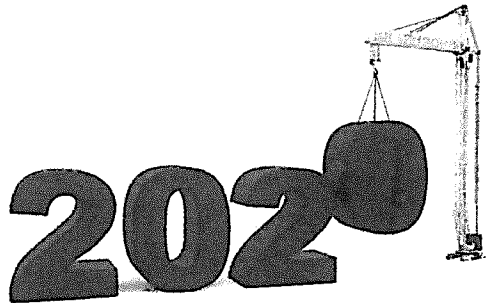


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

January 2020



Mark Twain once said, “The only person who likes change is a wet baby.” Yet change is inevitable. It is more tolerable when we can anticipate it; less so when change comes as a surprise.

What will this new year (and new decade), 2020, hold in store for us — as individuals, as families, as a congregation, as a community, as a nation, as a world (that should about cover all the bases)? There will be predictions. Nostradamus is sure to be quoted. The Farmer’s Almanac will be consulted. It will all sound as if people know what’s coming and how good or bad it will be.

But nobody knows. Some can take educated guesses based on past performance. So we will hear about trends in the stock market, projections for various economic indicators, pundits’ ideas about which politician will do what and for what reason. Many will nod their heads at the sagacity of these pronouncements; many more will dispute them. It makes for somewhat interesting talk radio and television. But . . . nobody knows.

Except that I do know this (*come on, check it out; wow yourself at how smart I can be*): there will be changes. There I crawled out on that precarious limb!

Good changes? I don’t know. Bad changes? Could be; maybe not. Will we all like the changes? See Mark Twain above. I wish I could be more helpful, but as I said before: Nobody knows.

Now, this does not mean that we cannot effect change. What we decide to do can have profound impact. What steps we take early on can determine the nature of the entire journey. We simply cannot accurately predict the outcomes, or know what paths we will eventually travel.

So . . . how about thinking about a few changes? What if we altered our worship schedule? What if we changed our board structure? What if we determined to really accent Bible Study? What if we . . . well, you get the idea.

I am thinking about some changes, and will be putting together ways for us to consider some new directions, altered courses, and changes from what has been our past.

But that will be in the New Year. Blessed 2020!

Our Worship This Month



January 5 — Epiphany Sunday

Sermon: *"They Saw; They Followed; They Worshipped"*

Texts: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-12; Matthew 2:1-12

What can we learn from the Magi that will help our faith journey? Three central themes, and then a whole lot more.



January 12 — The Baptism of Our Lord

Sermon: *"For Now . . . and for Eternity"*

Texts: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus tells John to baptize Him "for now;" we rejoice in our baptisms into eternity, as this day we renew the covenant.



January 19 — Epiphany II

Sermon: *"Seeking Jesus"*

Texts: Isaiah 49:1-11; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

When two of the Baptist's followers come to Jesus, He gives them a number of reasons to follow Him. We get to do more than just listen in.



January 26 — Epiphany III

Sermon: *"Fishing for People"*

Texts: Acts 20:28-35; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus told His disciples that he would make them fish for people. They leapt at the chance. How do we respond?

The week between January 18, the day of the Confession of St. Peter (Matthew 16:16), and January 25, the Conversion of St. Paul (Acts 9:1-22) has been designated as **THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**. Those dates are important because the first major disunity within the Christian Church was between Peter and Paul over the issue of how to deal with non-Jews. Peter had first agreed that Gentiles were to be sought after and brought in, but later changed his position, arguing that any conversion had to be made first to Judaism. Paul vehemently opposed this position. He thought that this made the Jewish Law more important than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At what is now called the First Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) that they came to agreement and unity was restored. This month, join your prayers to those of millions of other Christians to pray for the unity of Christ's Church on earth.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers
Deb Earle
Pastor Just
Ken Nicely II
Heather Poston
Rory Wolff
Roger Black
Franklin Conn
Dan Crile
Karen Groves
Brad Kozar
John Retherford
Mary Small
Tara Vargo

Trudy Ayers
Cory Hautmann
Lorene Kozar
Kenny Nicely III
Amy Rohaley
Barb Alcorn
Michael Brooks
Scott Corban
Sue Ellinwood
Mr. Joe
Sharon Kress
Samantha Nicely
Tim Tolodzieski

Bill Crile
Linda Hautmann
Joe Lenno
Ken Nicely IV
Ron Stenglein
Alice Artman
Peggy Campano
Tom Corban
Joe Fishcone
Steve Kolar
Suzanne Latham
Art Robinson
Petrina Twigger

Jim Doerfler
Nicole Johnson
Joanna Nicely
Carol Poston
Agnes Whinnie
Carla Bachtel
Joyce Cavanaugh
Christine Combs
Kathy Gault
Vince Koza
Frank Manijak
Deb Rosenlib
Rudy Udrow

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

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann and Joanna Nicely

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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

6-Joanna Nicely
6-Gabe Johnson
11-Troy Roman
12-Deb Wolff
21-Nicole Johnson
22-Sam Nicely
28-Logan Hagen
29-Rory Wolff
30-Becky Larkins



JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

13-Ben Wolff
25-Grace Rohaley
31-Amy Rohaley

THE SEASON OF GIVING

During this winter season we will be collecting food items, toiletry items, gloves, scarves, hats, blankets, coats and anything else that the homeless shelter can use. We will be collecting these items until Jan. 31. Please place your item(s) in the basket by the stand in the Narthex. Thanks!

Happy New Years!!!

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. Because of the break-in we are now emptying the box each Sunday. It will be posted each Sunday in the Offering List. Thank you for your donations!

ST. THOMAS TIDBITS

From the Hautmann family... Corey made the Dean's List at Kent State. As a member of the marching band Corey traveled to Frisco, Texas for the Kent State football game against Utah State (which they won). Corey is also a member of the Flasher Brass Pep band, the Symphony band and the Jazz band. Congratulations Corey!

From the Torres family... Joanna was also on the Dean's list at Kent State. Congratulations Joanna!

From the Earle family... Jacob was on the Excellence Roll at Streetsboro High School. Jenna was on the Merit Roll. Congratulations also to Jacob and Troy for being on the Streetsboro High School football team and their perfect season!

From the Johnson family... Nicole was on the high honor roll at Streetsboro Middle School. Gabe also had great grades at Streetsboro Elementary School.

From the Ayers family... Thomas was on the honor roll at Nordon High School.

From the Manijak family... It's official! Marla's last day of work will be June 1!

I would love to make this a monthly article. If you have any news ex. school, work, vacations, things you may need etc., we would love to hear about them. There will be a box on the stand in the narthex for you to put your good news into.

GET-TOGETHERS

Would anyone like to do monthly get-togethers? We have Valentine Day, St. Patrick Day, Mardi Gras, tired of winter day, happy spring day, etc. Let Marla know and what theme you would like to do.

WEBSITE

If you haven't checked out our church website yet, please do and let Del Groff know how you like it or if there is something you would like to see added. The website is www.stthomasstreetsboro.com

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 January on the 19th at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. All members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. New ideas are always appreciated.

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.

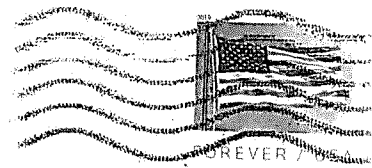


Epiphany

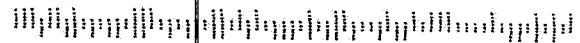
St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Cell Phone (216) 789-6688 Email: doctorjust@gmail.com
Web Site: www.stthomasstreetsboro.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 A.M.
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.