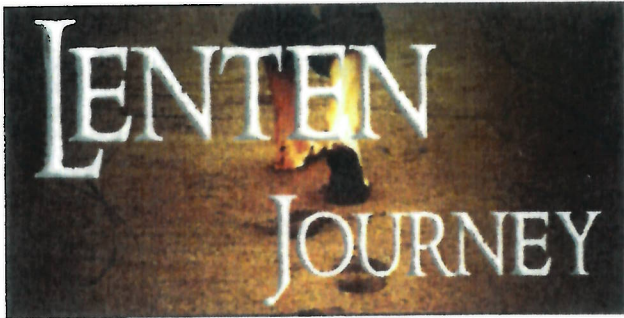


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

March 2020



Our Lenten journey begins February 27 as we observe Ash Thursday. It is a journey; it requires much of us. We are asked to increase our worship time, our prayer time, our meditation and devotional life. For many it is a season for fasting. For many it is a time of increased giving.

Above all else, it is a journey. We walk with Christ along the path to where we already know the journey will end: at His crucifixion and death.

This Lent, we will make some stops along the way each Sunday, as we engage some rather lengthy narratives for the Gospel of John. The events in those narratives set the stage for a series of discourses Jesus has with such people as Nicodemus, Mary and Martha, a man born blind. As we listen to them exchange words, we are edified in our understanding of what Jesus had to teach and why He had to take that journey eventually to Golgotha.

Each Wednesday, we examine one of the many ways our brokenness has been restored in Christ. Sin has shattered our relationship with God; it damages our relationship with others; it even distorts our self-understanding. In Christ, we find restoration in all these areas of life.

Why do we take this annual pilgrimage? Our Lord bids us come with Him, learn from Him, and walk beside Him. That is our baptismal invitation. We begin this Lenten journey being marked by ashes in the form of a cross — a reminder of how we were marked by the same time when we were baptized. We want to know more deeply what that mark means for our lives.

Part of its meaning is that we are joined to fellow-travelers. It is with them that we learn how to love, how to care, how to support, and how to nurture as Christ continually nurtures us. As the ancient Hebrews marked forty years in the wilderness, and came to recognize it as a time when God was preparing them to be His people, so we spend forty days with Christ and one another preparing to live as Christ's people.

Lent is also a time for prayer, in which we learn that praying involves as much listening as speaking. We desire to make our needs known to God (which is kind of silly, since He already knows them); but we rarely spend as much time listening to discover what He wants from us. Lent is a time to seize the opportunity to step back from the busy-ness of life, come into the presence of God, and listen — just listen — as He helps us hear His voice.

We are a pilgrim people. We walk with Christ; we walk toward Christ. We walk together, because any pilgrimage requires others alongside to sustain us and direct us. Whenever we think we can walk alone, we start to wander off the path.

Let this Lent be an “us” time — a time of coming together, worshiping together, sharing meals together, praying together, working together, helping one another, lifting up one another, strengthening one another. As we journey together with Jesus and are restored in Him, we can discover anew the joy that the destination leads ever past Golgotha to the empty tomb, as we will walk with the risen and ascended Christ.

So our Lenten Journey is a journey of hope and of promise, of deliverance and forgiveness, of knowing yet again to boundless love of God. **Journey on.**

Our Worship This Month

On Sundays in Lent our journey will focus on the invitation to be “With Jesus” as we move through the season.



March 1 — The First Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *“With Jesus In the Wilderness”*

Texts: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

The baptized Jesus is driven into the wilderness to face temptation. We have our wilderness experiences, as well.



March 8 — The Second Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *“With Jesus and Nicodemus”*

Texts: Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5,13-17; John 3:1-17

Jesus has a visit at night from a seeker. When we have questions or concerns, do we seek the cover of darkness, or the joy of the Light?



March 15 — The Third Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *“With Jesus At Jacob’s Well”*

Texts: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

As Jesus shares times with the woman at the well, she comes to faith and becomes a witness. How do we reflect our encounters with Christ?



March 22 — The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *“With Jesus Near Siloam Pool”*

Texts: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 142; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a blind man and sets off an important discourse on sin, grace, light, and Himself.



March 29 — The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *“With Jesus At Bethany”*

Texts: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-4

In the dramatic account of the raising of Lazarus, we have a vibrant picture of our Lord’s compassion and power at work.

Lenten Midweek Worship

“Restored in Christ”

The season of Lent is a time for us to face together the brokenness of our lives and our world, and then turn that brokenness over to Christ so that we can be restored by him through the cross. Written by seminary professor Joel Biermann, each service in this stirring series focuses on a certain event in the Lenten story and takes a good, hard look at a broken element from that particular story. Coming to an understanding of how each of these broken elements leads to restoration in Christ is key to understanding what it ultimately means to live today as new creations in Christ.

Ash Thursday — February 27

“Broken Hearts Restored”

Joel 2:12-14

Our hearts are broken in sorrow over sin; Christ restores our hearts through His forgiveness.

Lenten Midweek 1 — March 5

“Broken Vessel Restored”

Mark 14:1-9

A broken vessel holds costly perfume; we are broken vessels restored when Christ pays the price for us on the cross.

Lenten Midweek 2 — March 12

“Broken Trust Restored”

Matthew 26:14-25

Judas breaks his trust with Jesus by betraying him; our broken trust is restored through the sacrifice of Christ.

Lenten Midweek 3 — March 19

“Broken Bread Restored”

John 6:48-58

Bread is broken at the Last Supper; we are restored through the Bread of Life, Jesus.

Lenten Midweek 4 — March 26

“Broken Promises Restored”

Matthew 26:69-75

Peter’s broken promises to never deny Jesus are restored by the surpassing love of Christ.

Lenten Midweek 5 — April 2

“Broken Justice Restored”

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

A broken justice system put Jesus on the cross; we are restored when by His death we are declared not guilty.

On Ash Thursday, February 27, we offer a Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes at 7:30 PM. Beginning Thursday March 5, our Lenten Midweek activity will follow the schedule: Confirmation Class: 5:00 PM; Soup Supper: 6:30 PM; Midweek Worship 7:30 PM.



Daylight Savings Time begins March 8 at 2:00 AM. Remember on March 7: Turn your clocks ahead before you retire!

On February 20, I had surgery to free up the carpal tunnel on my right wrist. This will leave me somewhat incapacitated for several weeks, which means that I may not be as productive as I might like to be. It is my intention to maintain my presence on Sunday mornings, and during Lent on Thursday evenings. Beyond that, it will depend on my energy level and the speed of my recovery to determine what I can get done.

Pastor Just

ST. THOMAS TIDBITS

From the Earle family...Jacob was on the Excellence Roll at Streetsboro High School. Jenna was on the High Honor Roll at Streetsboro High School. Noah was on the Merit Roll at Streetsboro High School. Congratulations to all of you on your great grades!

From the Wolff family...Deb is sporting a beautiful ring that Rory gave to her on their recent cruise. She would love to show it to you and tell you about their adventures.

From the Weber family...Samantha was on the Honor Roll for Brown Middle School in Ravenna.

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? Well I hope so. Our first one will be Saturday, March 14 at 5:00 p.m. The theme is CELEBRATIONS! Tables will be decorated by you. Pick a spring theme holiday, etc. New Years Eve, Groundhog day, President's day, Valentine's day, Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's day, Easter or the First Day of spring and then decorate your table for that holiday. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks will be provided. See Marla for more details or questions. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex to sign up for your table.

DIRECTORY

A new directory is in the works. If you have not filled out an information form please do so immediately. We need names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, birthdays, baptism birthday and anniversary dates.

See Diane Lee to make sure she has your information.

RAVENNA COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Ravenna Community Choir will be hosting Heather Sorenson as guest performer and director on Sunday, March 29 at The Ravenna Assembly of God on S.R. 14 at 3:00 p.m.

Heather Sorenson entered the church music industry in her twenties, and her name quickly became a welcomed fixture in the publishing world. Heather is hired by the largest and most respected publishers in the world, and her pieces remain at the top of Bestsellers lists and Editor's Choice selections.

Over the past several years, Heather has appeared multiple times at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Constitution Hall in the roles of pianist and composer. She is scheduled to conduct her Christmas composition "The Silence and the Sound" 'at Carnegie Hall during the 2020 Christmas Season.

Although her career is sometimes on a big stage, Heather's heart is leading the Church in worship, and she feels that her greatest calling is using her music to connect people with God.

Deb Wolff and Marla Manijak are very excited to have Heather at their concert. Please join them for a special spirit-led concert.

OUR LITTLE CHURCH MOUSE

Our little church mouse, Diane Lee, has been doing a great job going through all the things in the closets, attic and in the hallway. Thank you Diane!

We have some very wonderful books in the church that we would love to share with you. You will find them on the cart in the Narthex every Sunday. These books are yours to keep or to pass them along to anyone you know who will enjoy them. Please check out the cart this Sunday.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Have you been in the Fellowship Hall recently? If you haven't, please check out the new icons on the wall. These were found in the attic and are the symbols of the church and the saints of the church. The Sunday School class had a great time reading about the saints and symbols. Join us for coffee and treats on Sunday mornings and check them out!



**FIRST DAY OF SPRING
MARCH 20**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers	Trudy Ayers	Bill Crile	Deb Earle
Cory Hautmann	Linda Hautmann	Nicole Johnson	Stephanie Johnson
Pastor Just	Lorene Kozar	Joe Lenno	Joanna Nicely
Ken Nicely III	Kenny Nicely IV	Carol Poston	Heather Poston
Amy Rohaley	Ron Stenglein	Rory Wolff	Barb Alcorn
Alice Artman	Roger Black	Michael Brooks	Peggy Campano
Jeremy Campbell	Joyce Cavanaugh	Franklin Conn	Scott Corban
Tom Corban	Toni Corban	Christine Combs	Dan Crile
Sue Ellinwood	Erlendsen family	Kathy Gault	Bridget Gehri
Karen Groves	Mr. Joe	Steve Kolar	Vince Koza
Brad Kozar	Sharon Kress	Suzanne Latham	Frank Manijak
Martino famiy	John Retherford	Samantha Nicely	Art Robinson
Diane Seman	Barbara Schreiber	Mary Small	Stephanie
Tanner	Tim Tolodzieski	Marilyn Trivisonno	Rudy Udrow
Tara Vargo	Carl		
Carl			

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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Jen Jones
4-Joyce Torres
9-Samantha Weber
9-Kari Earle
12-Trudy Ayers
12-Diane Reynolds
13-Tim Nicely
24-Palagia Hlava
25-Ian Phillips



MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

7-Becky Larkins
11-Abigail Ayers
23- Ken Nicely III

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!

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 March on the 15th 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.

EASTER FLOWERS

Deadline is March 22. You may place your order in the offering plate or give to Marla Manijak. Money is due by Palm Sunday. Check should be made out to Marla Manijak. Thank you for your order.

NAME _____ Phone Number _____

LILY BLOOMS ON THE OLD RUGGED CROSS \$2.00 each
In Loving Memory of In celebration of

LILIES \$8.00 In loving memory of In celebration of

TULIPS \$8.00 Red Pink Orange Bi-Color
In loving memory of In celebration of

DAFFODILS \$8.00 In Loving Memory of In Celebration of

HYACINTHS \$8.00 Pink Blue White
In Loving Memory of In Celebration of

MUMS \$8.00 Pink Yellow White Coral
In loving memory of In celebration of

AZALEAS \$13.75 In loving memory of In celebration of

HYDRANGEA \$13.75 In loving memory of In celebration

**St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 2247
9042 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241**

Change Service Requested

THE PARISH VOICE NEWSLETTER

Office: 330-626-4945

Pastor Just office hours—Thursdays 8:00-4:00

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.