

# 3timbers CHURCH

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2019

*Connecting  
people to the  
transforming and  
redeeming love of  
Jesus Christ  
through*

*PASSION,  
POWER, and  
PRESENCE*

**WORSHIP WITH  
US!**

**Sunday 10 a.m.**

**PINE CREEK  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL GYM**

**7801 North HWS  
Cleveland  
Boulevard in  
Bennington, NE**



## *Welcome to Your Newsletter!*

*Welcome to the first issue of the Three Timbers Church Newsletter! Our hope and goal with this publication is to help inform and educate our entire church family. Along with what is coming up within the life of the church, we hope to shine a light on people within the church and most importantly, God's faithfulness to His church. We want to encourage you to share this with others so they can learn about what God is doing through the Three Timbers family.*



### *Staff*

*Left to Right:*

Rick Blunk, Business Manager

[rick@threetimbers.org](mailto:rick@threetimbers.org)

Joe Slabaugh, Youth Director

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Sarah Snow, Worship Leader

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## Meet the Session (“Session” aka “Elders”)

The first duty of the Ruling Elder is to “represent the mind of Christ” according to the Word of God (1 Cor 2:16).

### TEACHING ELDER:



Rev. Dr. Jeff Ryan

### RULING ELDERS:



Jeff Dempsey



Linda Vogel



Casey Lindsey



Cindy Wrenn

Ruling Elders are responsible for the oversight of the church (Acts 20:28). They are to watch over the spiritual welfare of the congregation (1 Pt 5:2). Ruling Elders should study and grow in the Word and become equipped to teach the Word (2 Tim 3:16). They provide pastoral care by visiting the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, the aged, and the shut-in. Elders, as they live in the very atmosphere of prayer, are to see to the spiritual development of the congregation (2 Cor. 1:10, 11). They also connect with the people of the church in the chamber of the sick and the dying; in conversing with the anxious inquirer, and the perplexed or struggling believer.

In the Old Testament, the office of Elder was established for the oversight of the Church. In the New Testament, this office is continued. Those who fill this office today for governing the Church are called Ruling Elders. Chosen by the people of a particular congregation, these Ruling Elders are to watch over the spiritual welfare of that congregation. When appointed to participate in Presbytery or General Assembly, they shall watch over the spiritual welfare and participate diligently in the workings of that portion of the Church to which they are commissioned, recognizing that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a connectional church. The Ruling Elder shares authority with the Teaching Elder (Pastor Jeff) in all of the courts of the church, in both rights and duties. As a representative of the people, it is the first duty of the Ruling Elder to represent the mind of Christ, as that person understands it, in the various courts of the Church.

## FINANCIAL CORNER

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

### ***A scriptural thought from Pastor Rick Warren as we reflect that 3tc has been learning what it is to be "All In"...***

“Here’s the key question: How badly do you want God’s blessing in your life? Will you trust him with everything and choose to follow his commands, no matter what?”

If you live God’s way and if you give God’s way, you can expect him to multiply your seed of generosity: *“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness”* (2 Corinthians 9:10 NIV).

You need to expect God to multiply your seed. Giving is not a debt you owe. It’s a seed you sow. And when you let go of what God has already placed in your hand (because he put it there in the first place), God will replace it with much more.

Five times in Scripture, Jesus commands us not to store up wealth on earth but to store it up in heaven. How do you do that? By giving and planting the seeds of generosity.

When you do that, God will use your giving to reap generosity in others. They will see that you trust God in all things, and they will be blessed. That blessing will reap a harvest that God can multiply for his kingdom in ways you could never imagine.”

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Year to date as of 9/30/2019:

Revenue	226,371
Expenses	224,078
Net	2,293

**Fun Fact Question:** How much do you think the rent is for the office downtown?

**Answer:** \$850/month (This cost is before utilities and insurance)





## Upcoming Events

Join in the fellowship and outreach opportunities at three timbers church!  
Check out these offerings; meet new people, and have some fun!



### 2nd annual "Trunk or Treat"

Cars decorated with fun themes and free candy. Enjoy free hot dogs and snacks!

Everyone is welcome! Invite your neighbors, friends & family!



## Soul Sisters

### OCTOBER BOOK CLUB

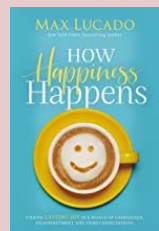
Tuesday, October 29th, 6:30 p.m.

**"How Happiness Works" by Max Lucado**

Location: Rochelle Samuelson's 11617 N 188th Circle, Bennington

**Please join us & bring a friend!**

RSVP to Rochelle at: [samrosamuelson@gmail.com](mailto:samrosamuelson@gmail.com)



**COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES** - Soul Sisters will again love on our college students and let them know they are being thought of and prayed for by their church family. PARENTS, submit your college student's address ASAP so they will be included. Submit info to: [soulsisters@threetimbers.org](mailto:soulsisters@threetimbers.org)



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ 5 P.M.





## SERVE!

Three Timbers intends to serve our community as Christ served the world; sacrificially and out of love. Serving others is a vital part of our faith; equipping people to not only be disciples, but disciple makers. Service to others develops our own personal mission field, and involves the whole family.

Find your place - try something new...

Find your **Passion**, **Power** and **Presence** at 3tc

*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*

**Children's Ministry** - Sunday and/or Wednesday - Consider helping teach at our nursery, preschool, or K-5 kids. All lessons are provided and ready for you to use. Contact Garrett at [garrett@threetimbers.org](mailto:garrett@threetimbers.org) to learn about current needs and for more information.

**Go to** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0549A5A62DA1FB6-kids> **to choose when you would like to serve.**

**Youth Ministry** - have a heart for middle/high schoolers? Contact [joe@threetimbers.org](mailto:joe@threetimbers.org) to volunteer as much or as little as you wish!

**Worship Team** - Join in as a vocalist and/or instrumentalist as we lift our voices in praise. Contact [Sarah@threetimbers.org](mailto:Sarah@threetimbers.org)

**Setup/Teardown Crew** - Serve once a month and join the camaraderie and sense of purpose in transforming Pine Creek Elementary into a worship space and then returning it to its former state afterwards. Contact Boris at [liffring@gmail.com](mailto:liffring@gmail.com)

**3tc Creative/Media Team** - Join the team that supports projection and sounds needs during the service - training available!

**Hospitality Team** - Provide that touch of "welcome" to our members and guests by assisting with the setup/cleanup of the hospitality tables. Work with a partner once a month or sign up as a "sub" and serve as needed! Contact [gingerblunk@gmail.com](mailto:gingerblunk@gmail.com) for more information.

**Prayer Chain** - Become one of the prayer warriors of three timbers church by adding your email address to the distribution list. Contact [prayers@threetimbers.org](mailto:prayers@threetimbers.org) and provide your information.

**Ushers** - Be the welcoming face that greets attendees and directs visitors to our worship spaces.

*Not that we are sufficient of ourselves, to account anything as from ourselves;  
but our sufficiency is from God... 2 Corinthians 3:5 (ASV)*



### DID YOU KNOW???

**amazon smile** You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

**Support three timbers church by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)**

**We'll keep you informed on the total amount received!**

## OUR MISSION PARTNERS



Investing in the neighbors and neighborhoods of North Omaha

Visit [www.threetimbers.org/serving](http://www.threetimbers.org/serving) for details on how 3tc supports these Mission Partners.



## Inside Inspiration...

Seeing the Godwinks in our lives. Godwink: "An occurrence so odd and out of the ordinary, it had to be put in place by God. A wink from God letting you know you're in the right direction."

Some call it a "Godwink" - where you get 'that feeling' and instinctively know it is the Holy Spirit touching your life...

"**Inside Inspiration**" is one place to share your Godwink experience. **THERE ARE NO SMALL STORIES!!** Share the amusing, touching, exciting, life-changing ways God has touched your daily life... [Share at newsletter@threetimbers.org](mailto:newsletter@threetimbers.org)

### *God Has a Sense of Humor!* by Pam Mitchell

A few months ago I had agreed to teach Sunday School, those sweet little preschoolers who love Jesus so much!



One of the activities required a single-serving carton of milk. Now, you don't see those around so much anymore, but I figured I'd try my luck at Target. I made a short shopping list and headed out, and like I often do, left that list on the counter! By the time I got to Target, I realized what I had done.

My list had been short, so I decided to rely on a mental list instead - not necessarily a wise decision. I hopped out of the car with the nagging feeling that I was missing an item, but I absolutely could not remember what it was!

As I crossed the parking lot and neared the store, a young man came out of the Exit door just five feet away from me. He was carrying a Target bag in his left hand and - could it be? - it was! In his right hand was the item I had left off my mental list. You guessed it... a single-serving carton of milk! Nothing else, just that lone carton of milk in his right hand. Without it, I would not have been able to do the activity for Sunday School.

I shook my head and started laughing. I looked right up to the heavens and said, "God, you really have a good sense of humor!"



*The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. - Psalm 121:8*

How is God speaking to you today? See it... value it... share it...

Enter "Godwinks" in the subject line at [newsletter@threetimbers.org](mailto:newsletter@threetimbers.org)

♥  
... And then  
God Slepped in.





## CONNECT! ~ Children's Ministry

We believe that children should be taught about God from the Bible beginning at a very early age.

We believe that when the Gospel is taught clearly, that children are able to trust in Jesus Christ as their own personal Lord and Savior and are able to live in relationship with God, growing to know Him more each day.

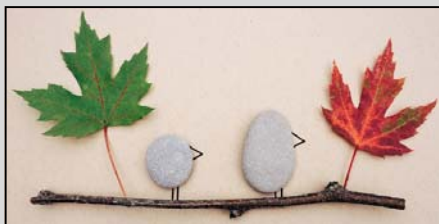
## Treehouse Kids

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." – Mark 10:14*

Jesus values children. At Three Timbers Church, we believe it's vital to teach children about the love of Jesus Christ. Our Children's Ministry is designed to do just that.

Our children begin the service with their families for worship through song. Then the children in kindergarten through fifth grade go to their own "Children's Worship Service" where they worship God through active songs, give in an offering, learn from Bible lessons for kids and enjoy reinforcement activities and fun games to build friendships. Our preschool children go to their own Sunday school class where they learn from the Bible as well as through games and songs that help them understand their Bible lesson. Our nursery is open throughout the service, where even our little ones learn from the Bible and are sung to and prayed for.

We believe in partnering with parents to train children in the way they should go while they are young so that when they are old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). Our goal is to partner with parents by providing a worship service for the children so that our kids know how to apply the Bible lesson that they learned and that church is for them, that God loves them and wants a relationship with them, and that church is super fun! **For more information on Treehouse Kids, contact [Garrett@threetimbers.org](mailto:Garrett@threetimbers.org)**



## BRANCHES ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

**Treehouse Kids (grades K-5):** Meet at the church office (downtown Bennington) from 6:15-7:30 p.m.

**Middle schoolers:** Meet at Ignition Church (down the street from 3tc office) from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Adults:** Join **Brews and Q's at the Stumble Inn Bar** (1 block from the church office) for a time of study and discussion from 6:30-7:30 p.m.





## CONNECT! ~ Pursuit Student Ministries

Let's face it, growing up is not easy. Family, school, friends, and even our own bodies can turn our world upside down on any given day in the life of a teen. Pursuit Student Ministries exists to help young people navigate these wonderfully chaotic years.

Our motto is simple, "Pursue God, Pursue Others."

In any Pursuit gathering you can expect to feel welcomed and loved. There are two unique ministries in Pursuit...



**Pursuit Middle** is a weekly youth meeting geared toward middle school students. These meetings last for 1 1/2 hours and focus on building friendships, having fun together, and growing closer to God. You can expect to play some games, talk about life, and learn from God's Word at every Pursuit Middle meeting.

Additionally, we offer several events outside of Wednesday nights for our middle school students. We pack the school year full of parties at bowling alleys, trampoline parks, and other fun venues. Plus, every summer we take a middle school trip to The Great Escape, a summer camp in Green Lake, Wisconsin.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~



**Pursuit High** is our weekly meeting for high school students. These meetings last 1 1/2 hours and focus on relationship building, having fun together, growing closer to God, and learning to reach other people for God. You can expect to play a game or two, make some friends, learn from God's Word, and share life with others at every Pursuit High meeting.

We love to do life together, and it's very common for our high school group to hang out together several times a month. If you're looking for a group that pursues God and pursues one another, we hope Pursuit will be perfect for you! Pursuit High also offers several events throughout the year. In addition to having a lot of fun together, we offer an annual mission trip in the summer.



For more information on any Pursuit Student Ministries, contact [Joe@threetimbers.org](mailto:Joe@threetimbers.org)



## CONNECT! ~ Adult Ministries

It's been said, "life is all about relationship!" Though most of us might agree with that statement, it seems many of us struggle to find genuine relationships. Life can get lonely at times; however, living in isolation is not what God intended. None of us are supposed to do life alone.

*"Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other daily..." (Hebrews 10:25 CEB)*

### Life Groups

*"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another..." - Hebrews 10:24-25*



These groups usually meet about twice a month to catch up on each other's lives, have some fun, and learn about God's Word.

Each Life Group is led by a member of our church who typically hosts group meetings at their home. We deeply believe in Life Groups at Three Timbers Church because we know people want to belong at church. These groups are designed to help people belong on a deeper level than Sunday mornings can provide. Life Groups are a vital part of Three Timbers because we passionately want to be present in each others' lives. We believe doing life together is a wonderful way to encourage one another, and to keep each other motivated in the journeys that God has called us to. **Interested in learning more about Life Groups? Contact Pastor Jeff at [jeff@threetimbers.org](mailto:jeff@threetimbers.org)**

### Soul Sisters

*"Praying daily for your sister will strengthen you, and the rewards can be immeasurable."*  
- Proverbs 15:23

If you are a woman and you walk through the doors of Three Timbers you are a Soul Sister!

Our mission statement is to support, encourage, pray for and help women in our church and in the community to define and deepen their relationship with Christ. Join us for the monthly book club and special events throughout the year.

Please contact [soulsisters@threetimbers.org](mailto:soulsisters@threetimbers.org) for more information!

### Band of Brothers

*"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." - Proverbs 17:17*  
*"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." - Proverbs 27:17*

Men need other men in their life for encouragement, support and friendship. Our Band of Brothers is focused on providing all of those things through studying God's Word, serving together, and spending time together in fellowship.

When Jesus sent out the disciples, He sent them out in pairs. Men were meant to walk through life with other men. *"Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble."* (1 John 2:10) When men are together, building each other up, they grow in wisdom, strengthen their marriages, and become better fathers.

The goal of the Band of Brothers is to help men fulfill God's calling in their lives and live a life of Godly integrity.

Please contact [bandofbrothers@threetimbers.org](mailto:bandofbrothers@threetimbers.org) for more information!

Follow three timbers church:

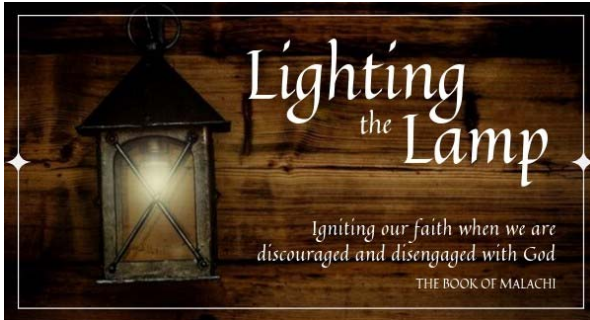






## Growing & Sharing...

Opportunities to enrich your worship and participation experience...



**“Lighting the Lamp”** is our upcoming sermon series for October 20th through November 24th.

Join us as we study the book of Malachi and focus on the theme, *Igniting our faith when we are discouraged and disengaged with God.*



When was the last time you reached out to someone to let them know they were loved, appreciated, or simply on your mind? Our **Dove Notes Ministry** gives each and every one of us the opportunity to be radically relational, and it's so easy! [Here's how:](#)

- ◆ Help yourself to a card and/or note of encouragement from our Dove Notes display in the back of the gym. Then...
- ◆ Reach out! From our prayer and praise time.
- ◆ Reach out! Words of encouragement.
- ◆ Reach out! To show appreciation.
- ◆ Reach out! To say *I'm just happy to know you.*

[A small gesture can make a big difference to someone! Send a Dove Note!](#)

*“Dear friends, let us love one another, for the love comes from God.” - 1 John 4:7*

## Stay Connected...

Have you moved this year?

Do you have a new phone number?

Have you opened a new email account?



[Let us know!! rick@threetimbers.org](mailto:rick@threetimbers.org)



## Spotlight on our Young...

*"But Jesus called them to him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'" - Mark 10:14*







## Getting to Know Each Other...

*"But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise." - Psalm 79:13*

Thank you, Lori Liffing, for sharing.

How has your faith and/or three timbers church impacted your life?

"Growing up in the church and attending a Baptist university gave me the basic foundations for my faith. However, looking back, the strength of my faith has really matured over the past ten years and especially with the planting of three timbers church.



I went from going to church on Sundays and believing in God, to having a relationship with Jesus every day and trusting God's plan for my life even when it didn't make sense or didn't seem fair.

I went from trying to be in control of my life and independent, to turning to God and surrendering to him. I went from trying to make what I wanted to do fit in God's plan, to asking what God's plan is and then trying to figure out what he wants me to do.

This trust in God has been freeing and energizing. When I struggle, I can turn it over to God to deal with; it's not up to me to solve.

When we first talked about planting a church, that was a big and daunting undertaking and not one I was sure I wanted to do. But I remember Jeff saying something about being a part of something so big it would surely fail without God and won't it be amazing to see what God does.

I'm glad we went all in. Time and again God comes through and shows me how big He is. My faith brings peace and happiness to my life and reminds me that God is good, all the time."

Each issue of the 3tc newsletter will feature people or families for us to "Get to Know." Would you be a part? We have suggestions/ideas of areas you might wish to share - or go your own way! Let's get to know one another! If interested, please use the Subject line "Get to Know" at [newsletter@threetimbers.org](mailto:newsletter@threetimbers.org)



three timbers church  
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Bennington NE 68007