

OUR HISTORY



St. Timothy Lutheran Church
14225 Hargrave Rd
Houston, Tx 77070



Published September 1, 2013
in celebration of our 40th Anniversary

The History of St. Timothy

In 1972, the Texas District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod decided that a new mission should begin in northern Houston, Harris County near FM 1960.



The Rev. Andrew Simcak, Jr. was called by the Texas District to serve as Missionary-at-large in northwest Harris County. He began work on January 16, 1973. Property for the new Church and congregation was purchased by the Texas District on West Montgomery Road (FM 149) and Schroeder Road about one half mile north of FM 1960.

A special service of Groundbreaking took place on Sunday afternoon, February 18, 1973.

The Rev. Andrew Simcak was commissioned as Missionary-at-large on April 8, 1973 by the Rev. Dr. Carl A. Heckmann, President of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. The commissioning service was held at Salem Lutheran Church, Rosehill.

The first Worship Service and Sunday School was held on Mother's Day, May 13, 1973 at the B.F. Adam Elementary School in the Tower Oaks Meadow subdivision. The initial celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion was held on Sunday, June 3, 1973. The small congregation used the large cafeteria for its services. The altar, chairs, candles, tables, banners, etc. had to be set up each Saturday and put away immediately after every Sunday service.

The name of the congregation was chosen by the prospective members of the Church which at that time was called "THE FM 149 LUTHERAN CHURCH." A list of 33 names was submitted and approved by the members of the congregation. After four ballots were taken the name "ST. TIMOTHY" was selected as the name of the new mission in northwest Harris County. (It was the only "St." on the list.)

St. Timothy Lutheran Church was officially organized as a congregation on Sunday, September 16, 1973, which was called Charter Sunday.

Eighteen families representing 81 souls (45 communicant members) became charter members of the Church. It was also on this Sunday, September 16, 1973, that the first Voters' Assembly was held. The first Officers of the Church elected were:

President	Charles Lloyd
Vice-President	Craig Lienweber
Secretary	Ray Dinstel
Treasurer	Woodrow Dinstel
Financial Secretary	Douglas Miller
Sunday School Superintendent	Gerard (Jerry) Schorr
Elders	Woodrow Dinstel James Foerster Alfred Mertink
Board of Education	Craig Lienweber Charles Lloyd
Board of Trustees	James Foerster Robert Hilland Edward Pietsch

The first Church Building (Worship Center) was built at a cost of \$160,000 and was dedicated on Sunday, December 16, 1973. The Rev. Dr. Carl A. Heckmann, President of the Texas District was the guest speaker for the morning Service of Dedication. The Rev. J.A.O. Preuss, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was the guest speaker for the afternoon Service of Praise and Thanksgiving. A reception for all in attendance was held following the dedicatory and thanksgiving services.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church became a member of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on June 21, 1974 at the Texas District Convention held in Dallas, Texas.



The first Sunday Bulletin was printed on Sunday, May 13, 1973, which was Mother's Day. There is a quote in the Bulletin that says "Sunday School, Adult Bible Class and Worship Services will be held at the B.F. Adam Elementary School until the \$160,000 first unit of our Church building on FM 149 and Schroeder Road (next to Southwestern Savings) is completed.

Groundbreaking was conducted on February 18. Construction, which was to take eight months, has been severely hampered by the inclement weather."

In 1978 our Christian School began a ministry for 2, 3, and 4 year olds. Joy Hamrick was the "founder" of this ministry, along with the strong support of its first teachers, Susan Kaiser and Joy Longwell. In the first year, over 60 children were enrolled.



Pastor Terry Ahlemeyer was called after Pastor Simcak accepted a call to serve elsewhere and was installed on Sunday, October 9, 1983. It was during his ministry that the congregation purchased property on Hargrave Road on which the present Sanctuary was built and completed in 1986.



After Pastor Ahlemeyer took a call to Wisconsin, Pastor Steve McClintic was installed as the third pastor of St. Timothy on February 9, 1986. Pastor McClintic served for 12 years and during his time additional facilities were constructed and the Early Childhood Program was expanded. It was also at this time that Pastor Timothy Phillips became the Assistant Pastor for about a year from 1992 - 93.

Pastor J.C. Henning then became the Assistant Pastor and served from 1994 to 2001. Pastor Henning also served as vacancy Pastor in 1997 and 1998 until the call was extended to Pastor Steve Henze. Pastor J.C. Henning was given the distinction of being St. Timothy's Pastor Emeritus in 2006 when the congregation unanimously voted to give him this title.



Pastor Steve Henze has served as St. Timothy's Senior Pastor since 1998. He was installed on November 1, 1998, and during his tenure, the LIFE Group ministry was launched, new contemporary worship services were started, and we focused on outreach and missions, teaching God's Word to all ages, providing creative and Spirit filled worship and music, and focusing on reaching families with children and youth.

In June 2000, the congregation launched a major Capital Building Campaign under the title of "It Only Takes a Spark." God richly blessed the faith of His people and helped us build a spacious Gathering Area, a new Gym/Family Life Center, a large Youth Room, Music Room, Conference Room, Kitchen, and offices and classrooms.



This was followed in 2004/05 with a significant expansion to our Sanctuary and parking areas. Looking to the future needs, in late 2005 the congregation approved the purchase of 3.2 acres of adjoining land bordering Hargrave Road, bringing our total campus size to 12.2 acres.



Also in 2005, the congregation approved a new Constitution and By-Laws for St. Timothy. This allowed St. Timothy to transition from a church council-based leadership framework to one designed around a Board of Directors and a full time church staff directing the ongoing ministry activities and business of the congregation.

The leadership and staff also renewed our commitment to stay in the present location rather than relocate to a more visible location. We believe God has called us to birth new satellites/missions in the Northwest Houston area to reach more people with the Gospel.

In 2006, St. Timothy called Pastor Jonathan Goeke to be Associate Pastor with a focus on initiating an "emerging worship service" designed to reach people between 20-40 years old, and to be a "different type of church that would reach a post-modern world with the Gospel." This service is now called "Connections."



In 2010, the chancel area in the Sanctuary was significantly expanded and modified to make it more functional. A new altar, baptismal font, lectern and communion rails were built, donated, and installed, and the chancel was covered in beautiful granite.

The congregation is now kept informed of activities, needs, and related news through our "ThirstyforJesus.org" website through which our members and guests can access Sunday sermons, the monthly St. Timothy newsletter, and daily email and twitter communications. Current needs are also broadcast through various "prayer chains."

The Vision and Mission statements have always been based on carrying out Jesus' Great Commission. Our statement from 1999-2008 was based on Matthew 5: 14-15: "to joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ as the Light of the World. See the Light! Live the Light! Share the Light! Now!" Our vision as a congregation has always been to be a "fully functioning Biblical community" with God's Word and Sacraments as our foundation. Our Goals:

1. Evangelize the unchurched.
2. Exalt God through Worship and Praise.
3. Edify each member through Bible Study.
4. Experience community through LIFE small groups.
5. Enlist each person in active service.
6. Extend God's love to the whole person.



God blessed us with growth in worship, Bible study, music ministry, small groups, student and children's ministry. He led our people to become more involved in local and overseas missions. We are committed to reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and building disciples who will reach and build more disciples. As God gave us growth in these areas, the vision and values of St. Timothy were updated in 2009 to reflect our growing need as the people of God to be more like Jesus in all aspects of life.

Our Vision: We are a Biblical community that is constantly seeking to be more like Jesus.

Mission and Ministry Values of St. Timothy:

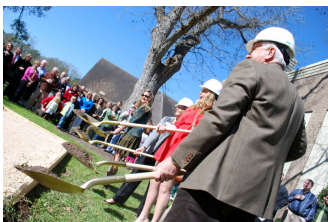
We are empowered by the Spirit to worship, study, pray and grow.

We are missionaries to our world and servants to our community.

We intentionally work to grow disciples of Jesus Christ.

We strive to love unconditionally.

We care about physical and spiritual needs inside and outside the church.



In 2012, the congregation undertook its next major expansion step with the "Expand HIS Kingdom!" campaign. This includes the new 7,800 square foot Bright Beginners building and remodeling of the existing classrooms that we are dedicating today. Later this year the new Adult Education/Music Building will be dedicated with an additional 11,200 square feet.

Over the past ten years a significant and strategic change has also occurred at St. Timothy that is much more important than just the growth of our physical plant, staff and Sunday services. Approximately 40% of our adults and youth are actively serving in a local or overseas mission. Our people volunteered over 30,000 hours last year to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" and are committed to serving 35,000 hours in 2013.



Our passion is to see Christ's Kingdom grow with individuals and families, teens, and children embracing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We pray that our Bright Beginners Pre-School provides outstanding Christ centered care for children and helps us reach these children and their families for Christ by partnering with dynamic Children and Youth Ministries. We want to keep building on Christ, the cornerstone, and impacting the lives of individuals and families in the NW Houston, Champions, Prestonwood, Spring, Cypress, and Tomball areas.



PASTORS WHO SERVED ST. TIMOTHY

Rev. Andrew Simcak	1973-1983	Founding Pastor
Rev. Doug Dommer	1983	Interim Pastor
Rev. Wayne Graumann	1983	Interim Pastor
Rev. Terry Ahlemeyer	1983-1985	Pastor
Rev. Erwin Metz	1985-1986	Interim Pastor
Rev. Steve McClintic	1986-1997	Senior Pastor
Rev. Timothy Phillips	1992-1993	Associate Pastor
Rev. J.C. Henning	1994-2001	Associate Pastor
Rev. R.G. Friedrichs	2002-2008	Visitation Pastor
Rev. Steve Henze	1998-present	Senior Pastor
Rev. Jonathan Goeke	2006-present	Associate Pastor
Rev. J.C. Henning	2006-present	Pastor Emeritus

CHARTER MEMBERS OF ST. TIMOTHY ~ SEPTEMBER 16, 1973

Miss Esther Adam

Mrs. Dorothy Butler
James, Elizabeth

Mrs. Joe Dister
Julie, Laurie

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Epps
Riley, Raymond, Cynthia

Mr. & Mrs. James Foerster
Rhonda, Kevin

Mrs. Irma Jaeger
David

Mr. & Mrs. Craig Leinweber
India, Michael

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Mertink
Russell, Tracy

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mueller
Jeffrey, Cynthia, Janet

Mrs. A.M. Peek

Rev. & Mrs. Andrew Simcak
Timothy, Sharon, Deborah, Christine

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cascarella
Robbie, Tracie, Kenneth

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Pietsch
Charles, David

Mrs. George Birkman
Marguerite

Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow Distel
Edward, Donna, Amy

Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Dornbusch
Keith, Debra

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Fischer
Catherine, David

Mrs. Wanda Foerster
Timothy, David, Phillip

Mr. & Mrs. William Langford
Kimberly, David, Michael

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lloyd
Cheryl

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Miller
Grant, Brett, Trevor

Mrs. Louis Pannagl

Mrs. Thomas Schultz

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Scott
Shannon

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hilland
Jere, Jeffrey

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Stricklin
Todd, Terry, Ty

The following have served St. Timothy Lutheran Church over the years:

MUSIC - CHOIR - ORGANIST - ACCOMPANISTS

Patti Schmidt	Martha Block	Martha Brunkhorst
James Sanborn	Chris Leach	Richard Leslie
Korrine Krolow	Nancy Swisher	Nancy Hartman
Mimi Hodge	Laura Shivok	Judy Cordes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Chris Branscome	Nathan Henze	Leanna Guggenmos
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DIRECTORS - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - YOUTH/CHILDREN/ADULT

Phillip Block	Robert Hutsell	Jaylene Miller
Steven Broeder	Richard Leslie	Rebecca Leslie
Luke Moore	Brad Jurischk	

E.C.E.C./BRIGHT BEGINNERS DIRECTORS

Patricia Harding	Joy Hamrick	Pat Krause
Sandy Renick	Jill Simonson	Karen Kelley
Martha Jander	Rebecca Leslie	
Deanna Washburn	Kim Jurischk	

SECRETARIES - OFFICE

Mary Jean Cleveland	Karen Stewart	Joy Longwell
Sue Kleb	Nancy Swisher	Renea Ferriss
Jean Clarke	Rhonda Henry	Laura Shivok
Laurie Brooks	Melanie Ramos	Rebecca Leslie

STAFF POSITIONS ADDED

Director of Music and Celebration - Richard Leslie
Director of Mission and Ministry - Gloria Ruppel
Director of Operations - JoAnn Broeder
Facilities Trustee - James Johnson
IT and Media Specialist - Aaron Iacopelli
Executive Director - David Marth
Executive Assistant - Laura Shivok
Director of Children's Ministry - Caroline Gray

All the growth these past 40 years is the total work of God's Holy Spirit working in the hearts and lives and service of His people. Obviously staff is only a part of God's work to fulfill the Great Commission. God's Kingdom has been and is being built with the hearts and hands of many willing servants who teach, reach out, share the Gospel, witness their faith, work, serve, give, play instruments, sing, answer phones, do landscaping, serve on altar guild, cook, clean, etc. All have used their God-given gifts to glorify Him and meet whatever needs are presented. We pray for God to empower us with love, joy, and boldness to Expand Christ's Kingdom in and through all of us for years to come - Soli Deo Gloria!

Soli Deo Gloria!
glory
to God
alone

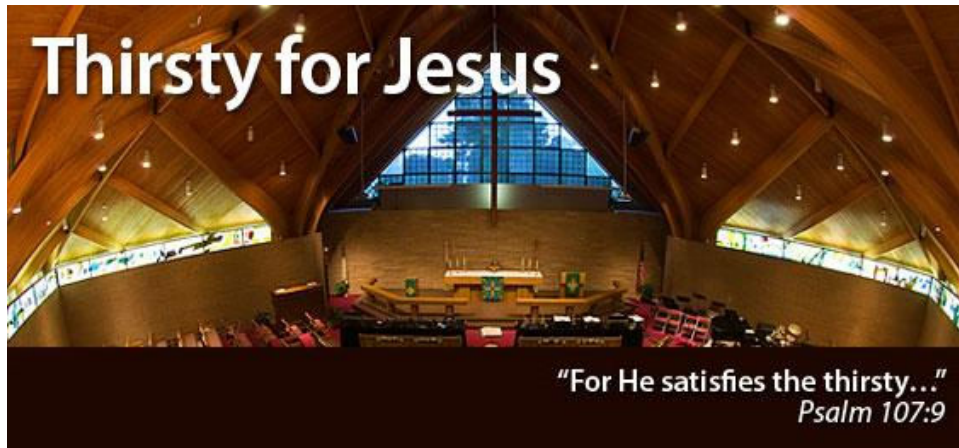
At this 40th Anniversary Year of 2013 we gather to -

Thank the Lord for His bountiful blessings of the past.

Praise the Lord for the blessings of the present.

Pray to the Lord for guidance and direction and His blessings for the future.

Let us always "hold steadfast to the hope that we profess for He who promised is faithful. And let us always consider how we may urge one another on toward love and good deeds." Hebrews 10: 23-25



40th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Larry & Mary Hooker - Co-Chairs
Pastor J.C. & Shirley Henning
Don & Joy Longwell
Caroline Gray
Pat Durham

Tammy Edwards
Helen Daniel
Kim Jurischk
Gloria Ruppel
Laura Shivok

Pastor Steve Henze

CELEBRATION EMCEE

Doug Neal



14225 Hargrave Road
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Office: 281-469-2457 | fax: 281-469-2921

Bright Beginners Preschool and Infant Care:
281-469-2913



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Website: www.ThirstyforJesus.org