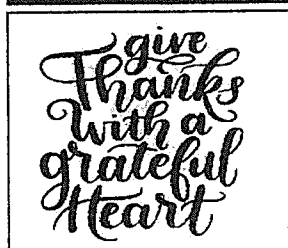


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

November 2020



A contemporary song by Henry Smith frames an important message for this season. Examine with me these three lines:

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

There is, first, the repeated invitation to “*Give thanks.*” This should be part of our lives without any invitation or calling, since all of life and everything in life is a gift. What other response could we give? Sadly, we recognize that many have convinced themselves that what they have they deserve, and so thanks would be unnecessary, even foolish. We affirm that it is neither foolish nor needless, but an essential part of what life is all about.

“*Give thanks with a grateful heart.*” Any four-year-old knows that when your maiden aunt gives you a gift (oh, let’s say a packet of underwear) and your mother says to you, “What do you say?” the correct, indeed the only, answer is “Thank you.” But is it said with “a grateful heart”? Rarely.

Thanks rendered begrudgingly is little thanks at all. To give thanks with a grateful heart requires that we reflect on what we have received and consider the value of what has been given. Less importance should be attached to monetary value than we are inclined to do; we should give ever greater weight to that which enables, sustains, and improves our relationships with God and others. We should also discover our grateful response to being enabled to help others in time of need.

“*Give thanks to the Holy One.*” This should define our lives as Christians. Martin Luther wrote, “*we cannot perform any greater or better work for God, nor can we render Him a nobler service than thanking Him*” [[Lectures on Genesis](#)].

We first need to recognize that all we have — these gifts showered into our lives — are indeed from God. We may offer thanks to our spouse or children, to a friend or neighbor or family member, for the token gift that marks a birthday or holiday; but true thanks belongs ultimately to God. James reminds us: “*Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights . . .*” (1:17)

“*Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.*” Here we embrace the finest gift of all, and the source of our deepest gratitude. Luther again: “*We have nothing to give in return except praise, glory, and gratitude for the unspeakable gift — as the apostle calls it (2 Cor. 9:15) — which through the Gospel God has shed on us abundantly (Titus 3:6)*” [[Lectures on Genesis](#)]. Without question, the greatest reason we have for offering up thanks is the Gift of Jesus Christ. Our present and eternal well-being are completely dependent on who He is, what He did, and what He continues to do for and in us.

“Count your blessings,” we often hear said. It is suggested that Thanksgiving Day is a day to do just that. I think that is true, but incomplete. We are not simply to count our blessings, but to use

them to God's glory. That is not confined to one day for giving thanks, but it is every day that we are called to live out that Gospel through which God has blessed us to be a blessing to others.

Our Worship This Month

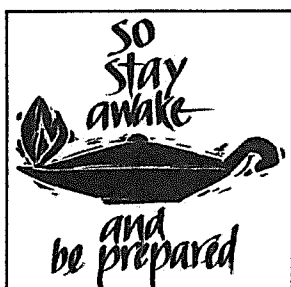


November 1 — All Saints Day

Sermon: "Saints? Who?"

Texts: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 149; I John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

The saints of old bear the same marks as the saints today — Jesus spells them out in His Beatitudes.



November 8 — Pentecost XXII

Sermon: "Boy Scout Theology"

Texts: Amos 5: 18-24; Psalm 70; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids does not provide us a simplistic philosophy, but an invitation to God's elaborate party!



November 15 — Pentecost XXIII

Sermon: "Talents, Not Talents"

Texts: Zephaniah 1:7-18; Psalm 90; I Thess. 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Talents confuses us because we keep substituting terms that are not interchangeable. Once we sort out Jesus' message, we can begin to comply.



November 22 — Christ the King

Sermon: "And You Did What?"

Texts: Ezekiel 34:11-24; Psalm 95; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

When the King returns, He will honor those who have trusted in Him by pointing out how that trust was made evident.



November 29 — Advent I

Sermon: "Be Alert, The World Needs..."

Texts: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

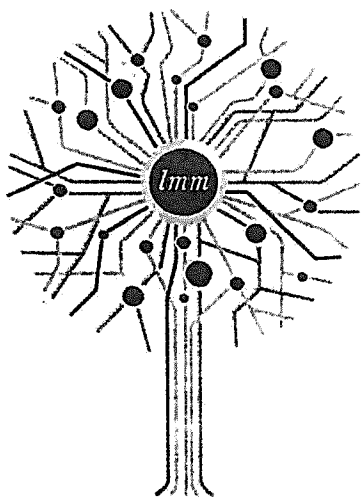
Jesus provides signs of the end, but these do not give us a timetable. His wise advise is to stay alert, and keep watching.

PASTORAL ACTS:

Burials:

Albert Korasin, born October 25, 1925 in Maple Heights, Ohio, died on September 21, 2020 in Berea, Ohio, and was provided a Christian burial on September 28, 2020, with interment at Crown Hill Mausoleum in Twinsburg, Ohio.

Eunice Haschak, born June 25, 1938 in Cleveland, Ohio, died October 14, 2020 in Macedonia, Ohio, was provided a Christian burial on October 16, 2020, with interment at All Saints Mausoleum in Northfield, Ohio.



We have made it something of a tradition to use the fifth Sunday of a month as an opportunity to support a ministry or project beyond our congregation. November 29th is a fifth Sunday and Council has designated Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM) of Greater Cleveland as the recipient of funds on this occasion. Pastor Just has served on the board of LMM since 1982, six terms as President, four terms as Treasurer, and now as Emeritus.

[From the LMM website]: Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry seeks that people who are oppressed, forgotten, and hurting be empowered, valued, and healed by our unwavering commitment to addressing chronic needs, enabling people to self-sufficiency, and advocating for system change. As a catalyst and convener for meaningful conversation,

LMM seeks to change the social, political, and religious conversation about justice from one of limitations to one of possibilities.

Focusing on Housing & Shelter, Workforce Development, and Health & Wellness Services, LMM creates innovative programs that serve with people who are homeless, youth who are at-risk, older adults who are vulnerable (Adult Guardianship services provide guardians for all indigents in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties), people impacted by the criminal justice system, and individuals with behavioral health needs.

In the last year, LMM served nearly 7,000 people and engaged approximately 3,500 volunteers. Central Kitchen produced 348,575 meals for area homeless shelters. A total of 17,064 guardianship hours were clocked, 16,457 residential nights were provided to adolescents placed at our youth shelter (the only shelter in Cuyahoga County), 782 mothers and their children received emergency shelter at the family overflow site, and 100% of Health & Wellness participants received mental health services, regardless of ability to pay. 97.5% of Chopping for Change participants remained out of the criminal justice system post-release.

We encourage all our members to bring a special offering on November 29 in support of LMM.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DEC. 6
AFTER THE WORSHIP
SERVICE IN THE FELLOWSHIP
HALL
SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE
OBSERVED**

BULLETIN PICKUP

Starting on November 1 Steve will no longer be standing at the sidewalk to pass out bulletins and communion. He will be under the porch watching to see who is staying in their cars and then he will bring you your bulletin and communion cups and collecting your offering, 1+1+1 donations and other donations plus taking your prayer requests.

Those coming in can pick up their bulletin and communion cups from the usher inside. An offering plate will be available at the back of the sanctuary. The 1+1+1 box will be on the stand. Prayer book will be on the stand in the narthex.

Thank you everyone.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

We would like to thank Diane Pencin, Robin Hoffman, Gilbert Ayers and Guy Jeanblanc for volunteering to be on the search committee to help us gather all the facts we need to present to the Synod to begin our search for a new Pastor. Pastor Just will be retiring from his ministry with St. Thomas at the end of December.

We are working on forms that the Synod would like us to fill out to see where and what we will be needing. We have been in touch with Pastor Gau who will be helping us out with this procedure. If anyone has any questions, please see a council member or a member of this committee. You can find their numbers in the church directory.

COMMUNITY PANTRY

During the month of November, members are being asked to bring a food donation or a monetary donation to help out the pantry for the Thanksgiving baskets. Please have your donations here by November 15 so we can get these items to them in time to fill their baskets. Thanks you for your thoughtfulness!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Crile	Deb Earle	Corey Hautmann	Linda Hautmann
Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar	Joanna Nicely	Ken Nicely II
Kenny Nicely IV	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Diane Seman
Ron Stenglein	Joyce Torres	Debbie Anderson	Ed Boland
John Buterbaugh	Jeremy Campbell	Joyce Cavanaugh	Carl
Russ Carnes	Scott Corban	Tom Corban	Toni Corban
Bill Earle	Sue Ellinwood	Brian Fisher	Summer & Mark Dunlevy
George Foerster	Pastor James Gau	Bridget Gehri	Todd Gless
Karen Groves	Charles Hohne	Debbie Hovanetz	Janice
Kathi	Larry Knaus	Katie Koval	Brad Kozar
Suzanne Latham	Lauren	Dave Lauver	Frank Manijak
Nadine Nicely	Samantha Nicely	James Olsen	Inge Osborne
Sandy Platten	Art Robinson	Barbara Schreiber	Teri Stroki
Mary Small	Derrick Smith	Tim Tolodzieski	Kenneth Udovic
Tara Vargo	Tim Wheeler	COVID-19 patients	Hurricane and fire victims
Peaceful demonstrations	Family Unites being attacked by Satan		
All Marriages to stay strong in Christ		Safety for all our school and college students	

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

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

Carole & Heather Poston
3096 E. Pioneer
Aurora, OH 44202

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Troy Roman 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 330-472-3045 or fill out one of the cards in the pew and put in offering plate.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

9-Ken Nicely III
17-Grace Rohaley
24-Amy Rohaley
29-Thomas Ayers



Happy Anniversary to
9-Sam & Denise Nicely
29-Pastor & Kristine Just

NOVEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

4-Stephanie Johnson
14-Jarid Phillips
29-Sam Nicely

ADDRESS CHANGES

Jarid Phillips
1002 Smokerise Lane
Henderson Valley, TN 37075

Lea Carothers
38601 Mentor Ave. Apt. 216
Willoughby, OH 44094

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR NOVEMBER!!

1-Daylight Saving Time
3-Election Day
4-Candy Day
11-Veterans Day
13-World Kindness Day
15-America Recycles Day

18-Princess Day
20-Universal Children's Day
21-World Hello Day
26-HAPPY THANKSGIVING
27-Black Friday
30-Cyber Monday

1 + 1 + 1 giving

We thank you for continuing to give to our 1 + 1 + 1 fund raiser throughout this pandemic. The missionaries who spread the good news of Jesus are very appreciative of your generosity. 1+1+1 means \$1 per member each Sunday. There is a plastic box as you pick up your bulletin for you to place your \$1 each Sunday. It will be posted each Sunday in the Offering List. Thank you for your donations!

WE CARE

We care about you! Please let us know if there is any need during this time of the pandemic. We are here to help you in any way it is needed, driving you somewhere, picking up groceries for you or just someone to talk to, please call your church family. Everyone has a new church directory! We are here for you!

You have several options to worship with us. If you can't get out, then please join us on Facebook. We are meeting in the parking lot and you can listen to the service on Channel 96.9 FM. You can also come inside. Your temperature will be taken at the door. Masks must be worn. We have plenty of room to space members out so it is very safe. However you worship with us it is just great to see all of you!

Stay safe everyone! You are all in our prayers!

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 October-December Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door or ask Steve for one and he will bring it to your car.

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.

November 3rd
Don't forget to vote!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Church Council has been discussing how to celebrate Christmas Eve this year with the pandemic still lingering around. Below you will find a survey which we would like you to fill out and put in the offering plate or mail it back to the church—P.O. Box 2247—by November 15. We will be practicing safe social distancing.

I will attend...

Christmas Eve service at 8:00 indoors _____ How many? _____ Outdoors _____

Christmas Eve service at 10:00 indoors _____ How many? _____ Outdoors _____

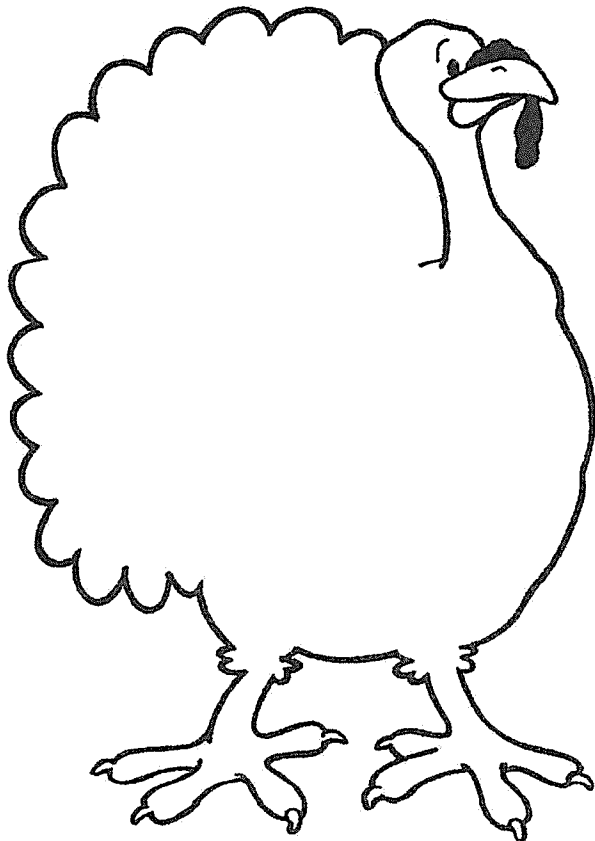
If we have too many people attending one service we will be offering seating in the Fellowship Hall with live screening of the service.

I am willing to sit in the Fellowship Hall if needed _____

I would prefer to sit in the sanctuary _____

If you have any questions, please see one of the council members—Steve Hlava, Jim Doerfler, Del Groff, Diane Lee, Joyce Torres, Deb Wolff, Marla Manijak or Pastor Just. Thank you.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
COLOR ME!



IN HONOR OF
OUR VETERANS



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

Change Service Requested

Groff, Delbert
7387 Meadow Creek Rd
Saagamore Hills, OH 44067

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

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US INSIDE