

Meet Tim Mars and Family

by Timothy Mars



Hello!

My name is Timothy Mars. I was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana just as my dad was finishing up seminary. His first call was to serve two churches, one in the panhandle of Nebraska in the small town of Kimball, and the other in Burns, Wyoming. I grew up in Kimball until moving to college, after which my family moved to Cody, Wyoming.

I began piano lessons when I was four and started organ lessons around my junior year of high school. I've always loved listening to and playing music, and from a young age, I could tell I wanted to pursue music for my career. Since my dad is a pastor, I grew up going to church and learning biblical doctrine, and so when it came time to finding a degree I wanted to pursue, putting both church and music together was the perfect thing for me. This led me to Concordia University, Nebraska.

Concordia has an excellent church music program, and while I was there, I explored as much music as I could. I was

a member of the A Cappella Choir all five years I was there, and a member of the University Wind Symphony for four years. I played in the Concordia Handbell Choir, took both organ and piano lessons every semester, and towards the end of my college career, I explored composition.

During my sophomore year, I met my wife, Eliya, in the A Capella Choir. We were engaged by my junior year, married in my senior year, and welcomed our first child, Ruth, during my fifth and last year.

I am very excited to be the new Director of Music at Chapel of the Cross, and I am eager to help share the Gospel of Jesus through music to all who come to worship at Chapel. ✠✠✠



Rev. Mark Moldenhauer (Tim's father-in-law)
Timothy Mars
Rev. Kenneth Mars (Tim's father)
Rev. Ted Laesch

A Year of Blessings

A farewell message from our Vicar

Friends, I thank God for the opportunity to serve as your vicar. It's hard to believe how quickly the year has gone by. I've had the privilege of preaching, teaching Bible studies and confirmation, spending time with our youth, visiting our homebound members, serving in the food pantry, helping with the childcare, and taking part in the other various things that have come about.

More than anything else, I've loved getting to know all of you. Thank you for welcoming Katrina and me into your church family from day one. It's been a joy to hear your stories, see how God has been at work in your lives, and watch your love for sharing the hope of Jesus with others. Those moments have been the greatest gift of this year and they're the ones I'll carry with me wherever the Lord leads.

Thank you for making this such a wonderful year. Thank you to the staff and congregation for your prayers, encouragement, and kindness. You've all had a hand in shaping me into the pastor I hope to become and I'll always be grateful of that. Serving alongside you has truly been a blessing, I will always look back on my time here with joy. ✠✠✠



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By Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministries

Are you looking to deepen your faith, ask big questions, and build lasting friendships? We have several incredible opportunities for you to plug into God's Word this year at Chapel of the Cross. Grab your Bible, bring a friend, and join the fellowship!

Sunday Mornings: Coffee, Donuts, and Insights

- **When:** Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.
- **Where:** Room #9
- **The Vibe:** Casual, welcoming, and fueled by caffeine and sugar! Come for the fellowship, stay for the insights, and build deep relationships.

What We Are Learning:

• January – July 2026: Miracles

Since 2026 started, we have been diving deep into the awe-inspiring miracles of Jesus. It has been great to see how God moves in unique ways to reveal His love and power.

• August 2026 – Beyond: Parables in the Life of Jesus

Starting in August, we are shifting gears to look at the Parables. Discover the profound truths hidden inside the everyday stories Jesus shared with His disciples.

New Midweek Adventure: Wednesday Evening Prophecy Study

- **When:** Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. (Starting September 2, 2026)
- **Where:** Room #8
- **The Vibe:** A perfect mid-week spiritual recharge.

What We Are Learning:

• September 2026 – Beyond: Prophecy

Ever wondered how the pieces of Scripture fit together from the Old Testament to the New Testament and beyond? Join us as we dive into biblical prophecy to see God's grand plan for the world and His unshakeable promises for our future.



Continuing Ladies Study: When You've Been Wronged

- **What:** Dr. Erwin Lutzer shares truths to move people from bitterness to forgiveness.
- DVD and Study Guide Session #4 "When You Want to Reconcile", pages 27-32. Read Chapters 4 When Trust Fails pages 64-74, Genesis chapters 32 and 33, and chapter 8: "The High Cost of Reconciliation" in advance
- **When:** First & Third Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. (Re-Starting September 1, 2026)
- **Where:** Room #8
- **The Vibe:** Prepare, Share and Care.

Open Door Policy - Every single study is open to everyone - whether you are a lifelong theologian or opening a Bible for the very first time.

A checklist:

1. Grab a friend or neighbor.
2. Show up - with your Bible or use one here.
3. Make new friends while you are here! ☺☺☺

Understanding the Parables of Jesus

by Rev. Ellory Glenn

The Gospel of Matthew plays a predominant role in the lectionary readings for this summer and fall. The parables of Jesus will be featured in many of the readings this summer. All three synoptic Gospels feature Jesus speaking in parables when he addressed the crowd gathered to hear him preach. Some of his parables were in all three Gospels, such as the wedding guests and the new patch on an old garment. Others, like the “Good Samaritan”, are exclusive to one gospel; in the case of the “Good Samaritan”, Luke. People are also confused about why Jesus spoke in parables. When you’re trying to explain something very complex, it’s often easier for people to understand an allegory that compares something simple to something complex. Also, it should be noted that the titles of the parables were given after Jesus preached them. Jesus did not preach parables randomly; they were always in the context of a topic he was teaching. Again, the “Good Samaritan” was in response to a lawyer who was testing Jesus by asking him, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” The lawyer tried to trip up Jesus by asking, “Who’s my neighbor?” Jesus then told the parable and, at the end, asked the lawyer who, in fact, the injured man’s neighbor was. Now, the problem with applying that parable to our own lives is that it would leave us, in our current culture and society, open to tremendous legal liability if we did exactly what the Samaritan did for the injured man. And if we caused him more injury, criminal liability as well. What we would do as the man’s neighbor is to call for medical aid. Jesus is not giving us instructions on how we should act today but is clearly showing that all people fall under the title of our neighbor. This is also a good example of our doctrinal belief that Scripture interprets Scripture. Here’s a good exercise in reading and understanding the parables. Read Matthew 25 from beginning to end. It starts with the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids. It then goes to The Parable of the Talents. Matthew 5 ends with “The Judgment of the Nations.” This last is also known as the “sheep and the Goats.” What you will notice is that, in context, this flows as a perfect proclamation of how important it is to feed our faith through the gospel, using our talents (if you’ll pardon the pun), and what it will be like when our Lord and Savior comes for us at the end of time.

When you understand Scripture, it not only strengthens your faith, but it aids you in your witness when you are reaching out to your neighbor to share the good news of our Lord and Savior. †††

The Holy Tripod

by Gary Timm

On Trinity Sunday, we were reminded we have a God revealed in three persons: God the Father, the almighty creator, with love and grace for His people; God the Son, Jesus Christ, who embodies the sacrifice that atones for our sins and the Holy Spirit, the author and perfecter of the one true faith which allows us to claim the redemption won by Christ and restores the relationship we had with God in the beginning.

While considering the significance of God in three persons, a thought came to mind. Consider a tripod, or a three-legged table or stool. Any combination of three points can serve as a flat stable surface. If you have ever tried to use a four-legged table on an uneven floor and experienced its wobbly behavior, you will understand my point. A three-legged object is more solid, stable and dependable.

Scripture even hints about the advantage of three in Ecclesiastes 4: “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

I am not smart enough to understand the true reasoning behind the number of persons through which God has revealed himself, but I do find some comfort in the idea that God has revealed himself in a way that characterizes strength, stability and dependability. †††

by Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry

Jeremiah 31:13, "I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow."

This passage is the theme verse for GriefShare, which has been an important ministry at Chapel of the Cross for eleven years. During this time, we have seen what a blessing it has been to the participants, and what a positive impact it can have on those on their journey of grief. It is wonderful to see, how God's living Word can touch and begin to heal people in their darkest hours.

GriefShare is much more than just a support group. It is a 13 week course that uses a DVD and workbook to guide and teach people about grief, and how God works in their lives at this difficult time. It provides people with the opportunity to gain experience, to deal with grief positively, offers hope and comfort, and provides a safe place for people to talk and support each other so they know they are not alone in their journey.



The next cycle of GriefShare will begin **Tuesday, starting August 18th through November 17**, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor. We invite you to come if you are going through the journey or grief, no matter how long it has been. If you have other family members or friends who are dealing with grief, encourage them to come. Please contact me if you would like to take part, or if you want to know more about GriefShare. †††

PRAYER WALK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

For two months we've had a group of 6 - three teams of two each to participate in the Prayer Walk. It's been an interesting experience and I pray that we have touched some lives to know that Chapel of the Cross is a caring church.

We follow a map showing the streets that have been walked and where we'd like to go. On April 4 we knocked on 42 doors and had 13 conversations. May 23 we knocked on 51 doors and had 19 conversations. It's understandable that many homeowners are not comfortable opening their door to strangers, but we leave flyers from our church and appreciate when we can have a brief conversation. In April more of the people were open to prayer.

Consider joining us! This is what we do!!

- Meet at church at 9:30 to pray God's blessings
- Pair up to take a walk on the streets near our church
- Knock on a door and greet with a smile
- Invite to our worship and give information
- Offer to pray for any special needs

By 11, we return to church to share our experiences and close with prayer. Come to share our hope and the good news that Christ is our Savior.

We met on Saturday, July 18, and will meet again on Saturday, August 22 (maybe bring a hat and sunglasses) †††

CROSSROADS SUBMISSIONS:

Contributions for the Fall issue of the CrossRoads are due by Sunday, September 6th. Please submit both a paper copy to the CrossRoads box as well as a digital copy if possible (e.g. PDF, pictures, etc.) emailed to Steve Seibert at news@chapelofthecross.org.

Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord Retreat

by Joe Miano

On April 15 and 16 the Lutheran Older Adult retreat was held at Pere Marquette Lodge, in Grafton, Illinois. This retreat is held every 18 months and was started in 1993, with the next retreat planned for October 27, 2027. Attending from COTC was Marilyn Kreitner, Clara Mueller, Ken & Karin Gerler and Joe Miano. I was informed that around 150 people from 25 different Illinois Lutheran churches and 11 Missouri Lutheran churches combined attended the 2 day event.

The opening day began with registration, name tags, coffee, donuts and getting acquainted with other members. Then came a prayer devotion event with lots of music and hymns, followed by a keynote presentation theme. A buffet lunch was next with a short break time. After lunch came 2 of the workshop session lectures. An excellent chicken dinner was served after the workshop lectures, which included a one-hour evening comedy routine.

The second day started with a great breakfast buffet followed by another opening prayer devotion with more music and singing. Again, 2 more workshop sessions with lectures were presented till noontime. Afterwards came our lunch buffet with a short breaktime to relax and catch our breath.

After lunch break came another Bible study session with the closing devotions and prayers by Dr. Rev. Tom Egger, President of Concordia Seminary. Finally, the closing comments and announcements were made for next year's retreat followed by some great prize drawings and giveaways to finish the retreat event.

All of the 16 lecture workshop events were well-organized and informative. It was difficult to select just 4 of the workshops offered for the entire 2-day retreat. I am currently planning on attending the next retreat, and I invite you to come also with our group from COTC next year.

†††

Did You Know?

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. This brother said, "We have found the Messiah."
A. Peter B. John C. Andrew D. James | 6. He wanted a double portion of Elijah's spirit.
A. Joel B. Gehazi C. Elisha D. Jonah |
| 2. Jacob's most loved wife was whom?
A. Rachel B. Leah C. Abigail D. Rahab | 7. For this man the sun stood still and the moon stayed.
A. Seth B. Abel C. Lot D. Joshua |
| 3. What tribe of Israel followed Rehoboam?
A. Dan B. Gad C. Asher D. Judah | 8. What Old Testament book begins with "In the beginning"?
A. Genesis B. Ezra C. Psalms D. Obadiah |
| 4. Paul belonged to this sect.
A. Pharisee B. Sadducee C. Essene | 9. Unto the Jews Paul became as a Jew, that he might gain whom?
A. Philistines B. Jews C. Syrians D. Christians |
| 5. Out of what did the devil suggest that Jesus make bread?
A. Barley B. Stone C. Dirt D. Wood | 10. Which book of the Bible has the most chapters?
A. Isaiah B. Revelation C. Psalms D. Zechariah |

Answers on page 6

LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

by Teresa Nelson

In a world where self-help is celebrated, why does enlisting the support of an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor make sense? Creating a gift plan within your overall estate plan begins by getting educated about all the components involved in an estate plan, beginning to think through, pray through and plan for what the Lord is guiding you to do. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can provide education so that you understand the process, before getting started. For assistance, contact Teresa Nelson at (319)351-6529 or Teresa.Nelson@lfnd.org. †††

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

CONFIRMATIONS (April 26, 2026):

Kyleigh Michelle Hill

Nyla Kathleen Hill

Nathan Eric Runser

Anna Zoe Zvirgzdins

REINSTATE:

Michael Bradley

DEATH:

Vernice Brelig Jung (April 21, 2026)

Former number of members:	845
Gains:	+5
Losses:	-1
New number of members:	849



Teresa Nelson

YOUR LIFETIME PLAN FOR GIVING

Have you left a lasting legacy of your faith?

Have you blessed your family in the best way?

Have you remembered your favorite ministries?

As you can answer "yes" to each of these questions, I know you will experience the peace and joy of knowing God has blessed you to be a blessing.

To find out more, contact:

Teresa Nelson—LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor

1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295

319-351-6529

Teresa.Nelson@lfnd.org



Answers

1. C., Andrew, John 1:40-41
2. A., Rachel, Genesis 29:30
3. D., Judah, I Kings 12:20
4. A., Pharisee, Acts 23:6
5. B., Stone, Luke 4:3
6. C., Elisha, II Kings 2:9
7. D., Joshua, Joshua 10:13
8. A., Genesis, Genesis 1:1
9. B., Jews, I Cor. 9:20
10. C., Psalms



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SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
		1 GriefShare 2:00 p.m.	2 Bible Class 6:30 p.m.	3 Choral Singers 7 p.m.	4 Men's Fellowship Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lunch 11:00 a.m.	5 Worship Service 5:00 p.m.																																																																																											
6 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	7 Labor Day Office closed	8 GriefShare 2:00 p.m.	9 Bible Class 6:30 p.m.	10 Choral Singers 7 p.m.	11	12 Womens Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 5:00 p.m.																																																																																											
13 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	14 Mary-Martha Guild 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m.	15 GriefShare 2:00 p.m.	16 Bible Class 6:30 p.m.	17 Choral Singers 7 p.m.	18	19 Flower Valley Quilt Show Worship Service 5:00 p.m.																																																																																											
20 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	21	22 GriefShare 2:00 p.m.	23 Autumnal eq. (GMT) Bible Class 6:30 p.m.	24 Choral Singers 7 p.m.	25	26 Worship Service 5:00 p.m.																																																																																											
27 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	28 Board of Directors 7:00 p.m.	29 GriefShare 2:00 p.m.	30 Bible Class 6:30 p.m.																																																																																														
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Weekend Worship Services

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Education Hour

(Sunday School, Youth, & Adult Classes)

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.

Holy Communion

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month: 8:30 a.m.

2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday of the month: 11:00 a.m.

1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday of the month: 5:00 p.m.

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran
exists to show the love of Jesus to
the people of North County and
beyond so that all may have a
living relationship with Christ.*

