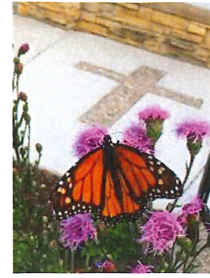


# St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

## 2023 Annual Report

**Spread the Gospel of Jesus  
Christ through word and deed.**

65th Annual Meeting, February 4, 2024



## IN MEMORY

Brian Follmer, January 7  
Jean Magnuson, January 27  
Audrey Stauch, February 11  
Judy Lennox, February 19  
Tom Reynolds, March 22  
Geraldine Johnson, September 23  
Richard Bebus, October 2  
Elaine Shoppe, October 9  
Elvira Landgraff, November 4  
Ken Krtnick, November 21  
Donald Zbikowski, November 28

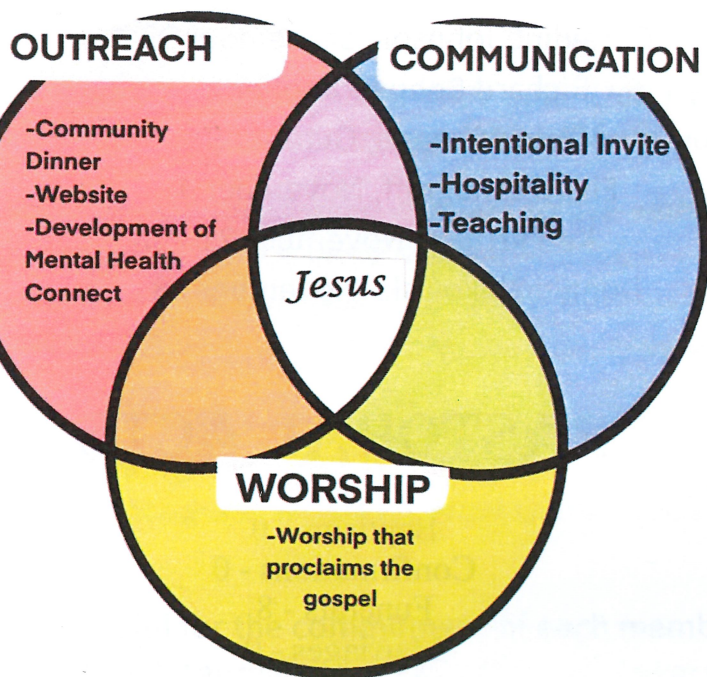
## PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms - 0  
Confirmations - 0  
Funerals - 8  
Marriages - 0

## MEMBERSHIP

as of 1/29/2024

Total Baptized Membership - 179  
Total Confirmed Membership - 137  
Average Worship Attendance - 33



*St. Tim's serves through...*

### **Minneapolis Area Synod**

Donations were given to the Minneapolis Area Synod to support their outreach including World Hunger and Global Missions

*Community Outreach*

### **Community Dinner**

### **SACA (Southern Anoka Community Assistance)**

### **Meals on Wheels**

### **Feed My Starving Children**

### **Every Meal**

### **Shop with a Cop Program**

### **Columbia Heights Truck or Treat**

### **Sullivan Lake Park Clean-Up**

### **Chair & Mat Yoga**

### **Quilt Donations**

### **Mental Health Connect**

### **Columbia Heights Public Schools**

Boot Drive

School Supplies

### **Family Mediation Center**

## ***Council Report***

2023 has gone by quickly. As a council we had many joys and challenges this year. During the year we kept our mission at the center of our thoughts, "spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed."

Our goals for 2023 were to continue with worship, communication, and outreach with Jesus in the center. Council Meetings began with our vision for St. Timothy's, grounded in Christ while keeping Christ at the center of our life and sharing that with others. We achieved one of our goals by continuing to use the sound system and Mac Computer. The projectors were replaced, this was a shared project with ICASA. This allows us to send our church service out to the community. Another way we send the message of Jesus out to the world is through our community dinner and the flyers, "Invitation to Journey with Jesus Christ." Thank you to all who contribute and volunteer for the community dinner. We want to thank Pat Goetz for chairing community dinner. Pat has stepped down so we are looking for a new chair.

Council brought the recommendation to make a change to endowment to move the minimum threshold to \$300,000 so distributions could be made when needed or when market is volatile.

Thank you to everyone who has helped out with repairs and cleaning the church after Victor had to resign because of a medical issue. We have hired a cleaning service to clean the church which will start in January.

A special thanks to Pastor Michelene Verlautz, Daniel Lloyd, Laura Fix, and our newest office volunteer Heidi Fedje, for helping us keep Jesus in the center of our lives.

We appreciate all the council members for their service Laurie Totzke, Laura Fedje, Sandy Sherve, Joe Fedje, Dustin Wahl, and Barry Sandford. Special thanks to Dustin Wahl, Vice President, Joe Fedje, Secretary, and Chris Hay, Treasurer. All the council members have been a great support through the joys and challenges in 2023.

A reminder that all council meetings are open to the church members. All concerns and questions can be brought to a council member. Blessings to everyone for the year ahead.

Respectfully,

*Margaret Hanna*  
2023 Church Council President

## ***Pastor's Report***



I remember clearly at the start 2023 there was a sense of optimism. The pandemic was behind us and the economy would settle down by spring and things would start looking up for everyone.

As the year unfolded, our daily news feeds reminded us of the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Hamas led attack of Israel, mass shootings, the fatigue of constant political drama, the struggle of people crossing our borders seeking a new life for themselves and their families, etc. There are also subtle headlines that more people than ever are reporting to be, "Religious nones", rejecting organized religion.

One could easily be discouraged. I am reminded of this verse from Isaiah 41:10 NLV on those tough, overwhelming days

*Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*

Jesus modeled for us what it meant to live with courage, because God is faithful and will strengthen us for the work that we are called to do. Jesus worked on the fringes of society, caring for the sick, showing compassion for those he encountered, and preaching the Good News of the in-breaking of Gods kingdom. This message is taken seriously by the members of St. Tim's.

St. Tim's is seen as a pillar of hope in the city of Columbia Heights through the monthly Community Dinner, Shop with a Cop, collecting boots for CHSD, participating in Every Meal backpack program, Meals on Wheels and in 2023 the launch of the Restorative Family Mediation Center.

I am grateful for the commitment of each member of St. Tim's. I hold in high esteem the staff, Daniel Lloyd, Laura Fix, and our office volunteers, Heidi Fedje and Laura Fedje, and the commitment of Council.

Yes, these are interesting times we live in and I hold to the promise Jesus gave to his disciples and to us

*I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

~ Matthew 28: 20b

May we go forth serving and loving our neighbor as ourselves in 2024.

Blessings,

*Pastor Michelene Verlautz*