



Happy Valentine's Day! Depending on who you ask, today is either a beautiful celebration of romance or a high-pressure deadline to buy overpriced roses. It consistently ranks in the top four holidays for candy and greeting card sales, but the origins of this day are far grittier than a box of truffles. Back in the third century CE, Roman Emperor Claudius II (often called "Claudius the Cruel," which tells you he wasn't great at parties) decided that single men made better soldiers if they didn't have wives or kids to think about and they'd fight with more reckless abandon. His

solution? He banned marriage. It was a bold, if slightly cynical, human resources strategy. That's when Valentine entered the picture. Refusing to let the Emperor's "no-romance" policy stand, Valentine became a sort of underground wedding planner. He secretly married couples in hidden locations, risking his life so young men could trade their spears for wedding bands. Eventually, the law caught up with him. When he refused to recant his beliefs, he was executed on February 14th, 270 CE. So, the next time you're stressed about a dinner reservation, remember: Valentine literally died so you could have a "plus one."

Fast forward to the 1960s, when Burt Bacharach gave us the ultimate earworm: "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." It's a catchy sentiment, but pop music has a habit of turning deep truths into sugary wallpaper. We often mistake "love" for a vague, fuzzy feeling—the kind that evaporates the moment someone cuts us off in traffic.

Maybe that's what has happened to the "Gospel." Bacharach's lyrics mirrored Jesus' message, but distorted it with mushy sentiment. While the song provided the words, the good news Jesus brought was about action. He "walked the talk:" healing the sick, restoring sight, and comforting the social outcasts. In an era where we seem increasingly polarized, angry, and ready to argue with strangers on the internet, that brand of active love is more than a nice idea—it's a necessity.

The struggle isn't exactly new. Since the dawn of time (or at least since the Tree of Knowledge incident), humanity has struggled with a specific sickness: wanting to be in control. When we try to play God, everything tends to fall apart. Our self-centeredness produces a predictable, bitter fruit: anger, division, greed, injustice, and fear.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

14500 S.E. Powell Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97236-2520
Office: **503-761-8202**

E-mail sainttimothypdx@gmail.com

Newsletter E-mail
sainttimothypdx@gmail.com

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

St. Timothy Web Site
sainttimothypdx.org

St. Paul later wrote to the church in Corinth, suggesting a "software update" for the human soul. He argued that when we let go of the need for control, we trade guilt and isolation for a much better list: love, joy, peace, kindness, and self-control.

Ultimately, God's version of "sweet love" is more durable than a card and certainly better for you than a pound of Valentine's chocolate. Have a happy, blessed, and slightly rebellious Valentine's Day!



**St. Timothy Church Council meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.
February's meeting:
February 10th at 6:30pm
Contact a council member
for more information.**

Council 2026: Visioning for St Timothy: Church Council members will hold a retreat on Sat February 6th from 10-2 pm. A second meeting or retreat will be held in the near future for all members. Communication is very important so if you have concerns or questions please contact any council member.



Lent and Easter 2026

Lent begins on February 18th with Ash Wednesday. St Timothy will have a 11:30 service and we are invited to other opportunities at our partner churches.

The Sunday prior we will have Christ the King cakes during coffee hour. This is Our version of Mardi Gras.

Other opportunities at our EMCA churches:

Trinity: Ash Wednesday bilingual service at 6 pm meal and worship: Every Wednesday 6 pm meal and service

Resurrection: Good Friday Jazz service at 7 pm

Covenant: On Tyranny study group--time to be determined.

St. Timothy: Good Friday Seven Last Words

Details to come for other opportunities.

Planning for St. Timothy Easter are beginning. This year the Easter Jubilee will be on Easter Sunday following the celebration of our Lords resurrection. There will be Easter egg hunts, crafts, and just plain fun. A brunch will be provided. The community will be invited to join us. Promotion will be via our website, members invitation to others and walk arounds to the neighborhood. We will have a flowered cross to work on Sat. and Easter Lilies for purchase for Easter Sunday.



Tamatoa Sam
Steve Tobias
Barb Vecsi
Leslie McCartney
Shannon Holley

Jeff Sanders
Tia Sam
Mary Markwart
Emily Strutz
Derek Henderson
Linda Decker Wabs

February 2026

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:20am Choir Practice 10am Worship	2 10 am-1pm Food Pantry Office Hours 10am-3pm	3 11 am-1pm Food Pantry	4 10 am-1pm Office & Food Pantry	5 10am-1pm Food Pantry 7—8:30pm Choir Practice	6 Office Hours 10am-3pm	7
8 9:20am Choir Practice 10am Worship	9 10 am-1pm Food Pantry Office Hours 10am-3pm	10 11 am-1pm Food Pantry 6:30pm Council Meeting	11 10 am-1pm Office & Food Pantry	12 10am-1pm Food Pantry 7—8:30pm Choir Practice	13 Office Hours 10am-3pm	14 Food Project Pickup
15 9:20am Choir Practice 10am Worship	16 10 am-1pm Food Pantry Office Hours 10am-3pm	17 11 am-1pm Food Pantry	18 10 am-1pm Office & Food Pantry	19 10am-1pm Food Pantry 7—8:30pm Choir Practice	20 Office Hours 10am-3pm	21
22 9:20am Choir Practice 10am Worship	23 10 am-1pm Food Pantry Office Hours 10am-3pm	24 11 am-1pm Food Pantry	25 10 am-1pm Office & Food Pantry	26 10am-1pm Food Pantry 7—8:30pm Choir Practice	27 Office Hours 10am-3pm	28

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.



If you are interested in assisting with youth activities or have ideas for more, please reach out to Karen O.!

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



Mark Your Calendars!

February 10th: Church Council Meeting

February 17th: Shrove Tuesday

February 18th: Ash Wednesday

February 25th: Lenten Midweek Service

February Worship Services If you are unable to make your scheduled Sunday, please contact another person to take your place.				
	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada
Assistant	Sherry W	Shannon H	Ray W	Karen O
Lector	Lisa S	Twila R	Mary F	Sherry W
Usher	Jeff S & Tim H	Skip & Marcia E	Steve & LeAnn T	Glady K & Tim H
Communion	Candace O & Gladys K	Karen O	Candace O & Gladys K	Karen O
Tiny Tims	Daniel R	Karen O	Amanda M	Monica G
Video & Sound	Ray W	Ray W	Ray W	Ray W
Counters	Ray W & Mary F	Tim H & Jeff S	Ray W & Candace O	Shannon H & Mary F
Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.
Care Coordinator	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.

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Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.
Care Coordinator	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.

Social Concerns by Sherry Willmschen

Snow-Cap: We delivered egg cartons and some clothing bags in January. Please remember they have a clothing closet and accept family clothing.

Cultivate Initiatives: We continue to fund this non-profit serving homeless people focusing on employment and Rest Village on 122nd and Burnside. We made "sandwiches" with St Marks during Advent study and learned more about this wonderful organization. Adult clothing donations are welcome.

Centennial Community Association Portland: We have been hosting this neighborhood association meetings at St Timothy's for community meetings. The next meeting is February 5th at 6 pm. We also hosted an information session regarding a Portland city funded shelter at Eastside Imago Dei on December 16th to learn about the plan. A second meeting occurred on January 26th on site. We encourage any of our members to attend the meeting on the 5th for more information and to share your thoughts.

Opportunity to have a dialogue regarding Gaza:

On February 11th from 7 to 9 pm Paul Reid will share his first hand experience of a mission to Gaza on the Sumud Flotilla to Gaza which was intercepted by Israel. It will be held at Multnomah Friends facility at 4312 SE Stark.



Food Pantry

This outreach to the community ebbs and flows in numbers. We have "regulars" most days and the 2000 pounds from PFP in December certainly did help. Mondays seem to be the busiest. As I write this we had 35 people on the 26th. We served a total of 318 in January. Our cupboards are bare and could be again this week. The support of this congregation is phenomenal. That said we have 2 opportunities for Feb--PFP regular volunteer and pick up is on Feb. 14th. Come to the church to help unload food or to Open Door at 9:30 to help with the distribution.



ASH WEDNESDAY

H	N	E	A	S	A	R	E	S	S	E	N	N	T
L	O	N	I	S	P	T	H	C	R	U	H	C	E
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C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E	S	D	C	S	Y
R	O	U	B	F	B	A	P	T	I	S	M	E	N
E	L	P	U	R	P	L	E	I	R	R	C	I	G
Y	Y	A	R	C	N	P	P	B	O	N	F	H	E
A	D	S	N	G	R	S	H	A	F	A	S	T	S
R	A	H	G	O	S	P	E	L	L	N	A	A	I
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A	L	U	T	N	E	P	E	R	E	C	I	N	R
B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	G	I	H	I	P
F	L	T	F	L	B	F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L

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