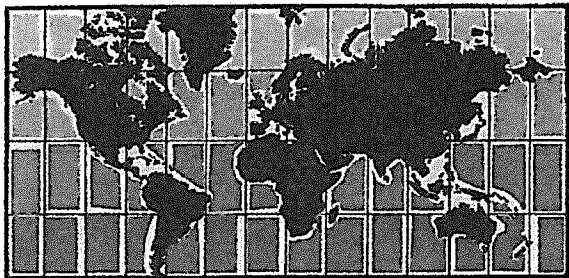


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

February 2019



GROWING MISSIONALLY

There's a "buzz word" that's been gaining popularity in some segments of the Church — "missional." It first appeared on my horizon when I went to the ChristCare training in St. Louis. One of the "pillars" of the ChristCare program is "missional service."

Since then, I keep running into this word "missional." An entire Winter issue of Leadership magazine was devoted to "Going Missional," with article after article devoted to what it means for a congregation to become "missional." It is as if the entire evangelical arm of the church woke up one morning and discovered that the Church indeed has a mission to which we ought to give attention.

The word "missional" is new (indeed, I have repeatedly now placed it within quotation marks because my computer's spell-check keeps informing me that this is not a word). The concept, however, is anything but new. In our Lutheran circles, we grew accustomed to using the term "mission-minded." That phrase suggested a congregation, its budget, and its work plan that had an eye on supporting what we have classically referred to as a "mission work" — and that has usually meant sending workers to foreign lands to bring the Gospel to people who had never been exposed to the Gospel.

"Missional" is now used to describe something more all-encompassing. It does not refer solely to foreign or overseas mission work, and to sending others to do that work, but to shaping within a congregation a vision for how Christ can use all His people in any locale to bring those who do not know Christ into His presence and be touched by His love. Being "missional" means being attuned to the needs and opportunities for service and witness that exist wherever God's people may be. There's another term that has come alongside "missional" — "glocal." It tells us that our vision can never be limited to a single locale, but must be open to seeing opportunities both near and far.

I believe that St. Thomas can be a "missional" (and henceforth I will drop the quotation marks) congregation. Our support for many ministries of caring would be testimony to that designation: our help to Redeemer Crisis Center (itself a missional ministry), support for and involvement with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM), support to and involvement with Akron Pregnancy Services (see more in the pages that follow) — all of these point to a congregation that has a missional bent.

We need also to become a glocal congregation. We need to encourage with one another a broader scope of vision of how our congregation can shape the world. John Wesley declared that "the whole world is my parish." It is a sentiment we could well adopt. Our church body publishes a "Pray for Us" calendar each month with a daily accent on prayers for missions around the world. Go to LCMS.org to download a copy and add these concerns to your daily prayers.

Growing missionally is a key. Being satisfied is hardly ever a missional attitude; being discontented with the *status quo* is a more positive sign of missional thinking — because usually the *status quo* means that someone's needs are going unmet. We need to rethink how we can look beyond “our community” — or better, to define “our community” as the global community. We must strive to continue to grow as a missional church with a glocal vision.

Please join me in prayer for God's guidance and strength to do this.

Our Worship This Month

February 3 — Epiphany IV

Sermon: “*Love Also Has to be Tough*”

Texts: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 17:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

“Tough Love” is a modern slogan — the oldest evidence tells us that to love requires that we be tough.

February 10 — Epiphany V

Sermon: “*In the Presence*”

Texts: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Isaiah in the Temple; Paul on the Damascus Road; the Twelve with Jesus — all filled with awe. What happens when you encounter God?

February 17 — Epiphany VI

Sermon: “*Blessings and Curses*”

Texts: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Luke's record of the Beatitudes reflects the Old Testament's message of blessings and curses. What does this mean for us?

February 24 — Epiphany VII

Sermon: “*It Is Not about Performance*”

Texts: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

Jesus instructs His disciples about their behaviors; but we need to be cautious that we do not turn that into performance.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6. Because Abundant Life Church has an ongoing program on Wednesdays, we will observe Ash Wednesday on March 7, with Midweek Lenten Services and Soup Suppers each Thursday thereafter. On “Ash Thursday,” Pastor Just will begin a sermon series on The Sermon on the Mount, which will continue on Sundays and into Holy Week and Easter. The remaining midweek services will be focused on the Old Testament Book of Exodus.

READERS & USHERS

We would love to have all of our members participate in our worship services so please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for readers and ushers for the worship services. February is stilling showing some empty spaces. There is also a sheet for March. Thank you for volunteering!

READERS

Feb. 3, Guy Jeanblanc
Feb. 10 Pat Kepicky
Feb. 17-
Jan. 24-

USHERS

Steve Manijak

TREASURER FOUND

Thank you to Steve Hlava who has volunteered to be our church treasurer. If anyone has knowledge in bookkeeping and taxes that can give him some pointers he would love the input.

JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

At our January meeting we elected our new officers. They are Steve Hlava-President and Treasurer, Jim Doerfler-Vice President, Joyce Torres-Secretary, Deb Wolff-Financial Secretary. Other members of council are Diane Lee, Del Groff, and Marla Manijak.

Also discussed was starting up a Website which Del Groff and Steve Manijak are getting together for us. The cost to start up this website is \$700. Council approved \$1000.00 to get the website on line as soon as possible. Pastor Just and Kristine has graciously donated \$700 and Steve & Marla Manijak will donate the \$300 to offset these fees. Thank you to both of these families. Stay tuned for more information on the website.

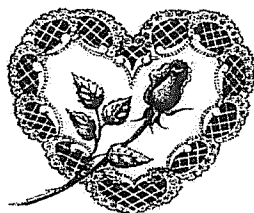
THANK YOU

On the bulletin board you will see a thank you note from Streetsboro Methodist Church for the donation of 2 tables and chairs from the nursery. We were very happy to see these tables and chairs put to good use.

1 + 1 + 1 giving

We, along with other English District congregations, are raising money to help our missionaries spread the good news of Jesus. 1+1+1 means \$1 per member each Sunday. There is a plastic box in the narthex under the bulletins for you to place your \$1 each Sunday. We emptied the box at the end of December and are ready to fill it again! Thank you for your donations!

Also being collected are bottle caps for the Campfire Girls and can tabs for Thrivent. If you have any cancelled stamps we are collecting them also for a group in Kent.



Remember that God loves you always!
Happy Valentine Day!

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

If you would like to stock up on more lights for your Christmas tree or other decorations there is a box in the Narthex filled with them that were used on the church's trees that are not needed anymore. If you would like them but can't get to the church to pick them up, please call Marla at 330-626-5120.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Joanna Nicely for having a perfect 4.0 GPA for the 1st nine weeks at Ravenna High School. Joanna also attends Kent State.

To Abigail Ayers for being on the Merit roll for the 1st nine weeks at Nordonia High School. Abigail has also been accepted at 6 different colleges. Please pray for wisdom in her decision making.

To Samantha Weber for being on the Merit roll for the 12th nine weeks at Brown Middle School.

To Jacob Zimmerman for having a 4.0 GPA the 1st nine weeks at Streetsboro High School.

To Thomas Ayers for being on the Merit Roll for the 1st nine weeks at Nordonia High School.

To Corey Hautmann for being on the High Honor Roll for the 1st nine weeks at Streetsboro High School.

To Jenna Zimmerman for being on the Merit Roll for the 1st nine weeks at Streetsboro High School.

To Troy Roman for being on the Merit Roll for the 1st nine weeks at Streetsboro High School.

And to Elizabeth Ayers, Madelyn Ayers, Nicole Johnson and Gabe Johnson for doing great work at their schools. Their schools don't publish the results but we know they are great students!

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! WE ARE ALL PROUD OF YOU!!

Our January-March Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door.

Council will be meeting in February on the 10th at 12:30 in the fellowship hall. All members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. New ideas are always appreciated.

Love to sing! Let's start the choir back up. Anyone interested in singing in the choir, please see Marla Manijak or call her at 330-472-3045 (cell) or 330-626-5120 (home). If I don't answer, please leave a message. I drive a school bus and can't always answer my phone. Hope to hear from you soon!

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Just at 216-789-6688 or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions. Pastor Just is in the office on Thursdays from 8:00-4:00.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers	Madeline Ayers	Trudy Ayers	Deb Earle
Edna Earle	Cory Hautmann	Linda Hautmann	Pastor Just
Lorene Kozar	Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely III	Kenny Nicely IV
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Amy Rohaley	Ron Stenglein
Agnes Whinnie	Rory Wolff	Barb Alcorn	Michael Birchfield
Michael Brooks	Warren Burgess	Leona Corban	Scott Corban
Tom Corban	Christine Combs	Billy Earle	Martin Goss
Hanna & Zane	Steve Kolar	Brad Kozar	Peggy Kraker
Suzanne Latham	Mike Lynch	Frank Manijak	Finnley Mercer
Pastor Naumann	Sammy & Denise	Arthur Robinson	Mildred Slanina
Dylynn Szcaks	Tara Vargo		

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley and Stephen Nicely
Our College Graduate—Haley Rohaley

If there is anyone you would like to add or delete from this list, please let Marla Manijak know. You can reach her at 330-626-5120 or fill out one of the cards in the pew and put in offering plate.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Prayers for **Edna Earle** who is recovering from her heart attack and has been diagnosed with throat cancer. Her address is 9769 S.R. 43, Streetsboro, 44241

Continued prayers for Madelyn Ayers who is still recovering from her leg surgeries. She is doing great!

Continued prayers for our cancer survivors **Lorene Kozar and Amy Rohaley**. To send thinking of you cards the addresses are for Lorene, 681 Sweetnut Ct., Streetsboro, 44241 and for Amy, 2187 Summers Ave., Streetsboro, 44241.

Continued prayers for those who have moved. **Marcy Harrison** is doing great after a fall she took! Her address is 11500 Huffman Rd, #313, Parma, OH 44130. Our dear sweet Agnes Whinnies address is 219 Locust Ave., Fairmont, WV 26554.

Continued prayers for our shut-ins:

Mr. Steve Gerhard
The Gardens of Western Reserve
9975 Greentree Parkway
Streetsboro, OH 44241-4328

Mrs. Audrey Holland
4552 Aspen Lake Road
Apartment 102
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582

Mrs. Eunice Haschak
Avenue at Macedonia
9730 Valley View Road
Macedonia, Ohio 44056

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

10-Tina Hagen
16-Kristine Just
27-Ken Nicely II



FEBRUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Bob Earle
23-Marla Manijak

Dear Beloved Congregants and Pastors!



If you have not yet heard, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, passed a bill last Tuesday, which in some situations, allows abortion until birth. This was his first priority for the new session coming into office. And it is done. It is also his hope and message that this will be the precedent that our whole nation should follow. It is the way of "progressive values" as he refers to it.

If this breaks your heart as it does ours, we encourage you to use that energy and passion to be all the more involved with us and what we are doing here at "Akron Pregnancy Services."

We believe the answer to this evil is love. God's love. HIS love conquers hate. HIS abundant life conquers death!

At Akron Pregnancy Services we point our clients to the One who loves them like no other, who has a good design and plan for each of their lives. It is important that our clients understand the value of their own life, which helps them realize the value and worth of their unborn child.

Would you help us spread this message of life and hope?

We have upcoming "Volunteer Training," March 11th-28th (Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-4pm). For those who would like to get more involved with this mission we are on, please call and ask to speak with Cathy Jackson. 330-434-2221

We are "Championing Life Together!"

Elise Lawrence
Director of LifeCenter
Coordinator of Church Relations
Akron Pregnancy Services

PRAY FOR US CALENDAR--FEBRUARY

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Remember God's love and will for children and families as you pray:

1. *for all Christians*, that they would help and defend the orphan and widow, the poor and lonely, the helpless and oppressed.

2. The purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord: *for mothers*, that they might rejoice in their vocation and raise their children in the Lord.

3. *for adoption and foster-care agency workers*, that they would make good and right decisions concerning what is best for all involved — enabling them to find proper families and resources to meet the needs of the children they serve.

4. *for all children*, that they might be brought to the waters of Baptism and taught God's Word.

5. Jacob (Israel), Patriarch, thank God for Jacob, through whom came the promise of the Messiah and the 12 tribes of Israel: *for fathers*, that they might raise their children in the Word.

6. *for men as they grow up*, that they may be godly in their youth and their adult years.

7. *for orphanages around the world*, that they might receive proper funding, food, resources and godly caregivers so that they can provide the best care possible to the children entrusted to them.

8. *for orphanage workers*, that they might be refreshed by Your Word and be good role models and teachers as they provide loving care to those in their charge.

9. *for all orphans*, that they might find Christian families who will nurture them with the love and knowledge of Christ.

10. Silas, Fellow Worker of St. Peter and St. Paul, thank God for Silas, lesser known, but essential to the work of the Kingdom: *for all church workers*, that all might work as God calls them to serve Him.

11. *for all foster children*, that they might find peace among the chaos as they wait for a proper family to be established.

12. *for all who suffer from domestic violence*, that the Lord would deliver them from danger and comfort them with His peace and forgiveness.

13. Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos, thank God for these examples of earnest learning and meditation in the Word of God.

14. Valentine, Martyr, pray that the love of Christ might be the love celebrated above all loves.

15. Philemon and Onesimus: *for all Christian workers and those in authority*, that all might serve God in their vocations.

16. Philipp Melanchthon (birth), Confessor: thank God for the Augsburg Confession and the other writings of Melanchthon that proclaim the truth of the Gospel.

17. *for all caregivers*, that they might raise children in the truth faith.

18. Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor: thank God for Luther's proclamation of salvation by grace through faith for Christ's sake.

19. *for children and parents who are deaf*, that they might know Jesus's voice and be filled with His peace.

20. *for widows*, that they might know Christ as their faithful bridegroom who will supply for their needs as they live their lives in prayer and purity.

21. *for the homeless*, that they might find a warm and safe place to lay their head, food for their bellies, hope for the future and rest in the love of Christ.

22. *for the unemployed*, that they might find suitable and fulfilling employment, fair wages and encouraging support.

23. Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr: thank God for those who continued the teachings of Jesus and gave their lives for the Gospel.

24. St. Matthias, Apostle: thank God for his quiet witness and those who gave their lives for the Gospel without any recognition.

25. *for the poor*, that they might find true riches in the Word of God and be blessed by the generosity of others.

26. *for children who are missing*, that the Lord would keep them from danger, restore them to their families and give them His peace and protection.

27. *for peace among siblings*, that the Lord would help them love and support each other throughout their lives, instead of being divided by bickering and jealousy.

28. *for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*, that they might be treated with respect and love as beloved children of God.