

# TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025



1 THESSALONIANS 5:11  
THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND  
BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP, JUST AS YOU ARE  
DOING.

And Jesus came and said to them,  
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

## MISSION

Timothy Lutheran Church is a culturally diverse St. Louis City church serving as a bold witness to the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ. From our neighborhood and to the nations, Timothy will embrace the God-given value in all people by listening to others, loving as Jesus has loved us, living a daily faith in Jesus Christ, leading others to find healing for their lives.

### FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO THE NATIONS



# BEHIND THE SCENES: SUPPORTING THE MISSION

## Looking Ahead: Communications Support

One clear gap we've identified in our ministry is consistent, effective communication. While we're doing vital work in worship, education, and community care, we're not always telling that story well—or reaching people where they are.

In 2025, we're planning to add dedicated administrative support focused exclusively on communications: managing our digital presence, creating engaging newsletters, maintaining social media, and helping our congregation and community stay connected to what God is doing here at Timothy.

Good communication isn't just about information—it's about invitation. It's how we welcome newcomers, encourage one another, and extend the reach of the gospel beyond our building. This investment will free up pastoral and staff time while ensuring our message gets out clearly and consistently.

We believe this role will be transformational for how Timothy shows up in our neighborhood and in the lives of families considering Word of Life School.

## Contact Information Updates

Our church management software is called Breeze. Members can update their information in one place, we can follow up better with visitors, giving options are more available, and volunteer management is more consistent.

You can update your own personal information at:  
<https://timothystl.breezechms.com>

You can setup online giving at:  
<https://www.timothystl.org/give>

We have tried to build a congregational picture directory to help us all get to know each other better—but we need your help. So far, only about 30% of our members have submitted a photo.

Whether you're a longtime member or brand new, please send a picture (individual or family) to Pastor Dinger. It doesn't have to be professional—just a clear photo that helps put names and faces together.

A directory strengthens our sense of community and helps newcomers feel less like strangers. Let's fill it out together!

## **Staff Team Coaching**

This year our staff began working with a team coach to sharpen how we implement and lead the vision God has given us for Timothy. Good ministry doesn't happen by accident—it requires clarity, collaboration, and intentional growth. The coaching process helps us stay aligned on our goals, work through challenges together, and lead with greater effectiveness. It's an investment in the people doing the day-to-day work of ministry, ensuring we're not just busy but fruitful.

## **Church Council: Policy-Based Governance Training**

Our Church Council is engaging in training on policy-based governance—a leadership model that clarifies the board's role in setting direction and supporting staff while avoiding micromanagement. Good governance frees pastoral leadership to do ministry while ensuring accountability and strategic oversight. This training equips our council to lead more effectively, make decisions with greater clarity, and support the congregation's mission for the long haul. Strong boards make for healthy churches.

## **How Can We Care for You?**

The pastoral staff wants to know how to pray for you and walk alongside you in the joys and struggles of life. We can't care well if we don't know what's happening. You can share prayer requests through prayer cards in the pews, online at [timothystl.org/prayer](http://timothystl.org/prayer), or with a simple text or phone call. We also want to care for you in the way you prefer—whether that's a visit, a phone call, a note, or quiet prayer from a distance. Spiritual care isn't one-size-fits-all, and we're here to support you as individuals, not just as a congregation.

Let us know how we can serve you. Your faith matters to us, and so does your story.

# TEACHING, PREACHING AND SPIRITUAL CARE



## Bible Study

Bible study is vital for spiritual growth, offering guidance, wisdom, and a deeper connection with God. It nurtures faith, shapes character, and provides answers to life's challenges. Engaging with Scripture together with other believers strengthens our relationship with Him, fostering peace and purpose in daily life. We encourage you to avail yourself of the following opportunities:



### Sundays

Multipurpose Room Topical Study led by one of the pastors  
Basement Classroom Bible Project video study led by Jessica  
3rd Floor Classroom Lectionary study led by Fieldworkers

### Wednesdays

10 am study led by Pastor Matt

## New Member Class

This summer we welcomed 15 participants into a new member class exploring the basics of the Christian faith—who God is, what Jesus accomplished, and what it means to follow him in daily life. For some it was a refresher, for others a first introduction, but for all of us it was a reminder that faith is always worth returning to with fresh eyes and honest questions.

## Care

Our ministry team is committed to bringing the spiritual care, and forgiveness of Christ to each of you in personal ways. Pastors are called to guide, pray, and provide support, but they can only help if they're aware of the challenges. We ask that if you have a need to tell us. This ensures spiritual care, encouragement, and growth within the church community, fostering a stronger, united fellowship.

## Fieldworkers

Timothy has long been a teaching congregation, and this year that role became even more intentional. We host fieldworker students from Concordia Seminary, providing hands-on training in the practical skills of pastoral ministry—skills the seminary now requires congregations to teach directly.

Pastor Dinger works closely with these students on gospel-centered preaching, practical Bible teaching that connects Scripture to daily life, and the art of children's ministry. It's not just classroom theory—it's real ministry with real people, where students learn by doing under careful mentorship.

This isn't a burden; it's a calling. Every congregation that trains seminarians is investing in the future of the church. The pastors we help shape today will serve congregations for decades to come, carrying forward not just skills but a vision of ministry rooted in grace, truth, and pastoral care.

Your patience, encouragement, and feedback to these students matter. When you listen to their sermons, engage with their teaching, and offer constructive support, you're part of forming the next generation of pastoral leadership. Timothy isn't just receiving ministry—we're giving it away for the sake of the wider church.

We said goodbye to Justin Wood as he received his first call into the ministry and welcomed two new first year students, Richard Harry and Aaron Farrow, and their families.

## Colloquy

Cordell Schulten is completing his colloquy to be ordained in the LCMS.



This year, Word of Life completed a comprehensive strategic planning process, articulating a clear mission and vision for the future. Our mission: to provide a high-quality educational program where Christ prevails, love and diversity are celebrated, and dignity and respect are valued. Our vision: cultivating empathetic, confident servant leaders rooted in Christ.

Drawing from Jesus' image in John 15:5—"I am the vine, you are the branches"—we've identified five core "branches" that shape our work: Faith (sharing the gospel and nurturing relationship with God), Community (making disciples and loving one another across difference), Character (demonstrating Christ-like identity through our actions), Service (extending compassionate love to our neighbors), and Curricula (educating the whole child—heart, mind, and strength).

We added a shade sail at the Timothy pre-K campus, hired a full-time Athletic Coordinator and PE Teacher, and opened a new pre-K classroom at our Ascension campus. These aren't just facility and staffing upgrades—they're investments in the flourishing of children and families, grounded in the conviction that education is ministry and every child is made in the image of God.

God has blessed Word of Life greatly in this year. K-8 enrollment is up to 181, preschool is at 55 students. This is a record enrollment in recent history.

We continue to provide tuition support for student members, with additional tuition aid as requested and needed. WOL has established an endowment fund to help ensure future support. In our visioning we identified WOL as a key area of outreach and mission focus. One area of improvement is creating lines of communication for church members to know how to volunteer and build relationships at WOL.

Our staff are active participants in religion courses teaching a topical class once a week, leading chapel in both our preschool and K-8 campus, volunteering with sports, musical programs, and other extracurricular activities.

Finally, give thanks to those Word of Life teachers that are members at Timothy: **Sara Poppitz, Laura Thompson, and Claire Weigand**. They are each a blessing to WOL and to Timothy. Let them know that you are praying for them, as they are daily sharing the love of Jesus with their students and families. We give thanks to God for these Ministers of the Gospel.

# Mother's Day Out: A Ministry of Care and Connection

This year, our Mother's Day Out program expanded to serve children birth through age 5, with extended hours from 8:15 am to 5 pm. We welcomed 375 children through summer programs, Parent Night Outs, and our regular sessions. Current enrollment stands at 113, with 32 families on our waitlist.

But MDO is more than childcare—it's a ministry of presence and invitation. Each week, our staff creates a space filled with joy, creativity, and the love of Jesus. Through Bible stories, songs, and play, children experience faith in ways that meet them right where they are. For many families with no church home, this is their first introduction to Christian community.

For parents navigating the challenge of finding flexible, trustworthy care, MDO offers both practical support and spiritual connection. Weekly chapel, joint activities with Word of Life School, and intentional relationship-building have opened doors we couldn't have anticipated. This year alone, 10 MDO families enrolled their children in Word of Life preschool—a testament to the trust and community we're building together.

Recent research by Barna shows that lifelong spiritual beliefs are formed before age 9, and a person's response to the gospel is largely shaped by age 12. This underscores why children's ministry matters so deeply. The most effective spiritual formation happens through partnership—when churches equip parents and parents raise children within a faith community that provides belonging, education, and accountability. Neither can do it alone. This is why Mother's Day Out isn't just childcare—it's an early invitation into the kind of faith community that shapes lives for eternity.





# Lindenwood Area Senior Ministry

**Overview:** Our ministry continues to thrive and grow! We have been working to increase our social media presence. Over the summer we had two paid part-time interns of college age who did a great deal of work to help us enhance our digital footprint. We are considering hiring a part-time office manager to assist with administrative tasks. This will free our Executive Director, Katie, up for more development and strategic planning work and our Case Manager, Leigh, up for more focused attention to case-management relevant activities. Our two part-time staff social workers are stretched thin! For information on programs, services, or volunteer opportunities, please contact our office at 314-647-4591. We also welcome your suggestions for programs and events you would like to see offered in 2026. Be sure to like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram, and visit [lasministry.org](http://lasministry.org) to stay up to date on all our latest happenings.

By the numbers:

- LASM celebrated its **19th** anniversary of ministry *for, to, and by seniors*.
- **One** new partner church, St. James the Greater, joined the LASM family.
- LASM Transportation Ministers and staff provided **153** round-trip rides to medical appointments for registered riders.
- **Four** new volunteers were trained to help launch Memory Keepers, our first program designed specifically to support individuals experiencing memory loss. A total of **27** classes were offered across **two** sessions.
- Our Annual Spring Fling fundraiser attracted **17** sponsors and raised more than **\$8,000** in support of the ministry.
- **132** home repair and yard clean-up projects were completed by Saturday Servant volunteers and mission teams.
- **Six** individuals were accepted into our fall Stephen Minister training class and will complete **50** hours of Christian caregiver training in 2026.
- More than **20** older adults received ongoing case management services, with many more receiving one-time referrals for community resources or personalized insurance reviews.
- **24** social, educational, and spiritual programs were offered throughout the year.
- **30** tables of players attended our **14th** Annual Trivia Night, raising **\$10,000** for LASM programs and services.
- LASM partnered with Machacek Library to offer **three** sessions of *Balance and Revitalize* exercise classes.
- More than **900** individuals received monthly newsletters filled with LASM updates and community resources.
- **Four** introductory learn-to-play Mahjong sessions were offered. Due to popularity, **twice-monthly** playing sessions followed.
- **Two** seminary students completed **40** hours of service learning, including caring visits with homebound seniors and leading Bible studies.
- **Twenty-two** LASM seniors received Christmas care packages.
- A dedicated team of **60+** volunteers provided **1,806** hours of service, making all of this possible.



### **Church and Community Partnerships Committee:**

LASM has created “models of partnership” for community business and organizations. There are three levels of partnership, each with its own set of benefits based on levels of commitment to LASM. Level 1 is a “Community Partner” for those contributing \$2500 to \$5000 per year. This level is designed for businesses and organizations with similar missions to LASM. Level 2 is a “Local Business Partner” for those contributing \$500 per year and is designed for small businesses. A third level is a “Friend of LASM” and is designed for individuals who contribute between \$500 and \$1000 per year. If you know of a local business or ministry who might be interested in a partnership with us, please let us know!

We are attempting to partner with Evertrue and Cardinal Ritter Senior Services. Initial meetings have been productive, but no firm commitments have been made. If anyone has ideas about furthering those connections, please reach out.

### **Volunteer Management Committee:**

A volunteer appreciation luncheon and musical entertainment was provided for volunteers and their loved ones in the springtime. LASM hosted a “volunteer summit” at Timothy Lutheran Church in October. 30+ volunteers attended! Information about connecting volunteer work with faith was presented using the book *Loved & Sent* written by Jeff Cloeter. Additionally, a volunteer handbook was completed and handed out to volunteers, who also received a copy of the book.

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

We continue to encourage faith at home as we serve youth, children and families.

- F.A.I.T.H. Sunday and weekly Sunday School Special Summer Sunday School (intergenerational)
- Kid's Messages during worship
- Preschool/MDO Chapel and reading to Preschool weekly
- Outreach events of VBS & Egg Hunt
- Sunday School Closing: Weekly encouraging children and families to grow in faith and serve at church and at home
- Weekly Youth Bible Class – sharing highs and lows, prayer, and reading God's word together with a good percentage of our teens attending weekly

Each week families have a printed copy or can find on our website a take-home page where lessons learned can be incorporated into daily devotions and life applications throughout the week. Sunday School attendance has been consistent from 2022 - 2025. We averaged 15-16 children in Sunday School.

In April the Egg Hunt outreach was our 28th year in Lindenwood Park. It was a nice day for once, and we had a great team of volunteers that made this day special for our neighborhood families. The VBS theme was True North and was our biggest group post-COVID with 42 participating. Each year VBS is a wonderful combination of outreach and teamwork among our members. 50 volunteers of all ages came together to share their gifts and faith!

Word of Life Lutheran School connections continue with chapel leadership and teaching a special religion class in the fall before Thanksgiving and again in winter before Lent.

Our Youth Ministry had a busy year. On Pentecost Sunday 2025 we confirmed 2 students, Ezra and Grayson. The current group of students in confirmation this year is 5. One of the highlights for this year was our National Youth Gathering. We successfully raised 100% of our goal with the Envelope Fundraiser. We appreciate the support of past Gathering participants who are now adult leaders/parents in our congregation, who spoke during a ministry minute about the importance of the gathering and the impact it had on their lives. We had a great week in New Orleans for the Gathering. Timothy can be proud of the 12 youth who attended. They took advantage of the opportunity to learn, grow, challenge themselves and have fun as a church as well as connect with other youth. Our adult leader group of Amanda, Mark, Megan and Sara were a great team and really provided great help with planning, encouraging, supervising and the needs of the daily schedule. Our 12-youth reported positively on the sessions they chose, and the speakers at the mass events were really good. Our Bible Study times also provided growth and deeper look at the theme of Hebrews 12:1-3.

Following the gathering our teen participants did a really great job of sharing their experience with the congregation. A Taste of New Orleans and the Gathering was held on August 3rd during the Education Hour at Church. We had a good crowd with lively interaction and questions from children and adults. The food samples were really great – big thanks to Megan, Amanda and the kitchen crew!

## Other Youth Events in 2025

January 12 we skated on a beautiful day in Forest Park for our Ice Skating Youth FunDay

February 2nd we took our FunDay on the road to a nerf battle with Christ Memorial. It was great to have so many teens coming together for some Nerf Fun along with good food, fellowship and devotions.

March 5th we did a great job with the Youth Lenten Meal for Ash Wednesday. We also picked up March 12 and March 19 with some help from Anabella. Thanks to those who served and our supporters!

March 22nd Youth FunDay took part in the Karaoke Night with Congregation - we had a great time singing and/or supporting and cheering for others singing their karaoke hits! It was a really fun seeing people of all ages sharing their gifts in this intergenerational event.

April 4-6 was our District Youth Retreat at CrossPointe Retreat Center in Rocky Mount, MO. The Retreat was a great time for building community, with many youth reflecting on this during our sharing of highs and lows during the last night. We learned, played, made new friends and grew together in Christ.

April 12 Youth worked out Egg Hunt Outreach – Teens served and worked hard for our Easter Egg Hunt. It was a fun day and the weather was great! Our youth helpers did an amazing job with the Egg Hunt Zone and Games in particular. They also helped with set-up, clean-up and more!

April 20 was our Youth Easter Breakfast. The breakfast was a great fundraiser for us, and we served our congregation, providing a much-needed time of fellowship as families shared tables together on this special Resurrection Sunday. Special thanks to our Head Chef, Alisse Myers and her crew of helpers!

April 26 Youth again played a major role in our outreach Shine Event: Scrap - Shred - eRecycle Shine - youth did an amazing job serving our neighbors in this annual event. The District puts on the annual Shine event, and this was our fifth consecutive year of participating in this statewide servant event. Teens got the joy of serving with other members of our congregation, as well as a Shine t-shirt.

May 25 Youth Bowling - we had a great time bowling at Shrewsbury Lanes with family. We bowled and laughed and sang some jukebox songs together!

June 23-27 Youth Served at VBS - we had a great crew of teens serving at VBS for our True North themed outreach to children and their families. Youth served in games, crafts, crews and so much more! It was a great intergenerational partnership in the Gospel!

August 1st Youth Pool Party - we enjoyed our end of summer fun at the pool in Jefferson Barracks. 12 teens spent time together in the Lazy River, Climbing Wall, Slide, and regular pool area. It was a really nice day with weather and friends!

September 28th Youth Circuit Picnic was a get-together with teens from other South City Lutheran churches for food, fun games, and hanging out with friends old and new at Willmore Park. Parents and siblings had a great time too!

October 19th Youth Hiking & Hang Around the Fire with Smores was a fun double feature. First was at Power Valley Conservation Nature Trail and we had a hiking good time. Later we went over to Steve and Lynnae Meyer's house where we hung around the fire at the for Smores, Singing, Devotion and Games.

November 15th was our Youth Leaf Raking Service Event in partnership with LASM – we served our neighbors by raking and moving leaves for pickup. We cleared a ton of leaves and had a great time working together.

November 23rd Friendsgiving Youth Special Event - our Jr. & Sr. High Youth joined teens from Peace Lutheran, Christ Memorial, and other area churches for a fun event of thankfulness. In addition to a great Thanksgiving style meal, we worked on some service activities which benefitted a bunch of area ministries, enjoyed games, and singing and a youth-led time of worship. It was a great time with 125 teens being thankful, having fun and serving together.

December 3rd Youth led the Advent Meal with a big assist by Anabella taking care of all the food and food preparation!

December 6th was our Youth Christmas Market Fundraiser - Jr. & Sr. Youth will work the Christmas Market and raised \$1,000 in funds for youth events, selling beverages, pies and the cookie boxes. Big thank you to all who contributed cookies and the Women in Mission for boxing the cookies for us.

December 21st Youth Joined Choir & Congregation for Caroling in the Neighborhood - Jr. & Sr. Youth got together with Timothy choir and other members to do Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood. We had great fellowship and food following our caroling fun.

BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS,  
AND IN THIS WAY YOU WILL  
FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST  
(GALATIANS 6:2, NRSV).



*36 years  
of care*



Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Stephen Leaders are trained to provide ongoing leadership for our Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministry helps carry out the mission of our church by bringing Jesus' love to our neighbors.

**Prayer Team after Services:** Each month the team schedules Stephen Ministers to be available after services to pray with those who would like individual prayer.

We hope to identify and train 2 new Stephen Leaders.

# TIMOTHY URBAN BEEKEEPERS

## Building Community, Caring for Creation

PROVERBS 24:13

EAT HONEY, FOR IT IS GOOD,  
YES, THE HONEY FROM THE  
COMB IS SWEET TO YOUR  
TASTE



PROVERBS 16:24  
PLEASANT WORDS ARE A  
HONEYCOMB,  
SWEET TO THE SOUL AND  
HEALING TO THE BONES

As we reflect on the past year, Timothy Urban Beekeepers, an outreach ministry of Timothy Lutheran Church, celebrates the many ways we have nurtured creation, built community connections, and shared God's love through the amazing work of bees. From harvesting honey to educating others, our ministry has flourished, and we are grateful for the support of our church and the larger community.

### Beekeeping Highlights

This year, we maintained 2 active hives on church grounds and partnered with local community members to support additional hives for 7 beekeepers who harvested 972 pounds of honey.

### Honey Harvest and Product Sales

Our honey harvest was a joyful occasion, with volunteers of all ages coming together to extract, bottle, and label jars of pure, golden honey. The sales of our honey raised over \$1,500 to support the ministry and other outreach programs at Timothy Lutheran Church.

### Community Outreach and Education

This year, we achieved the following milestones:

1. Bee Removal Services: Our volunteers conducted several bee rescues, safely relocating hives and fostering goodwill with local residents.
2. Beekeeping Education: Provided expert mentorship to other new beekeepers in the broader community. 94 people receive our email newsletters.
3. Maintained a booth at the Christmas Market and had 2 new beekeepers sign up for 2026.

### Gratitude and Recognition

We owe our success to the many volunteers, donors, and supporters who have contributed time, resources, and prayers to Timothy Urban Beekeepers. Special thanks go to John, Tim, and Alice, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in our growth. We are excited to see how God will use this ministry to further connect us with our neighbors and deepen our care for His creation.



Noah's team includes:

Sue Nielsen, Mark Thompson, Laura Thompson, Marcia Bello, Amanda Bello, Megan Enderle-Wilkins, Diane Saleska, Ruth McDonnell (Member at Salem Lutheran), Marla Steenbock, Rick Steenbock, and Glenn Nielsen.

Noah is showing his age (he's 12 ½). He is losing his hearing. He likes to lie down on visits rather than sitting for longer periods of time. He gets tired if the visit goes too long. But he still jumps into the car without difficulty. He likes to go on visits. He went to the vet at the end of December, and he's healthy, with good lab tests. He is the same weight as when he arrived in 2014. But we are being careful with how many visits he makes, and Luke is making more of Noah's visits for him.

Regular visits doing most months:

- Timothy Lutheran Church worship services and activities
- Word of Life
- Mothers' Day Out and pre-school at Timothy
- Young in Spirit Adult Day Care Center
- LaClede Groves
- United Cerebral Palsy Day Care (2 centers)
- Concordia Seminary
- Hand to Hand Adult Day Care Center
- Brentmoor Assisted Living
- Select Specialty Hospital (Critical Therapy Recovery at Missouri Baptist)
- Salem Lutheran School, Affton
- Philanthropic Society
- Friendship

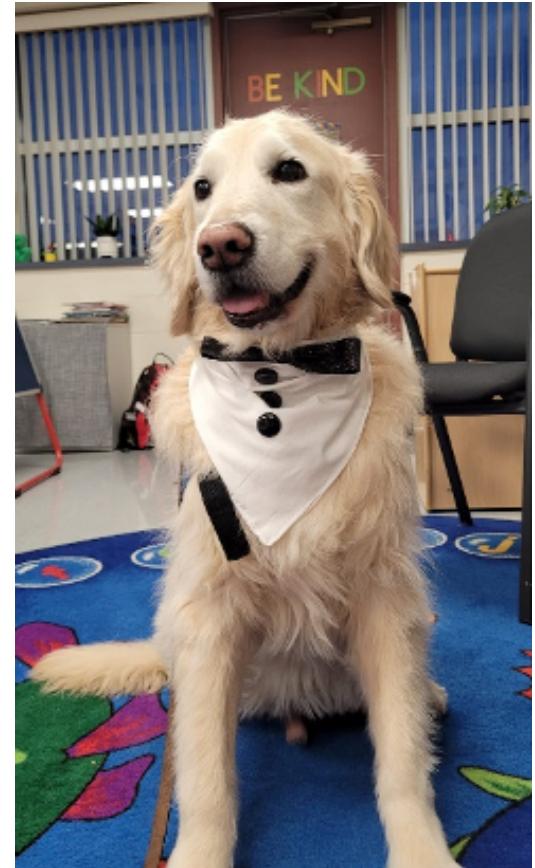
Special visits throughout the year:

- Two funeral visitations, one is Springfield, IL
- St. John's, Arnold – National Lutheran Schools Week
- Tim Tebow's A Night to Shine (Prom for special needs individuals of all ages)
- Abiding Savior Lutheran School –
- Senn Thomas Middle School career Expo
- Occasional visit at Lutheran South
- Concordia Plans at International Center
- Mascoutah High School for fundraiser for Leukemia research
- Visits with Rich Mutka and Lorene Rush
- Numerous visits to Chatham, IL, after deaths at YNOT after-school center tragedy
- Timothy's Easter Egg Hunt, Confirmation, VBS, and Christmas Market
- WOL Open House
- Visit to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nashville, TN

- Herculaneum High School death of student
- Chapel and classroom visits to Zion Lutheran in Belleville, IL
- Chapel and classroom visits at CCLS
- Lutheran Elementary School Association teacher conference
- CCLS Academy at Bethlehem in downtown St. Louis
- CCLS chapel and classroom visits
- Rockport Heights Elementary School for students doing MAP testing
- Summer Camp at St. John's, Arnold
- Visit to Barnes for Seminary student
- Summer Camp at Abiding Savior
- Our Savior, Fenton, (former student's death)
- Grace Day at Immanuel Lutheran, Crystal City, MO.

(School supplies and resources for low-income families)

- Visits with Noah's trainer Elaine and Alan
- UMSL nursing class
- Share Walk for still born and newborn deaths in St. Charles
- Missionary family soon to be deployed overseas
- MADD walk in O'Fallon, IL
- LESA conference in St. Charles, MO
- Green Park Lutheran school – student and staff visit
- Rockport Heights Elementary school visit students
- Chapel and student visits to Salem, Blackjack (spring and fall)
- Our Lady of Life apartments
- National Comfort Dog Conference in Chicago area
- Concord WEE Preschool (Baptist church)
- Crave Coffee House stress relief for students studying for finals (spring and fall)
- Barnes hospital visits for Henrene – (she has known Noah through Young in Spirit)
- Christmas program at Bethlehem Lutheran in St. Louis



Noah at Tim Tebow's A Night to Shine  
 A dance for special needs individuals of all ages  
 St. Paul Lutheran, Jackson, MO

## Luke Comfort Dog

Luke arrived last April, and Sue and Glenn Nielsen have continued his training. He has settled down from his puppy days last summer. He meets people well at church. Many will now greet him like they have Noah. Children especially like to spend time with him. He has been making some of Noah's visits to give him more training and to give Noah some more time off as he gets older. He passed his evaluation for Champ Therapy Dog training. Champ is a recognized organization that trains therapy and service dogs in the St. Louis area. He will go through their training from the end of January through mid April. If successful, Luke will receive certification that he is a trained therapy dog through the organization. We will then be able to take him to various places in St. Louis that have formal agreements with Champ for dogs to visit (hospitals, schools, nursing homes, etc.). He will continue to make visits through his status in the Comfort Connections Comfort Dog Ministry in Nashville, TN.



# WORSHIP & MUSIC

A YEAR OF GROWTH AND SERVICE



Timothy's music ministry expanded in both scope and excellence this year, serving worship with greater consistency and welcoming new voices into the life of the church.

## Choirs and Ensembles

Our **Adult Choir** served more Sundays, contributing actively to all major liturgical seasons—Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Reformation, and Advent to Christmas. We stretched our repertoire into Black Gospel and jazz, collaborating with local instrumentalists including coach Raynard Brown from UMSL.



The **Children's Choir** served regularly at Sunday worship and presented the Christmas cantata Morning Star with a small orchestra—our first attempt at combining children, youth, and live instrumentalists. **Timothy Chimers** played for worship services and the Weihnachtsmarkt. The **Youth Praise Team** introduced new hymns and led Sunday services while building fellowship within the youth group.



## Outreach and Education

The Timothy Lutheran **Concert Series** hosted three classical concerts featuring diverse ensembles: Aionios Trio Quartet (January), Brass Quintet Clarion (May), and the WashU Piano Quintet (November). These events attracted new audiences and expanded our visibility in the community.

We hosted a well-attended **Karaoke Event** and launched weekly "**Sing Along**" sessions following Wednesday Bible study, led by Abby Wuerffel. We also conducted **weekly music classes for Word of Life** preschoolers and launched **chime classes** for students grades 4–8. During **Vacation Bible School**, Lisa Clark led a hymn-writing class, and students explored unfamiliar instruments. At Christmas, we **caroled** at 25 homes, sharing goody bags and gospel joy.

### **The Joy of Localized Eclectic Worship**

What sets Timothy's music apart is an eclecticism you won't find anywhere else. On any given Sunday, you might hear the pipe organ accompanied by drums, Caribbean steel pans ringing alongside African rhythms, Irish folk tunes woven into classical motifs, and Gospel harmonies filling the sanctuary. This isn't musical chaos—it's theological vision.

We are thankful for the rich diversity of skill in our members who lay those gifts before the Lord. This diversity of music reflects the diversity of God's people. We are thankful to use liturgies composed by our own members this year we made use of Pastor Kerr's liturgy setting and will use a **newly composed setting** of his during Lent in 2026. This proclaims that worship isn't bound by a single culture or tradition but embraces the full range of human creativity offered back to God. The result is a vibrancy and joy that reminds us: the kingdom of God sounds like every tribe, tongue, and nation singing together. Our music that we share embodies the reconciling, boundary-crossing love of Jesus.

### **From the Organ Bench**

Our organist participated regularly in worship, Lenten preludes, and special concerts, and attended professional workshops including the worship conference at Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in New York.

### **Feast Services**

Holy Week, Easter, and Reformation Sunday combined multiple ensembles of brass, vocal, and guest musicians to enhance the richness of worship. Christmas Eve featured more than 20 choir members and instrumentalists serving with liturgical beauty and excellence. This year at Christmas we added visual elements of colored lighting with interactive and experiential elements to our worship service.

### **Handbell Choir**

Our handbell choir, led by Holly Feldman, continues to bring beauty and precision to worship, playing on the first Sunday of each month. This year we welcomed new members, including youth ringers, expanding both our sound and our intergenerational fellowship. The choir has stretched itself with increasingly challenging pieces that edify worship and showcase the unique voice of handbells in the liturgy. It's disciplined, musical work and the result is a gift that lifts our hearts and points us toward the God who delights in beauty and order.

### **Looking Ahead**

We faced challenges with variability in children's choir and chime attendance, but proactive recruiting and flexibility helped us adapt. Our concert series revealed opportunities to expand community outreach and reconnect with visitors. Music ministry isn't just about performance, it's about formation, invitation, and giving voice to the praise of God's people.



# CARE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

## **Food Pantry Ministry**

Through the Food Pantry, we are blessed to serve over 100 families every first and third Saturday. This is twice what we were serving last year. This vital ministry is sustained by the dedication of Shirley, Joan, Annabella and Tim, who tirelessly collect and organize food every week. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the many other volunteers who give their time on Saturdays to distribute food to families in need.

## **Panera Bread Rescue**

Every Sunday evening, our volunteers collect unused bread and pastries from our local Panera Bread, preventing these items from going to waste. Over the course of the year, this effort rescues thousands of pounds of bread, providing an additional source of nourishment to households in our community.

## **Annual Scrap Metal, Paper Shredding and Electronic Waste Recycling Event**

In April, we held our annual Scrap Metal Drive, helping the community dispose of recyclable materials responsibly. It also saw the successful hosting of our fifth Paper Shredding Event, with hundreds of participants securely shredding an estimated 8000 pounds of paper. In addition, our third Electronic Waste Recycling Event was a tremendous success, collecting several tons of e-waste, including around 50 tube TVs, which were properly recycled to prevent pollution. These events have become essential services for our neighborhood, supporting environmental stewardship and community convenience. This initiative not only keeps tons of garbage out of landfills but also provides a convenient solution for those who might otherwise struggle to manage these items.

## **“Christ Care” Financial Assistance Program**

This year, we were able to provide direct financial assistance to 62 individuals, covering 89 different bills for essentials such as utilities, transportation, and housing. In total, \$21,911 was distributed to help ease the burdens of those in need.

Through these ministries, love of our neighbor embodies our mission to serve our neighbors with compassion and love. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these efforts, making a real difference in the lives of others.



# CHRISTMAS MARKET

## Spreading Joy, Building Connections, and Celebrating the Season

Each year, Timothy Lutheran Church's Annual Christmas Market transforms our humble parking lot into a festive hub of community engagement and holiday cheer. This cherished event is a testament to the spirit of giving, unity, and service that defines our congregation. With vendors, activities, and countless volunteers, the Christmas Market provides a meaningful outreach opportunity to share the joy of Christ's birth with our neighbors.

### Event Highlights

This year was our 10th Annual Christmas Market. Here are some of the key highlights:

1. Vibrant Vendor Marketplace:

- Over 70 local vendors participated, offering handmade crafts, seasonal treats, and unique gifts. The marketplace not only supported small businesses but also created a lively and diverse shopping experience for attendees.

2. Volunteer Support:

- The event was made possible by the dedication of volunteers, who assisted with setup, vendor coordination, hospitality, and cleanup. Their cheerful service embodied the true spirit of Christ and the opportunity to build deeper relationships.

3. Live Entertainment:

- The market featured performances by our children's choir and several ensembles, filling the air with festive music and reminding all of the reason for the season.

4. Perfect Weather:

- Blessed with beautiful weather, attendees enjoyed the event in comfort, enhancing the overall festive atmosphere.

### Impact on the Community

The Christmas Market welcomed an estimated over 1,000 attendees, fostering connections between church members and the broader community. Many visitors expressed their gratitude for the warm, welcoming atmosphere and the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season in a meaningful way. For some, it was their first introduction to Timothy Lutheran Church, planting seeds for future relationships and ministry opportunities.

## Gratitude and Recognition

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the Christmas Market a success. Special recognition goes to especially Marla, Rick, Tiffany, and Steve for their tireless planning and leadership. Your efforts have blessed our church and community alike.

## Looking Forward

As we reflect on this year's achievements, we are already excited about next year's Christmas Market. We hope to:

- Increase vendor participation by reaching out to more local artisans.
- Enhance family-friendly activities with new workshops and entertainment.
- Expand our outreach efforts to bless even more individuals and families in need.

## Conclusion

The Annual Christmas Market is more than just an event—it's a celebration of God's love made manifest in community and service. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and resources to make this year's market unforgettable. Together, we have shared the light of Christ and created memories that will last a lifetime.



# PROPERTY: STEWARDING GOD'S HOUSE

The care and maintenance of our church property are vital aspects of our ministry, ensuring that our facilities remain safe, functional, and welcoming for everyone who walks through our doors. This year, our property maintenance team has worked diligently behind the scenes to steward the resources God has entrusted to us.

From routine upkeep to unexpected repairs, this team ensures that our building and grounds are in excellent condition. Tasks like HVAC maintenance, plumbing fixes, and electrical work might not be visible on Sunday mornings, but they are critical to creating an environment where worship and ministry can flourish. Regular cleaning, landscaping, and upkeep of parking areas also contribute to the inviting and hospitable atmosphere our church is known for.

This year we invested in several key facility upgrades to better serve our congregation and Word of Life School families:

- Fresh paint in the narthex and gym entryway creates a welcoming first impression for visitors and members alike.
- New flooring installed in the basement and pre-K wing provides a safer, cleaner environment for our youngest learners.
- Updated ceiling tiles in the pre-K classrooms improve both appearance and air quality.
- Smart lighting system in the sanctuary offers better control and energy efficiency for worship.
- Replacement water heater in the pre-K wing ensures reliable hot water for daily operations and health code compliance.

These improvements reflect our commitment to being good stewards of the building God has entrusted to us, creating spaces that support both worship and ministry for years to come.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the staff and volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to this important work. Their efforts ensure that our property remains a place where God's love is shared and His name is glorified. All of these things, while often going unnoticed could not happen without our volunteers. We thank Tim, Steve, and Greg for so much that they have done from the physical labor, to the organizing of skilled tradesmen.

We also make our facility available to two after school sports programs through out the year, St. Gabriel's Catholic School and Maplewood Richmond Heights Community Center. We have been working with them for the last four years and developing a healthy partnership for providing gym space for kids' sports programs.

If you would be willing and moved to join us in helping to maintain our church property you would be most welcome. Please contact Pastor Dinger.

# CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS: THE HEART OF TIMOTHY

This year, we extend our deepest gratitude to the many members of our congregation who have selflessly given their time and talents to support our church and its mission. From organizing community outreach programs to leading worship services, maintaining our facilities, and nurturing our youth, every act of service has strengthened our community and brought us closer to living out our shared faith.

Your efforts have not only enriched our church family but also left a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve beyond our walls. Thank you for embodying the spirit of love and generosity that defines our congregation.

As we reflect on the incredible work accomplished by our volunteers, we also turn our eyes to the future. Volunteerism is a cornerstone of our church's three-year strategic plan, and we have set bold goals to guide our efforts:

1. We will have 30% of our worshiping members actively volunteering.
2. We will have 20 small group leaders engaging 50% of our congregation in fellowship opportunities.
3. We will reach 300 lives in the community through acts of service.
4. We will foster connections between 100 members and Word of Life School.
5. We will build a team of 10 regular volunteers dedicated to serving Word of Life School.
6. We will develop a volunteer structure to support and sustain these efforts.

These goals are ambitious, but together, we can achieve them. If you have been looking for a way to get involved, now is the perfect time to take the first step. Whether you have a few hours to spare or a passion for a specific cause, your contribution can make a difference.

Volunteerism is a vital part of our church's strategic vision—it is through your contributions that we can realize our goals and bring our plans to life. Whether you have an hour to spare or a new idea to share, there is a place for everyone to make a difference.

If you have been considering how you might get more involved, now is the perfect time to join us in this mission. Together, we can accomplish even greater things in the year ahead.

Let us continue to honor our calling to serve, uplift, and build a stronger community through volunteerism. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

## TIMOTHY'S VISION AND STRATEGIC GOALS 2025-2027

At the heart of our mission as a church is a shared desire to glorify God, serve His people, and bring His love to the world. To do this well, we must be intentional. That's why we are embracing a clear vision and a unified set of strategic goals—goals that will guide us as one body, working together in harmony and purpose.

We worked many long hours and engaged over two thirds of the congregation in this process. Through this highly collaborative process we arrived at these core values and refined focus of our mission field. This restraint is so that we will be more aligned as a congregation and intentional in our ministry.

This process is about focus. In a world of endless opportunities and needs, we recognize that saying "yes" to God's call sometimes means saying "no" to distractions, personal preferences, or even good ideas that don't align with our shared mission. By choosing what to pursue carefully, we are making room to say a wholehearted "yes" to what matters most.

It's also about unity. These goals are not the vision of one person or a select group—they are our goals, born out of prayerful discernment and collective agreement. We do not set goals out of fear that we might lose a family or a worker, and so making that person the driver of ministry. This is something that comes from all of us and given to us by God. As we move forward, we commit to working together, setting aside individual agendas or personal pet projects. Our success depends on each of us honoring this shared focus and supporting one another as we follow the path God has laid before us.

Together, we will:

- Focus our efforts on the areas where God is calling us to grow and serve.
- Support each other in unity, ensuring that no one undermines or sidetracks the progress of the group.
- Say 'no' with purpose, so that we can say 'yes' with conviction.
- Be stewards of our collective mission, recognizing that our strength comes from working together as one body.

### Strategic Vision: Year Two

We're in the second year of our strategic planning process with consultant Dale Kreienkamp, and the work continues to bear fruit. Meeting regularly throughout 2024, we evaluated our progress, refined our goals, and began collecting real baseline data to measure where we're going.

What we've learned is both encouraging and clarifying. Over 60% of our congregation volunteers regularly—a remarkable level of engagement that reflects the Spirit's work among us. At the same time, we've identified key areas for growth: we need stronger connections between the congregation and Word of Life School, more intentional outreach to our Mother's Day Out families, and additional "lead" volunteers who can take ownership of ministries in partnership with pastoral staff.

Fellowship remains a top priority. We're a church that values being together, and we want to steward that gift well by creating more opportunities for meaningful connection—not just events, but relationships that sustain faith through the long haul.

Strategic planning isn't about checking boxes. It's about discerning where God is calling us and aligning our resources, energy, and imagination with that call. We need your help, your leadership, and your prayers as we continue this journey together.

One of our strategic priorities this year was creating more opportunities for meaningful fellowship—not just large gatherings, but intentional moments to know and be known. We hosted a karaoke night (where hidden talents and good humor were on full display), participated in tours of the historic Krause House, and enjoyed a movie night at a member's home. Our youth group met regularly for bonding and fellowship, building the kind of friendships that sustain faith through the challenges of adolescence.

These aren't just social events—they're ministry. Fellowship is where strangers become friends, where faith is shared in everyday conversation, and where the body of Christ becomes visible and tangible. In a culture of isolation and loneliness, the simple act of gathering matters more than ever.

We want to keep building on this momentum. Strong relationships don't happen by accident—they require intentionality, invitation, and showing up. Thank you to everyone who hosted, organized, and participated. You're creating the kind of community people are hungry for.

### **Staff Coaching: Sharpening Our Leadership**

Ministry is a team sport, and this year our staff invested in working with a team coach to sharpen how we lead and execute the vision God has given us for Timothy. Good intentions aren't enough—we need clarity, collaboration, and the ability to navigate challenges together.

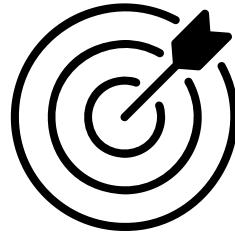
The coaching process has helped us stay aligned on priorities, communicate more effectively, and lead with greater intentionality. It's pushed us to ask hard questions: Are we doing the right things? Are we working efficiently? Are we supporting each other well? The result has been a stronger, more unified staff better equipped to serve the congregation and school.

Leadership development isn't a luxury—it's essential. When staff grow in their capacity to lead, the whole church benefits. We're grateful for this investment in becoming not just busier, but better.

# TIMOTHY'S VISION AND STRATEGIC GOALS

## 2025-2027

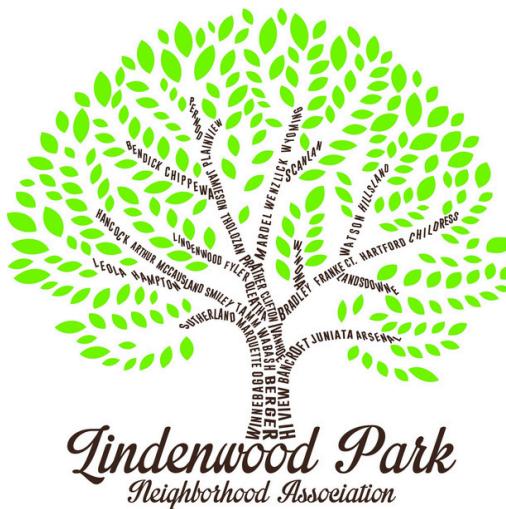
### MISSION FIELD



Having a target mission field is essential for effective ministry because it focuses our efforts and resources on the specific people or communities God has called us to serve. When we intentionally define our mission field, we can better understand their needs, build meaningful relationships, and share the gospel in ways that truly resonate. Without a clear target, our energy can become scattered, and we risk doing many things with little impact. A focused mission allows us to say "yes" to opportunities that align with our calling and "no" to those that distract us from it. This intentionality ensures that our ministry is not just busy but fruitful, reflecting God's heart for the people He has placed on ours.

### NEIGHBORHOOD

Broadly the Lindenwood Park and surround neighborhoods



### WORD OF LIFE & MOTHER'S DAY OUT

Our childcare and education ministries connected to Timothy



# TIMOTHY'S VISION AND STRATEGIC GOALS

2025-2027

## VALUES

Strategic values are the guiding principles that shape how we pursue our mission and make decisions as a church. They serve as a compass, ensuring that everything we do reflects our core beliefs and priorities. These values help us remain consistent and faithful, even in the face of challenges or changing circumstances. By clearly defining our strategic values, we create a framework for unity and accountability, allowing everyone to align their efforts and actions with the mission God has entrusted to us. They remind us why we do what we do, keeping us focused on what truly matters and ensuring that our ministry is rooted in purpose, integrity, and love. The following values rose to the top guiding principles that we believe should shape our decisions and direct our energy.



### Acceptance

Intentionally welcoming and loving all people as Jesus does.

Acceptance



### Worship

Gathering as God's people, celebrating His grace, participating, receiving His gifts of Word & Sacrament

Worship



### Christian Education

Equipping people to grow in a lifelong journey with Christ.

Christian Education



### Outreach

We strive to share the love of Jesus with those who don't yet know Him.

Outreach

				Measurement	Responsible
•	•	•	•	?? Fellowship opportunity # 2 Fellowship opportunity # 1 Recruit and train fellowship opportunity leaders at least 60 days prior to their event	•
•	•	•	•	Create a community Outreach Team to review survey data and make recommendations.	•
•	•	•	•	Create a Word of Life Outreach Team, responsible for Timothy-WOL relationship	•
•	•	•	•	•	•
		<p><b>Initiatives (Progress steps)</b></p> <p><b>Annual Goals (What we want to accomplish)</b></p> <p><b>Mission Field</b> -Neighborhood (Lindenwood Park &amp; neighborhoods around boarded by Hampton Ave., RiverDesPeres &amp; I-44.) -Word of Life School</p> <p><b>Core Values</b> Acceptance Christian Education Outreach</p>			
<p><b>3 Year Goals (12/31/2027) (Where we are going)</b></p> <p>20 regular worshipping members are volunteering in a <i>leadership role</i> Timothy has 20 small group leaders which engage 50% of the membership in fellowship Timothy touches 300 lives in the community meeting their needs</p> <p>100 of Timothy members have an <u>active</u> connection with Word of Life School</p>		<p>Leadership roles defined and charting for an evolving &amp; standing</p> <p>Each member engaging in fellowship are counted only one time.</p> <p>Based on needs assessment, track lives touched in away that <u>Attitudes/creed/beliefs defined by 3 be more effective</u> tudents</p>		<p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>Pastor Dinger</p> <p>Fellowship event leader #1</p> <p>Fellowship event leader #2</p> <p>TBD</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship impact is very strong</li> <li>○ Open field to be defined if needed</li> <li>△ Open field to be defined if needed</li> </ul>					

# BY THE NUMBERS

304

TOTAL  
BAPTIZED  
MEMBERS

227

TOTAL  
CONFIRMED  
MEMBERS

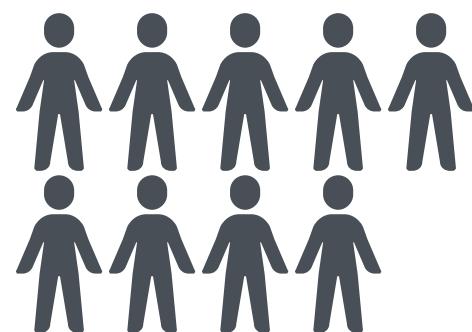
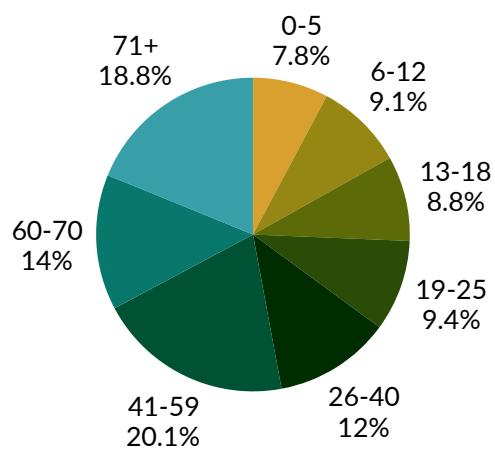


BAPTISMS  
5

141

TOTAL  
HOUSEHOLDS

## MEMBERSHIP BY AGE GROUP



NEW MEMBERS  
9

EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED  
TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS  
VARIOUS FORMS. 1 PETER 4:10

## **Additional Ways to Support**

Did you know your generosity could be doubled or even tripled? Many employers offer matching gift programs that will match charitable contributions made by their employees. This is a powerful way to maximize the impact of your giving and extend your support for our church's mission. If your employer offers a matching gift program, it's often a simple process to participate. Contact your HR department or benefits administrator to learn more. You might be amazed at how much further your gift can go in transforming lives and building God's kingdom.

In addition to traditional giving, tools like IRA charitable rollovers, donor-advised funds, and Required Minimum Distributions of Retirement accounts are other financial options to maximize your generosity while providing potential tax benefits. By utilizing these methods, you can simplify your giving and ensure your resources go further in advancing God's work. Whether you're interested in making a one-time gift or establishing a legacy of faith, these strategies can help align your financial stewardship with your spiritual priorities. We encourage you to speak with your financial advisor or contact our church office to learn more about these impactful ways to give. Thank you for partnering with us in building God's kingdom.

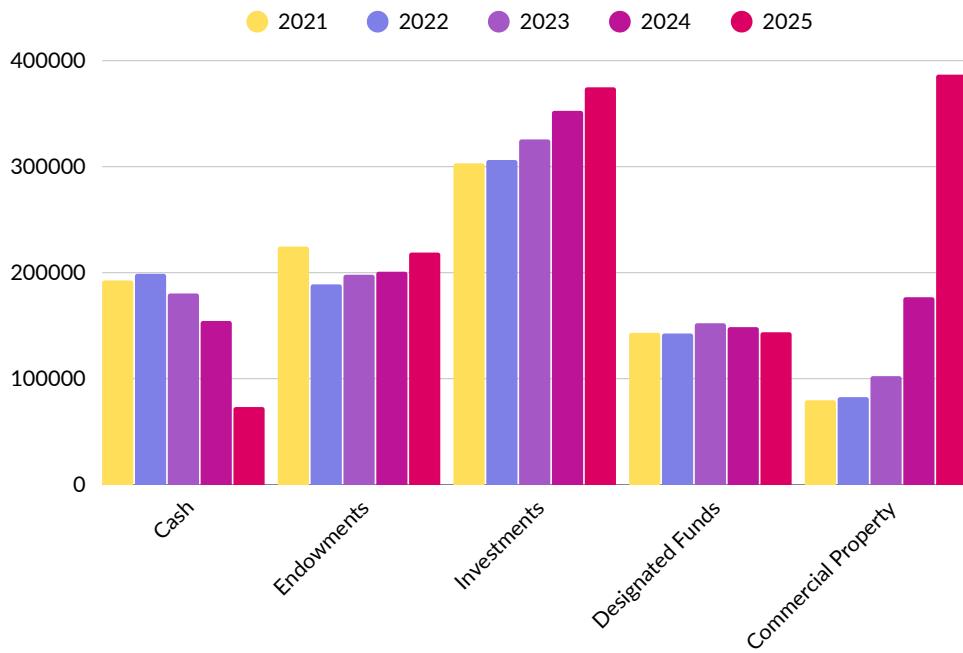
This year we expanded how you can support the ministry of Timothy, adding multiple digital giving platforms to make generosity as simple as possible. You can give through Venmo (@timothystl), by tapping your phone on the NFC tags installed on the pews during worship, online at [timothystl.org/give](http://timothystl.org/give), by check or cash.

These aren't gimmicks—they're tools. We recognize that fewer people carry cash or checkbooks, and we want to remove any barriers to giving. Whether you prefer traditional methods or digital convenience, we want to make it easy for you to participate in what God is doing here.

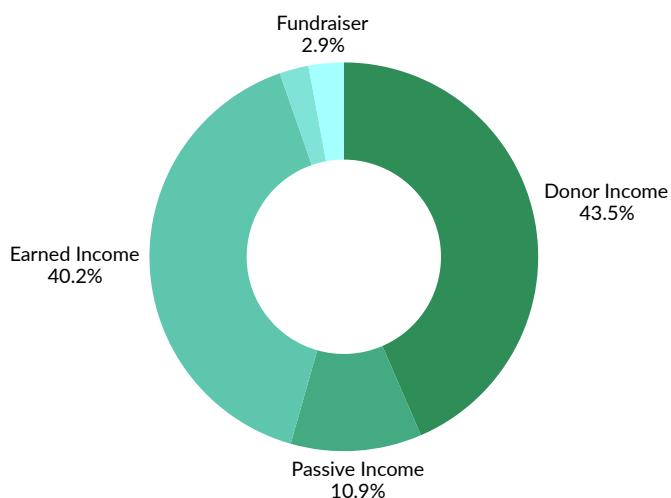
Generosity is a spiritual practice, not just a budget line. By offering flexible giving options, we're honoring the different ways people engage with their finances while inviting everyone into the joy of supporting gospel work.

# Financial Summary

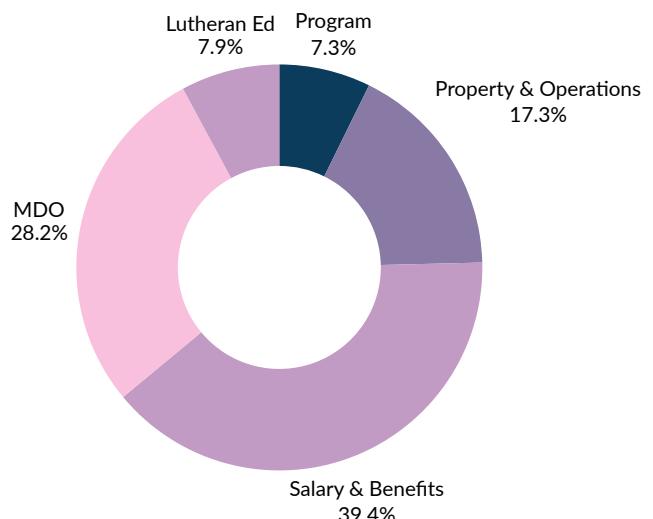
## Assets



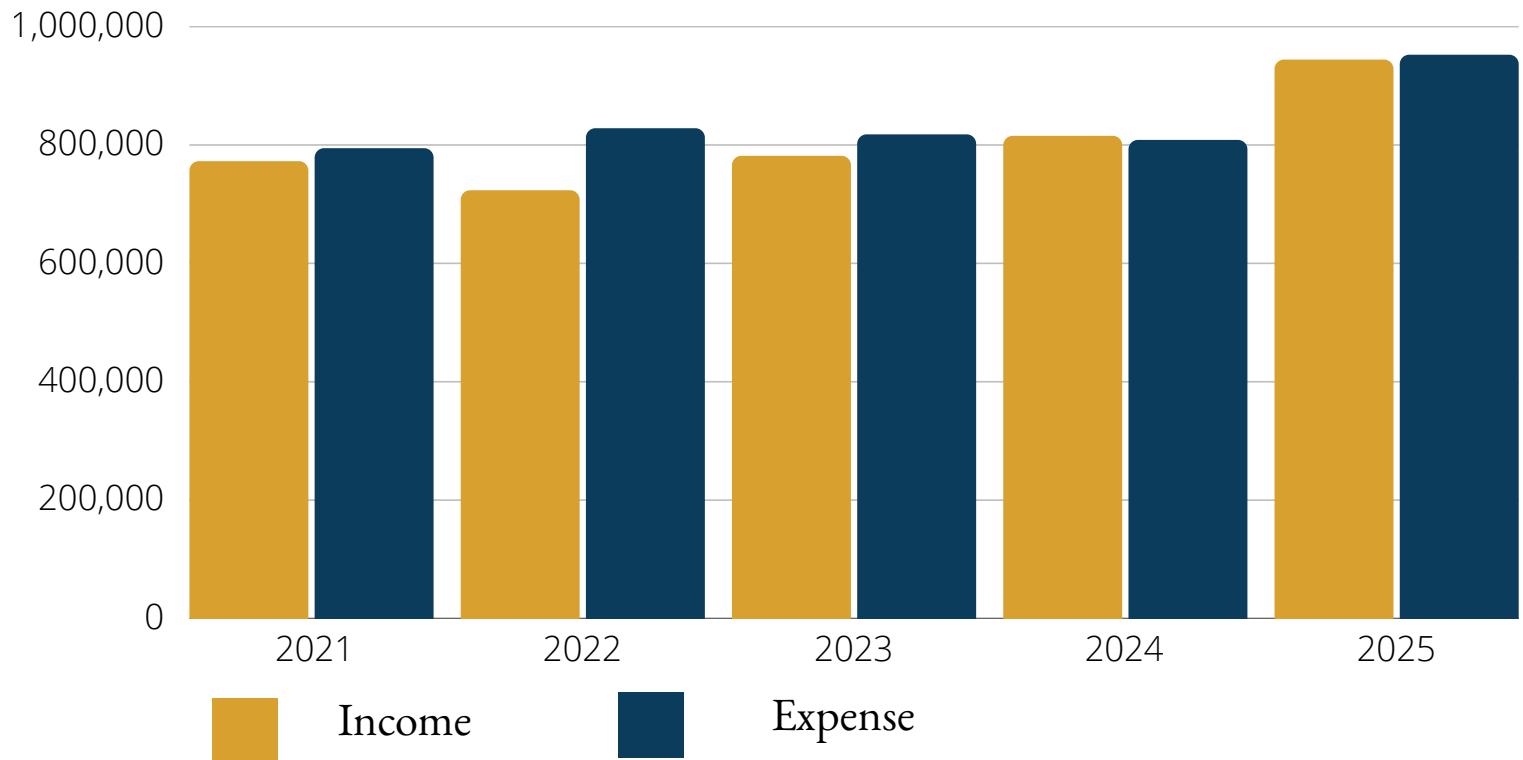
## Income



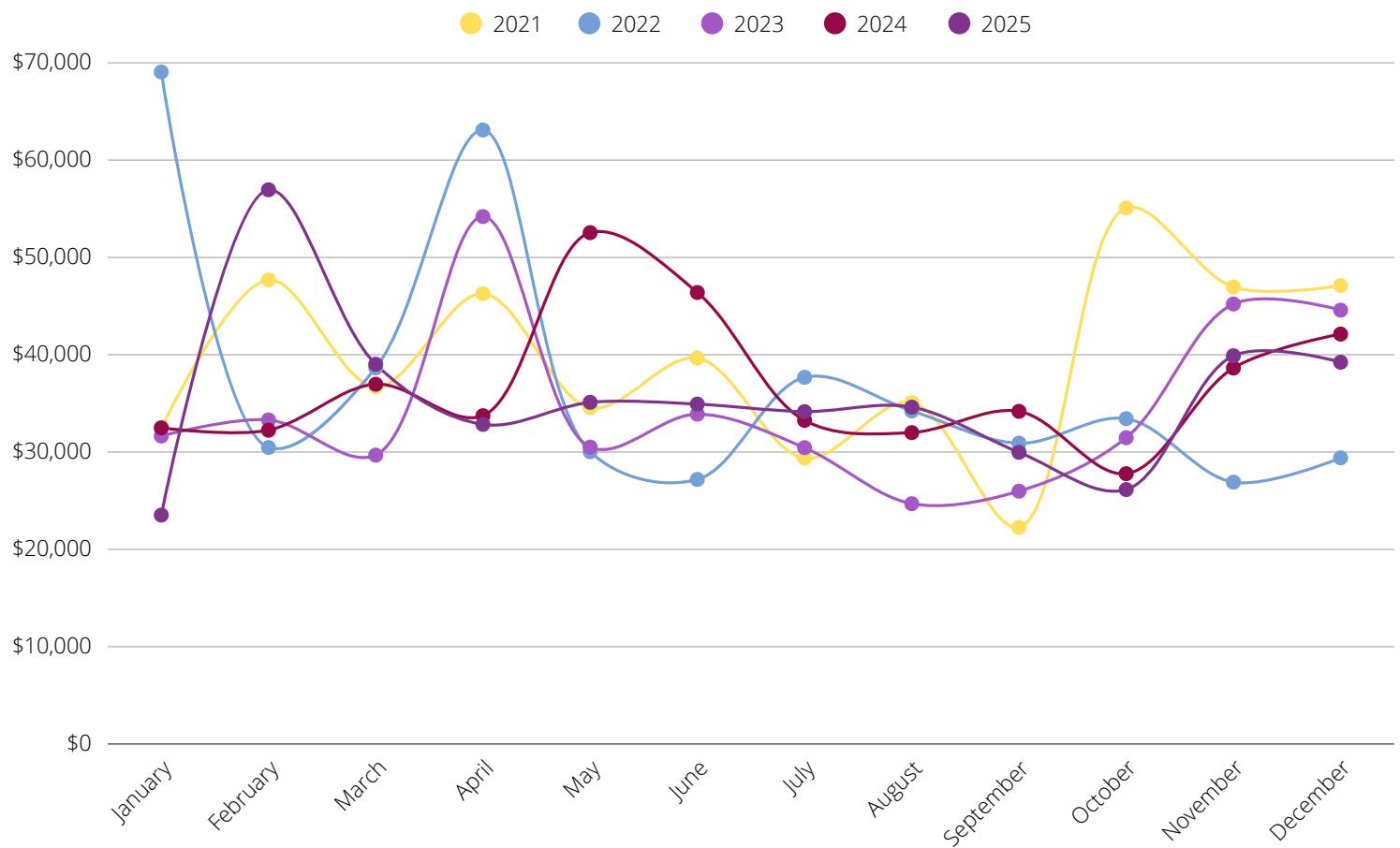
## Expenses



## Income vs. Expense



## Donor Income Comparison



## Average Sunday Attendance

**158**

### Attendance Comparison

