

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
825 51st Ave. N.E.
Columbia Heights, MN 55421-1799
763-571-9721

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME: 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL held during regular service
(No Sunday School during summer).

Nursery available on Sundays.

Holy Communion celebrated every Sunday


OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9am to 4pm

STAFF:

Rev. Michelene Verlautz
Daniel Lloyd, Director of Worship & Music
Pam Gorsegner, Office Administrator
Carlos Osorio, Custodian

Email: admin@sttimothys-elca.org
Pastor's Email: mkverlautz@yahoo.com
Website: www.sttimothys-elca.org
"Like us" on Facebook!

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St. 
timothy's

Inspired by God's love, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church welcomes everyone on a faith journey of renewal, growth, and service.

Tim's Tidings

December 2018



COMMUNITY DINNER
(pork chops with Au Gratin potatoes)

December 11th
5:30-6:30pm

All are welcome!!

Annual Meeting, Part One
10:40am on December 9th

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



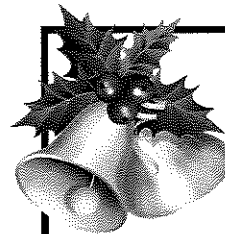
Please join us for a glorious night of caroling to friends. *Make this a family event!*

Wednesday, December 19

5:30pm Subs at church

6:30pm Depart from church for Caroling

About 8:15pm Return to church for hot chocolate and cookies.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES SCHEDULE

Communion at all services

12/16 9:30am Christmas Program

12/24 5:00pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

12/25 9:30am Christmas Day Service

Invite others to attend our services!





The Empty Chair

Inspired from *The Empty Chair Poem*
by Tony Mushrow

The holidays are a time when we recognize and give thanks for our profound abundance. Our homes and calendars are filled to capacity with events, get-togethers with friends and family, and other seasonal activities. You may have many reasons to feel fortunate and to give thanks but for some the season is marked by, more than anything else, absence.

Surrounded by noise, activity and life, your eyes and your heart can't help but drift to that quiet space that now remains unoccupied: the cruel vacancy of the empty chair.

The empty chair is different for everyone. For some it is a place of a vigil; the persistent hope of a prodigal returning, of a severed tie to be repaired, of a long overdue reunion. For some the chair is a memorial; the stark reminder of what was and no longer is, of that which will never be again. It is a household headstone where we eulogize and grieve. This may be the first time the chair has been empty for you or you may have grown accustomed to the subtraction. Either way it hurts!

We all have heard the platitudes about how the empty chair is a blessing because it reminds us that we had something worth grieving over to begin with, or encouragement regarding the lessons that the empty chair teaches us about living in the moment and being thankful for what we have, and about growing through suffering.

As a pastor, I know you will find your lesson in the empty chair. I want you to know that I see your waiting, your grief, and your pain, and that the people who know and love you wait, grieve and suffer, too. In that way, we all sit together in this; gathered around this same incomplete table.

Maybe that is all we can offer one another: our compassionate presence in the face of this terrible absence. During the holiday season each of us learns to have fellowship with sadness, to celebrate accompanied by sorrow. This is the paradox of loving and being wounded simultaneously.

May we each make peace with the holidays and the empty chairs.

~ Pastor Michelene



OFFICIAL NOTICE: 60th Annual Meeting, Part One

The members of St. Timothy's Lutheran Church are asked to attend our 60th Annual Meeting, Part One on Sunday, December 9, 2018. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

We hope to see everyone in attendance. The preliminary 2019 budget will be presented. If you have questions regarding the budget, you will have an opportunity to ask. We will also be electing the 2019 Council.

Planning ahead, the Annual Meeting, Part Two will be held on February 3, 2019, following worship service.

ADVENT CALENDAR ~ by Pastor Michelene Verlautz

An *Advent Calendar* is a special calendar used to count the days of advent in anticipation of Christmas. Each day, you open a door and frequently you are rewarded with a piece of candy, a picture, or an inspirational word.

I am wondering if you've ever heard of a Reverse Advent Calendar.

WHAT IS A REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR?

The *Reverse Advent Calendar* is all about providing much needed food, toiletries and household products to families in need at Christmas. While winter is a particularly expensive time of year, with extra heating and food bills, Christmas is an added expense that many families just cannot afford. It means a choice between Christmas presents and food; and that is an upsetting reality for so many families.

How can you help? With a Reverse Advent Calendar, you put one item into a box every day for a month (or 25 days, to mirror an advent period). When the box is full, bring it to church service and then during the Offertory you will bring it to the altar. Your box will be given to SACA who will distribute it to a family at Christmas.

WHAT TO PUT IN THE BOX

Nutritious and healthy food for children and adults is a starting point. Longer shelf life food items, such as canned meals, tuna, chicken, peanut butter, pasta, etc. are perfect. Or household items such as toilet paper rolls, tissue, basic toiletries, chap stick or lotion, sanitary products, diapers for children and adults. Or maybe food and treats for a cat or dog. Or winter survival wear such as winter coats, hats, mittens, earmuffs, or scarves.

**Bring your filled box to church
no later than Sunday, December 23.**



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

November 20, 2018

Highlights of the meeting were unavailable at press time. The complete minutes will be posted on the Narthex bulletin board ASAP.

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7:00pm.

2018 Council Members

Bruce Sherve, President
Dustin Wahl, Vice President
Pat Goetz, Secretary
Chris Hay, Treasurer

Kaye Bergstrom, Rita Daniels, Margaret Hanna,
Kay Hay, Barbara Johnson, Laurie Totzke, Susan Wang

Seeking Nominees for Church Council

We are seeking nominees for Church Council. If you are willing to have your name put on the Ballot for the 2019-2020 Council, please let one of the current council members know. If you would like to nominate someone now, or from the floor at the Annual Meeting Part One on December 9, please make sure you talk with them before putting their name forward. This is a 2-year commitment, and we welcome and appreciate anyone willing to serve.

St. Tim's Inclement Weather Policy

Like it or not, winter is here to stay for a few months and with it comes days of inclement weather. It is St. Tim's policy not to cancel worship services due to inclement weather. It is left to the discretion of individuals to attend during those times.

Like to Decorate for the Holidays?

Early risers can come in and help decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree prior to the start of the Bake Sale on Saturday, December 8. The narthex tree will also be decorated during or after the Bake Sale timeframe. Everyone is welcome to come help. If questions, contact Kari Schlotfeldt.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS for DECEMBER 2018

Greeters: (Gavic Households of Faith)

12/2 Barb Gavic
12/9 Crystal Edstrom
12/16 Al Turnquist
12/23 Wahl family
12/24 5pm Susan Wang
12/25 9:30am Susan Wang
12/30 Bruce & Sandy Sherve

Lectors:

12/2 Sandie Beltran
12/9 Bob Fedje
12/16 Christmas Program
12/23 Pat Goetz
12/24 5pm Rita Daniels
12/25 9:30am Barbara Johnson
12/30 Laura Fix

Communion Assistants:

12/2 Thespo Hams
12/9 Rita Daniels
12/16 Barbara Johnson
12/23 Pat Goetz
12/24 5pm (2 needed)
12/25 9:30am Betty Thomas
12/30 Laura Fix

Ushers/Acolytes:

Jerry Machlitt, Capt., Tom Fedje, Tony Fedje,
Pat Audette, AJ Edstrom

Altar Guild:

Sheryl Miller, Capt., Carol Miller

Money Counters:

12/2 Laura Fedje, Betty Thomas
12/9 Kay Hay, Meghann Wahl
12/16 Pat Goetz, Laura Fix
12/23 Barb Gavic, Jean Wellman
12/30 Laura Fix, Pat Goetz

Fellowship Coffee Hour:

12/2 Finance/Endowment Committee
12/9 Gavic Households of Faith
12/16 Laura Fix
12/23
12/30

Community Dinner



There's a Place for You!

Please come join us and help spread the word about our FREE monthly dinners; invite your friends and neighbors.

These dinners are for everyone.

Please join us for our next Community Dinner on
Tuesday, December 11 from 5:30-6:30pm

The main entrée will be pork chops and Au Gratin potatoes. We would appreciate donations of boxed Au Gratin potatoes, crushed pineapple, strawberry Jell-O, canned corn, butter, and decaf coffee. CHPD officers will be serving guests. As always, monetary donations are appreciated. Please come for the food AND fellowship. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach service.

~ George & Laura Fix, Joan Anderson ~

SACA Collection Drive Continues

SACA continues to have great need for donations and especially with the holidays approaching. While non-parishable food is always in demand and needed, they also need non-food essential items such as personal care and hygiene products. Place donated items in the SACA box in the narthex Donation Center iOR make a 'reverse advent box' (see page 2). SACA also welcome monetary donations and gently used items for their thrift store.

2019 Contribution Envelopes

Contribution Envelopes for 2019 will be available mid-December. They will be set out on a table in the narthex when ready. Please pick yours up if you can to help us save postage costs, but if you need to have yours mailed to you, notify the office.

ReNu ST. TIM'S FUND

Fund Balance as of 11/28/18: \$3,325

Received YTD through 11/28/18: \$2,867

This fund was established by the Finance Committee in 2013 to assist in paying for unanticipated low cost repairs to St. Tim's. As our facility ages and our needs change, we need to do more and more to keep it in top condition. However, our budget cannot cover all these expenses. *In 2018, thus far, we've paid to have two narthex heaters repaired, labor to install tile in Pastor's restroom, a new Sanctuary thermostat installed, elevator repairs, piano tune-up, exit sign repair.* **Thank you for your consideration and contributions to the ReNu fund.**

GENERAL FUND REPORT AS OF 11/30/18

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Income	\$ 150,748	\$ 146,808
Expense	\$ 183,166	\$ 162,418
Income Less Expense	\$ (32,418)	\$ (15,610)
Endowment-Fidelity	\$ 319,792	
Dedicated Investment	\$ 16,081	

The congregation voted to approve a 11/5/18 Endowment Fund distribution in the amount of \$40,065.

Special CIF Pledge Cards for 2019

If you wish to pledge toward the Capital Improvements Fund (CIF), please complete a special pledge card available in the narthex and in this issue of Tim's Tidings. If you'd like to utilize our Automatic Contribution program for this pledge, the form is available on the back side of the pledge card. Submit form directly to the office.



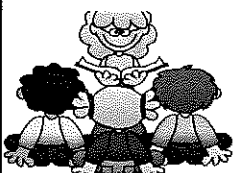
Commitment Cards

If you have not yet returned your 2019 Commitment (pledge) card to the church, you still can do so. Please bring to worship service and place in the offering plate or mail it to the church office as soon as possible. Also, you may drop it off at the church office during open hours. Having your pledge helps our Finance and Council determine our budget for 2019. Commitment card are available in the narthex and within this issue of Tim's Tidings. if needed.

Random Act of Kindness

Please join us on Wednesday, December 12, as we serve coffee and treats to the LVMS staff and parents from 7:00am to 9:00am. If you are able to contribute holiday treats, please drop them off at church by 4:00pm Tuesday, December 11. We have a Cub gift card that will be used for the coffee and breakfast items (i.e. bagels and cream cheese, etc.). Thank you for being a part of this ministry.

~ Area Ministries Team: Joan Anderson, Jo Haugan, Laura and George Fix, Susan Wang, Pastor Michelene, Judy Schelde, Bruce & Sandy Sherve, Betty Thomas



Volunteer Opportunity: Do You Enjoy Reading to Children?

St. Timothy's members are invited to become a volunteer with Little Voyageurs' Montessori School by reading to the students during the school year. This opportunity will be for 20 minutes from 9:35 to 9:55am every other Tuesday throughout the school year; the frequency you would be needed will depend upon how many volunteers we have (last year the volunteers read about every 6 weeks).

When you volunteer, you may read to one student one-on-one but usually it will be to a small group of students. Little Voyageurs' will provide the volunteers with books to read to the students. Any questions or to sign up, please contact Pastor Michelene or the church office.

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church ~ 2019 Appeal ~

(Please print)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Contribution Envelope # _____

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9: 7-8

I/We commit to giving St. Timothy's Lutheran Church:

\$ _____ between January 1 - December 31, 2019

To meet this commitment, I/we plan to give \$ _____

(circle one) Weekly / Monthly / Bi-monthly / Annually

I/We would like to use automatic withdrawal to make my gift.
Complete back side of this form.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Please place your Commitment card in the Sunday offering plate
or return directly to
St. Tim's office at 825 51st Ave. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.*

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

I/We authorize St. Timothy's Lutheran Church and the financial institution named below to process debits to my checking or savings account and it will remain in effect until December 31, 2019 or until I notify St. Tim's in writing to terminate or change it two weeks prior to the next withdrawal date.

Name of Bank or Financial Institution:

- Checking Account (**Attach a voided blank check**)
OR
 Savings Account (**Attach savings slip**)

9-digit Banking Routing Number:

Account Number:

Deduction Dates and Amounts:

1st of each month \$ _____
and/or
15th of each month \$ _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Date: _____

~~ ATTACH VOIDED BLANK CHECK or SAVINGS SLIP ~~

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1st of each month \$ _____
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Authorized Signature: _____

Date: _____

~~ ATTACH VOIDED BLANK CHECK or SAVINGS SLIP ~~

ST. TIMOTHY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

~ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND (CIF) ~ 2019

I/we plan to commit the following to St. Timothy's Capital Improvements Fund:

\$ _____ Weekly / Monthly / Bi-monthly / Annually
(circle one)

(Please be sure to write 'CIF' or 'Capital Improvements' on your checks and contribution envelopes.)

(Please print)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contribution Envelope # _____

I/We would like to use the *Automatic Contributions Plan* (electronic funds transfer) for my gift. *Complete back side of this form.*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return completed form to
St. Tim's office at 825 51st Ave. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.



Feed My Starving Children Packing Event

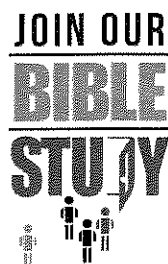
Feed My Starving Children exists to reach children around the world by providing nutritious MannaPack meals that are packed daily by volunteers and funded generously by donors like you.

Our next *Feed My Starving Children* packing event is Monday, February 4 from 9:30-11:30am. Please sign-up at the church bulletin board in the narthex. Remember that friends and family are always welcome to join us and there are sit-down positions available as well.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laura Fix at 763-502-0487, e-mail gltfix@comcast.net, or talk to her at church.

Looking ahead, dates scheduled for 2019 are May 6, 6-7:30pm, August 5, 9:30-11:30am, and November date yet TBD. Thanks for considering joining us!

~ Laura Fix



Bible Study

NOTE: No Bible Study on Dec. 4, Dec. 25, Jan. 1.

Our Bible Study group meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am in the Board Room and is led by Pastor Michelene. Please join the group anytime you desire; all are welcome. No need to sign up.....just show up!

The group is currently reading Paul, A Novel written by Walter Wangerin, Jr. Contact Pastor Michelene if you need a book.

Weekly Chair and Mat Yoga Prayer Classes

NOTE: NO yoga on Dec. 5, 6, 26, 27.

Mat Yoga is 7-8pm on Wednesdays; bring your mat. Chair yoga is 10-11am on Thursdays. Wear comfortable clothing and bring your water bottle with you. If you've any questions, contact Pastor Michelene. **All are welcome and it's free!**

Check Out our Website! www.sttimothys-elca.org



Follow St. Tim's on Facebook – please 'Like Us'



Holiday Shop with a Cop

Recently Sgt. Justin Pletcher from the Columbia Heights Police Dept. spoke with the congregation during worship service telling us more about their annual *Shop with a Cop* program and who we help. The need is real with many families already identified in Columbia Heights. We invite you to be a part of this program by making a donation

to help make Christmas happen for disadvantaged families in the area.

If you are interested in supporting this program with a monetary donation, please indicate 'Shop with a Cop' on your check and offering envelope and submit to the office no later than December 9. If you are unable to contribute at this time, please keep this program and the people it serves in your prayers. Thank you.

Thrivent Choice®

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has provided more than \$170 million through the Thrivent Choice® program to help congregations, educational institutions and other nonprofit organizations since the program launched in 2010. Thrivent Choice lets you recommend (designate) where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars. Thrivent Choice is important to St. Tim's. So far this year we've received \$1,489 through this program. Remember, you must allocate your 2018 dollars no later than March 31, 2019.

If you are a Thrivent member, please consider designating St. Tim's as your Thrivent Choice gift recipient. If you already have, thank you! If not, you can designate St. Tim's as your choice at any time by logging into **MyThrivent** at: www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/index.html.

Attention All Snowbirds



Please tell us when you leave for the winter AND again when you return home so we can keep our mailing list current. We don't want you to miss any of St. Tim's news while you are gone.

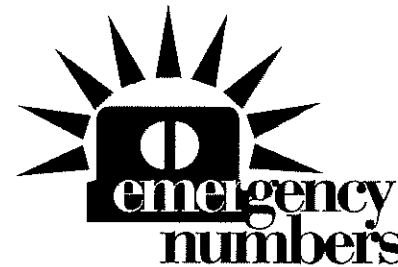
MAKE CONTRIBUTING TO ST. TIM'S EASY WITH OUR AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN

Never write another check to St. Tim's!

Save time and money by signing up for our Automatic Contribution Plan. It's the safe, easy way to make your donations and keep your pledge up-to-date, yet avoid both the hassle of writing a check and the cost of postage. And, best of all, it's free!

Did you know that you can also set up auto contributions for your Capital Improvements Fund pledge?

Forms are available in the narthex. Submit your completed form to the church office.



For any emergencies or pastoral needs when the church office is closed, please contact Pastor Michelene Verlautz directly at 612-810-5923 (cell). For maintenance needs, contact Carlos Osorio at 763-210-8321 (cell).



Book Club

The club will be having a gift exchange of a previously read, wrapped book at it's Dec. 17 6:30pm meeting. In January, they will be reading A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

Want to join the book club? Simply attend the meeting. If you need more information, contact Kari Schlotfeldt. Invite your neighbors and friends to join us.



JOLLY LUNCH BUNCH

**Wednesday, Dec. 19
1:00pm**

Ole Piper Inn
1416 93rd Ln NE
Blaine

Contact Bev Knapp if you need a ride or have questions.



A FLOWER CHART is hanging in the Sanctuary Hallway. Please sign up to bring flowers for the altar! There is a flower order form next to the chart to provide the office with needed details.



CHOIR DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Choir Rehearsal

Daniel Lloyd, Director of Worship & Music

Kay Hay, Youth Choir Leader



12/2	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal Worship w/Chancel Choir
12/5	6:00 p.m.	<i>Youth Choir rehearsal</i>
12/9	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal Worship w/Chancel Choir
12/12	6:00 p.m.	<i>Youth Choir rehearsal</i>
12/16	8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal <i>Youth Choir & SCS warm-up</i> <i>Christmas Program w/Chancel & Youth Choir</i>
12/19		<i>NO Youth Choir rehearsal</i>
12/23	9:30 a.m.	NO Chancel Choir rehearsal Worship w/keyboard music
12/24	4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal Candlelight Worship w/Chancel Choir
12/25	9:30 a.m.	Christmas Morning Worship w/ keyboard music
12/26		<i>NO Youth Choir rehearsal</i>
12/30	9:30 a.m.	NO Chancel Choir rehearsal Worship w/keyboard music



St. Tim's Benevolence

Following are the YTD dollars received through November 28 for the various benevolence and dedicated funds that our congregation contributes to each month. This information is shared with you as a regular part of **Tim's Tidings** so that you can see the wonderful benevolence of our congregation as we progress through the year. Your generosity is literally reaching and helping hundreds of people. Thank you.

\$637	SACA
\$295	World Hunger
\$110	Global Missions
\$114	Meals on Wheels
\$951	Feed My Starving Children
\$177	10% Synod Benevolence (from Sunday coffee hour)
\$930	Sheridan Story Project
\$1,630	ELCA World Hunger Little Chicks Fundraiser
\$735	Shop With a Cop

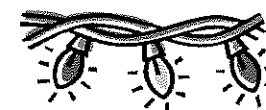
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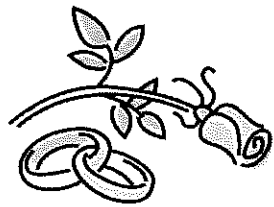
\$1,078	St. Tim's Community Dinner fund
\$1,489	Thrivent Choice Dollars
\$2,910	Memorials
\$162	Kitchen Remodel Fund - loan balance pd. 3/12/18
\$8,521	Capital Improvements Fund (includes 4/21 fundraiser proceeds \$2,174) The \$7000 Line of Credit loan used for flooring project was paid in full on 8/22/18.

Thank you for your benevolence.

DON'T FORGET.....

SACA Sunday is 12/2
Global Missions Sunday is 12/16
Hunger Sunday on 12/23





May God continue to bless
the marriages of:

12/2 Larry & Nancy Hoekstra
(51 years)

12/27 Bernie & Loralee Kriens
(51 years)



Pray for the family of:
Gil Holter (member)
Harlan Gjerde
Tim Vieburg

Birthdays of the Month

12/1	Alexis Luedtke
12/7	Alyssa Luedtke
12/8	Laura Fedje
12/9	Lael Nord
12/12	Jenn Marquardt Andrew Sherve
12/13	Chris Hay
12/16	Norm Petersen
12/22	Bruce Danielson Sharon Sibell
12/23	Jean Wellman
12/26	Kari Schlotfeldt
12/29	Larry Hoekstra
12/30	Al Turnquist Jack Wahl



We are praying for.....

Members:

Dean Corbin
Delores Douglas
Carolyn Dreyer
Will Henjum
Family of Gil Holter
Loralee Kriens
Virgil Landgraff
Judy Lennox
Valerie Mayotte
Arlene Patten
Betty Thomas
Don Zbikowski

Family & Friends:

Helen Baker
Doris Byron
Family of Jed Copham
Paul Dorweiler
Cathy Farley
Leonard Gavic
Family of Harlan Gjerde
Grace Haas
The Homeless
Carey Johnson
Leona Kruchten
Teresa Nelson
Wanda Owens
Linda Profant
Gerry Schultz
Family of Tim Vieburg
Kent Wheelock
Richard Zieska

Friends & Family prayers requests will remain on the list for one month. You may renew your request as many times as you desire. Prayers of thanksgiving and bereavements will remain on the list for two weeks. Members will usually remain on the list until we are notified to remove their name. Thank you.

Please notify the church office or Pastor Michelene if someone needs to be added to our prayers.

HOLIDAY BAKE & CRAFT SALE

**Scandinavian and other Baked Goods,
Quilt Sale, Crafts, Lunch and more!**

Saturday, December 8, 2018
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lunch Served 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
825 - 51st Avenue NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
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