pm Food Pantry Office Hours 10am-3pm	9 11 am-1pm Food Pantry	10 10 am-1pm Office & Food Pantry	11 10am-1pm Food Pantry 7—8:30pm Choir Practice	12 Office Hours 10am-3pm	13 Portland Food Project Pick Up
14 9:20am Choir Practice 10am Worship	15 10 am-1pm Food Pantry Office Hours 10am-3pm	16 11 am-1pm Food Pantry 6:30pm Council Meeting	17 10 am-1pm Office & Food Pantry	18 10am-1pm Food Pantry 7—8:30pm Choir Practice	19 Office Hours 10am-3pm	20
21 9:20am Choir Practice 10am Worship	22 10 am-1pm Food Pantry Office Hours 10am-3pm	23 11 am-1pm Food Pantry	24 10 am-1pm Office & Food Pantry Christmas Eve Worship 7PM	25 7—8:30pm Choir Practice	26 Office Hours 10am-3pm	27
28 9:20am Choir Practice 10am Worship	29 10 am-1pm Food Pantry Office Hours 10am-3pm	30 11 am-1pm Food Pantry	31 10 am-1pm Office & Food Pantry Service at Pilgrim			

Sunday School Update

Sunday School continues every Sunday! You do not have to have children/youth in Sunday School to be a helper. Please consider signing up to volunteer with the youth.

YOU CAN DO IT! Additional helpers means that each helper is only scheduled every 4-6 weeks.

Contact Karen O if this is something you might like to do.



Supporting St. Timothy in creative ways!

DDHS Annual Holiday Bazaar

9:00-1:00 Saturday, December 6, 2025 at David Douglas High School
1001 SE 135th Ave Portland, OR

I have a table at the bazaar, selling ornaments and other small hand-made items (under \$10 only).

All proceeds will be donated to the St. Timothy food pantry.

All congregation members, especially children and youth, are invited to provide items to sell.

Goal 1: advertise our church and food pantry

Goal 2: raise some money

Goal 3: our children/youth recognize their contributions are important

I hope you can join me!

Lisa Sanders

971-285-2407

jeffandlisa.sanders@gmail.com

East County Ministry Alliance

FEEDING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MONDAY	St. Timothy Lutheran 10a-1p Zarephath Kitchen 11a-1p
TUESDAY	St. Timothy Lutheran 10a-1p
WEDNESDAY	St. Timothy Lutheran 10a-1p Zarephath Kitchen 11a-1p
THURSDAY	St. Timothy Lutheran 10a-1p Zarephath Pantry 10a-1p
FRIDAY	Centennial Christian Church 2-4p Zarephath Kitchen 11a-1p
SATURDAY	East County Food Pantry 10a-12p

Food Resources

Free Food:

Heretic Coffee
5120 SE 28th

East Imagio
3130 SE 148th
Sunday Breakfast
8:30a

Wed/Fri Dinner
6-7:30p

x

In the face of food benefit interruptions there are additional food pantry hours and local businesses offering free food to those impacted.

Do you need food help?

Please reach out to office staff or Sherry W for resources.

Fellowship Committee

by Cheryl Nelson

Winding down 2025, what a ride! Going from a participant in the Fellowship group following Jean's direction to being "in charge". Thankfully Shannon said she would be the co-chair. It is beyond me how Jean managed to do coffee hours, potlucks and other events by herself for the congregation.

I want to acknowledge the help I received from people who signed up to be in the Fellowship group as well as those who did not sign up. Shannon, Sherry and Karen O for supporting me, listening to my grumbings, their leadership, understanding and friendship. Greta and Twila for their help getting everything ready for coffee hours and potlucks as well as clean up. Ernie for making the coffee and helping with set up and clean up. Georgia for always putting the tables just so and arranging plenty of chairs around each table. Marie for coming in on Mondays to help clean the kitchen with me. Candace and Gladys for their willingness to help when I needed it, whether I asked or not. Also, on the day of the picnic, others stepped in to help and I appreciate that help, too.

For 2025, there were 5 people signed up for Fellowship, plus one for the picnic. For 2026, there are 2 people signed up for Fellowship, plus one for the picnic.

All I can do is tie a knot and hang on.



Mark Your Calendars!

December 3rd: Midweek Advent Service and Service Opportunity. Worship begins at 11:00am at St. Timothy.

December 4th: Centennial Community Association meets at 6pm in the basement.

December 6th: David Douglas Holiday Bazaar from 9am-1pm. Contact Lisa Sanders for more information.

December 7th: Gresham Community Choir concert at Reynolds High School at 3pm. Bring a non-perishable food donation for entry. For more information, contact Sherry W.

December 10th: Advent Service and Service Opportunity. Worship begins at 11:00am at St. Mark's.

December 17th: Advent Service and Service Opportunity. Worship begins at 11:00am at St. Timothy.

December 24th: Christmas Eve worship and Christmas Carol Sing. Christmas Carols begin at 6:45pm. Worship begins at 7!

January 11th: Annual Congregational Church Meeting following worship!

Social Concerns by Sherry Willmschen

Food Pantry: We served the most people ever the week that SNAP benefits would have been available-- the week of November 3rd through 6th. We served 91 people--many SNAP recipients. What a busy day Monday and Thursday of that week was. The fear on recipients faces was real and concerning. We have had multiple people dropping by with food since then. Neighbors are dropping by with donations--they want to help. Our members friends and relatives come by and donate regularly. Portland Food Project is providing Winco cards of \$830 and we had a donation of \$100 Winco card. The community coming forward is overwhelming and heart warming! The ECMA group meeting regarding food concerns will be looking to our partners to do food drives. The concert on the 6th of December at Reynolds High School benefits one of our partners. Zarephath is bringing bread to us via Allen weekly. Wow!!! God is with us.

SnowCap: Lets continue to bring egg cartons and used in good shape clothing for families.

Cultivate Initiatives: Our benevolence for 2 years was featured on Channel 2--google to get to the link to watch the feature.

COATS FOR KIDS--November 5th Sunday: We have received donations for this service to Centennial School District and coats are being purchased and more are needed. The plan is to deliver coats to CSD December 4th. Monetary donations continue to be accepted. Please see Sherry W if you plan to shop and provide information about purchased coats. We have goals for grade and middle/high school.



Other community events: St. Timothy with other ECMA members will again serve a turkey dinner to people in the community at Pilgrim Lutheran on November . Want to help--see Karen O or Sherry.

Worship with music:

Mark your calendars--The Singing Christmas Tree will perform in Beaverton November 29th through December 7th. I am not singing this year but hope we can get a group to go to an afternoon performance over Thanksgiving week-end.

Another performance in the new choir I joined is the Gresham Community Choir on December 7th at 3 pm at Reynolds High School. Entry fee is canned foods to donate to food pantries. This is a fun and dedicated group practicing at Gresham United Methodist Church.

Property Updates

Properties committee has upgraded the lighting in the parking lot! If you have been here after dark, you know how **dark** the parking lot was. These lighting upgrades will keep our space safe, comfortable, and more readily available for evening events!

Weekend work parties have ended for the year. If you have a project you are interested in, or would like the most up to date property work party information please reach out to Ray W.



Advent Word Search



Find the hidden Advent words.

C A L E N D A R U C D C
H X E P N E L N C A A O
R M W H G C V A E N R U
I I Y W R E A T H D P N
S D E M I M U I E L A T
T N A T N B B V B E R D
M I R E I E A I R S T O
A G F O U R L T A Y Y W
S H S U N D A Y T I O N
K T G R A N N Y M A Z E
C H U R C H O C R O W N
C H O C O L A T E N E L

SUNDAY	FOUR	CHURCH	CROWN
CHOCOLATE	NATIVITY	DECEMBER	WREATH
COUNTDOWN	CALENDAR	CHRISTMAS	CANDLES

GrannyMaze.com

St. Timothy - Reaching Our Community
A Testimonial of Stewardship
By Heather Dalton

My story begins in 2018 when I lost my mother. I started using drugs and became homeless. I spent years on the streets, in and out of motels, thinking, "is this all there is to life?" In 2020, I was committed to a psychiatric hospital, they offered me treatment, and I accepted. I began to feel the calling of the Lord.

I spent 16 months in treatment and started to feel hopeful. I got clean and started to truly feel the Lord in my life. After my treatment I was referred to Central City Concern, who places the homeless in housing. This enabled me to find a church in 2023. I attended Saint Timothy and was welcomed with open arms.

I received housing in 2022 and started to feel more stable. That stability was to be short-lived due to a relapse, but thanks to the compassion of the Saint Timothy and Pastor Hamada, as well as my faith in God, I was able to recover and remain sober to this day.



Feeling Christ in my life, I knew the Lord was blessing me. In 2025 it was announced that the food pantry at Saint Timothy church needed a volunteer; I had been prayer to the Lord to be of service, and I knew this was God's will. I have been working at the food pantry every Monday and love giving back to the community and Saint Timothy. I am very grateful for all the people at Saint Timothy that have shown me love. I hope for many more years of service, and I thank the Lord every day for my church family.