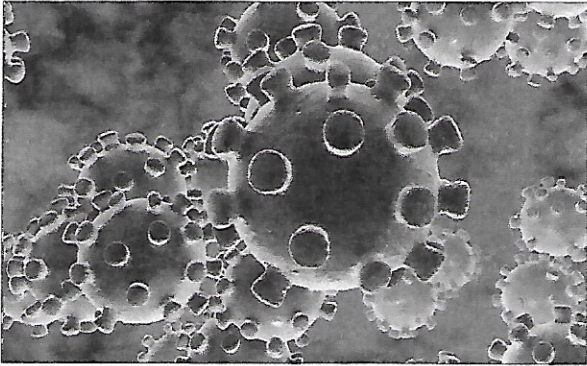


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

April 2020



“It isn’t really alive, that why it’s so hard to kill it.”

That’s how the coronavirus was described in one online article. That’s not quite so easy for me to wrap my head around, but then I don’t have any expertise in the field of virology (or any other medical field). I think I am with a majority of people who tend to think that something is either alive or dead, and that we should be able to tell the difference.

Often, critics of the New Testament write as if the people in Biblical times lacked knowledge of life and death, which is why they thought Jesus was dead when, in fact, he was still alive on the cross (this is sometimes referred to as “the swoon theory”). This theory, in some form or another, seems to have been around from the very beginning of the Passion/Easter narrative. St. John records in his Gospel that, when Jesus’ side was pierced by a spear, “blood and water” issued forth; that described separated blood (plasma and serum), one sign that the body has ceased to function—in other words, he was dead. John must have felt the need to offer this proof.

It is somewhat foolish to think that ancient peoples, most of whom lived around animals all the time, could not discern life and death. That Roman soldiers, especially skilled in killing, would mistake a live man for a dead corpse and remove from the cross is ludicrous. They knew death. So the critics who think otherwise simply want to think otherwise.

In that, I suggest, they are akin to the coronavirus — never really alive. It is an all-too-common condition. Many people have never really experienced the fullness of life because they have not experienced the fullness of Christ. Too many people think that existing is all there is to living so they limp along, surviving. Christ does not want us merely to survive; He desires that we thrive. For that, we need to be fully in Him.

As we continue through this period of struggle, dealing with this previously unknown virus that is wreaking havoc around the world, we respond in many ways: fear, anxiety, frustration, anger, boredom, disappointment, sadness — almost all of them negative. Christ invites us to hold on to joy, hope, peace — all of which we gain when we realize that we rest in His love. That is how we thrive; that is how we are fully alive.

As you “shelter in place” during this pandemic, don’t be content simply to get through it. Know that Christ is going through it with you and in you. Be fully alive in Him, and know joy.

Our Worship This Month



April 5 — Palm Sunday / The Sunday of the Passion

We gather outside the sanctuary for the blessing of the palms and the reading of the Processional Gospel, and we enter in singing “Hosanna” as did the throng that welcomed Jesus. Texts: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 31; Zechariah 9:9-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66. Pastor Just’s sermon is: *“Humble ... Like Jesus?”* [Because of the restrictions caused by the coronavirus, we are not able to secure palms for our celebration. Pictures of palms will be made available and, of course, we each have two palms on our bodies that we can wave in joyful praise.]



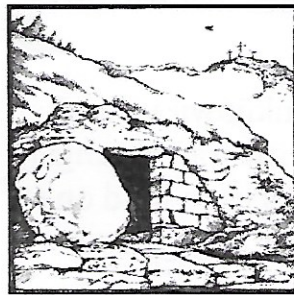
April 9 — Maundy Thursday Upper Room Communion 7:30 PM

We gather around the Lord’s Table as did the Twelve with Jesus in the upper room to share the gift of His Body and Blood, but our focus is also on the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Texts: 2 Peter 1:1-11; John 13:1; Matthew 26:26-28, 31-35; Luke 22:31-33; Matthew 26:36, 43a, 47, 49, 50b; John 19:16-18, 28; Matthew 27:48-49. Pastor Just’s sermon: *“The Rock.”* The service concludes with Stripping of the Altar in preparation for Good Friday.



April 10 — Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:30 PM

In this traditional service of darkness, we reflect on the Passion of Our Lord interspersed with hymns and songs. Texts: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42. Pastor Just’s sermon: *“Orphans.”* The service ends with a reading of the prophecies about Christ’s death as candles are extinguished and we end in total darkness.



April 12 — The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

We celebrate our Lord’s victory over death and the grave as we gather to sing His praises and rejoice in His presence. Texts: Jeremiah 31:1-6; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10. Pastor Just’s sermon: *“The Broken Seal.”* [We do not yet know if we will be able to offer our traditional Easter Pancake Breakfast; a phone call will alert you if we are able to go ahead.]



April 19 — Easter II

Sermon: *“Take a Good, Hard Look”*

Texts: Acts 2:14a,22-32; Psalm 148; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Thomas refuses to believe the witness of the other disciples. Jesus forces the issue by insisting that he do what he said he needed to do to believe.



April 26 — Easter III

Sermon: *“Foolish? Slow? Or both?”*

Texts: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

When He encounters the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus is less than complimentary about their faith. How might we fare?

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

St. Thomas is observing the stay at home order issued by President Trump through the end of March because the health and safety of all our members is a high priority. Council is looking at possible modifications to our worship service that will meet the latest Covid-19 health recommendations to be issued by President Trump and Governor DeWine.

If you have any ideas or concerns that you wish council to consider during this Covid-19 epidemic, please e-mail them to me with the subject “St. Thomas” at stevehlava@netscape.net or call me at (330)422-1959.

A phone message will be sent on or before April 4th updating you on details for future worship services. This information will also be posted on our <http://stthomasstreetsboro.com/> website. While visiting the site, be sure to download Pastor’s recent sermons.

God Bless,
Steve

FYI-If the stay at home period goes on for a couple more weeks and we remain closed, we have the savings to keep paying the bills during the closure. If you are able to send a check to church to help offset these bills it would be greatly appreciated. The address is St. Thomas Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 2247, Streetsboro, OH 44241. Thank you!

A PRAYER FROM THE ENGLISH DISTRICT

O Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee to turn from us and our fellowmen the destruction and terror of this epidemic. We pray Thee, halt the Angel of Death as he relentlessly proceeds from dwelling to dwelling. We ask Thee, above all, not to let us and our fellowmen to be merely grief-stricken and fearful at this Thy visitation, but we beseech Thee to stir us all to an understanding of Thy purposes. Grant us the grace of true, humble repentance. Tell us in words of life that Thou scourgest every son who thou receives. Tell us it is our good which Thou dost intend with this evil. Grant success to the efforts to stem the tide of affliction and quicken hearts to bear the burdens of each other’s grief and need. Lord, it is Thy mercy that we are not completely lost. Direct us to solve first the needs of our soul, and remind us the demands of eternity, and turn us earnestly to seek our peace with Thee through Jesus. Lord, Thou dost direct the course of life and death. Have mercy on us for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

WE CARE!

In this time of quarantine your church family is here for you. If anyone needs groceries, etc. or just someone to talk to please call us. We are here for you! Marla can be reached at 330-472-3045 anytime. If you need the number of other members please call me and I will find it for you.

Stay safe everyone! You are all in our prayers!

WORK DAYS

If the quarantine is lifted we will be having a spring work day on Saturday, April 4 from 9:00-12:00. Steve will let you know in his phone call if this work day is going to happen.

Also if services are to be held on Easter we will be setting up for that service on Saturday, April 11 from 10:00-12:00. This is will be determined in Steve's phone call also.

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!

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.

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 April-June Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door.

Council will be meeting in April 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.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers
Cory Hautmann
Lorene Kozar
Kenny Nicely IV
Ron Stenglein
Roger Black
Carl
Tom Corban
Sue Ellinwood
Mr. Joe
Sharon Kress
Martino family
Art Robinson
Stephanie
Tara Vargo

Trudy Ayers
Linda Hautmann
Joe Lenno
Carol Poston
Rory Wolff
Michael Brooks
Joyce Cavanaugh
Toni Corban
Kathy Gault
Steve Kolar
Suzanne Latham
Joe Riddle
Diane Seman
Lynn Tettlemore
Greg Zaebst

Bill Crile
Palagia Hlava
Joanna Nicely
Heather Poston
Barb Alcorn
Peggy Campano
Franklin Conn
Christine Combs
Bridget Gehri
Vince Koza
Dave Lauver
Samantha Nicely
Barbara Schreiber
Tim Tolodzieski

Deb Earle
Pastor Just
Ken Nicely II
Amy Rohaley
Alice Artman
Jeremy Campbell
Scott Corban
Dan Crile
Karen Groves
Brad Kozar
Frank Manijak
Nana Popisch
Mary Small
Marilyn Trivisonno

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

Rudy Udrow, former Epiphany member, passed away on March 16. The family will be holding a memorial service, with a meal in the fellowship hall on Saturday, April 4 beginning at 1:00 p.m.. Please keep the Udrow family in your prayers.

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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

16-Wendy Weber
18-Jodi Earle
19-Haley Rohaley
19-Aggie Blankenship



APRIL BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Mike Phillips
20-Stephen Nicely
24-Kari Earle
30-Haley Rohaley

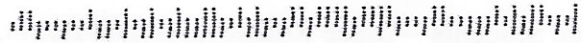
**St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 2247
9042 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241**

CLEVELAND OH 44100
30 MAR 2020 PM 5 L



Change Service Requested

44067-250087



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.