

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

February 2021

From Epiphany to Lent

The Epiphany season is a time for the Church to reflect on its mission and ministry and its calling to be “light to the world.” We listen to the accounts of Jesus’ ministry as paradigms for our own calling to bring the healing power of God into the lives of others. Epiphany is sometimes known as “the mission season,” reflecting the fact that the first non-Jews to receive the Good News (the Magi) returned to their own country, where we presume they proclaimed the story. So the Church today — you and I — has the calling to proclaim the Good News to anyone we can find to listen.

This is a calling we take all too lightly. We rejoice to be in church with family and friends, indeed for many the church is the place where they find most of their friends. But the mission of the Church is not to become a club of people who enjoy one another. The mission of the Church is to bring the message of salvation to people who are lost eternally if they do not come to know Christ as Lord and Savior. We are brought into that mission and ministry through our Baptisms. St. Paul writes: *“If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!”* [1 Corinthians 9:16]. We need to share that sense of obligation.

The Lenten season is a time to prepare ourselves for just that task. The season of Lent is called a penitential season, which means it is a time for us to reflect on our own sinfulness and thus to see more clearly the wonderful grace of God to forgive our sins. We who are called to proclaim grace must experience grace. For many, the grace of God is one of those things that is true but not yet real. That is, we know in principle that God is gracious to us, but the depths of that grace and the power of that forgiveness has not yet saturated us. Lent is a time to soak in grace. During Lent we are encouraged to take more time to meditate, reading the Bible, gather for worship, study together . . . all with the intent of helping us soak in the grace of God.

As we soak in that grace, we do not — we cannot — forsake our mission. The Sunday that concludes the Epiphany season sets us up for the Lenten season: The Transfiguration of Our Lord. As Mark tells that account, he concludes with these words: *“As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead”* [Mark 9:9]. So filled with wonder were the disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration that they could hardly contain themselves. Jesus had to instruct them about what it all meant before they could go out to share with others, and they needed the gift of the Holy Spirit to equip them to proclaim. Good News! We have been given that Spirit and we have been equipped through God’s Word to proclaim the Good News. An older hymn for that Sunday carries these lines: *“Tis good Lord to be here, Yet we may not remain; But since You bid us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain”* [TLH 135]. We must take that experience of seeing the glory of Christ, and the glory of God’s grace, and move out with it.

So as we move this month from Epiphany to Lent, give attention to those two themes: We are called to the mission of reaching out and we are called to look within to discover the true joy of grace. Both themes serve to enhance the other; and we are thus equipped to shine with the light of Christ. As a more contemporary hymn says it: *“Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining; Jesus, light of the world shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now give us. Shine on me, shine on me”* [WOV 651]. And we should add: *“Then shine through me.”*

Our Worship This Month

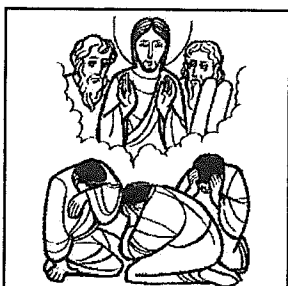


February 7 — Epiphany V

Sermon: *“Becoming a Healing Place”*

Texts: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law, and then spends the whole day healing in that town. What if we were to become a healing place like that?

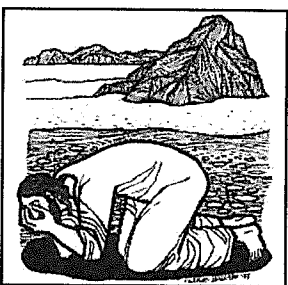


February 14 — The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sermon: *“When the Music Fades ...”*

Texts: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

After so glorious a vision is witnessed by three disciples, how did they move on? How do we move on?



February 21 — Lent I

Sermon: *“The Next Steps”*

Texts: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

We hear how Mark defines the steps Jesus had to undertake after His baptism to begin His ministry. Any clues there for us?



February 28 — Lent II

Sermon: *“Set Your Mind”*

Texts: Genesis 17:1-9, 15-16; Psalm 22; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Peter confesses Jesus as Lord, but gets it all wrong. Jesus rebukes his misconceptions. What would we have done in Peter’s shoes?



Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, February 17

We will hold our Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 PM, which will include the Imposition of Ashes (weather permitting, Pastor Just plans to bring the ashes to those who are in their cars in the parking lot, as well as those in the pews). The service will also include the Holy Eucharist. Throughout the Lenten season, we will hold Midweek Lenten services. Our theme is:

Jesus' Saving Questions

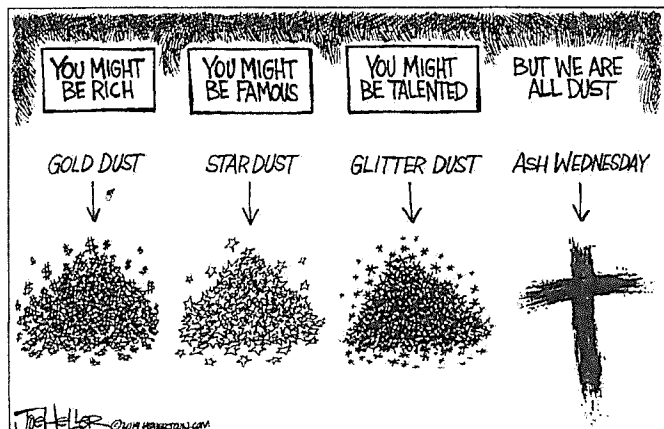
- February 17: "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'?" (Mark 2:9)
- February 24: "What Do You Want Me to Do for You?" (Matthew 20:32)
- March 3: "Why Do You Call Me 'Lord, Lord'?" (Luke 6:46)
- March 10: "Who Are My Brothers and Sisters?" (Mark 3:32)
- March 17: "What Does It Profit a Man to Gain the Whole World and Forfeit His Soul?" (Mark 8:36)
- March 24: "Will the Son of Man Find Faith?" (Luke 18:8)

Our schedule for the weeks after Ash Wednesday will be: Soup Supper, 6:30 to 7:30 PM (a sign-up sheet to volunteer to bring soup, salad, bread, or other goods will be posted on the narthex bulletin board); Worship, 7:30 to 8:15 PM.



During Lent, some people have the tradition of self-denial — making a token sacrifice for the forty days of Lent like not eating chocolate, or not going to the movies. The only downside to this is that many give up things they would scarcely miss or find easy to go without. If you wish to practice true self-denial, try giving up an evening, or a Saturday morning, doing something that you want to do, and using that time for something God wants you to do. What is that? Go to prayer and ask God for direction on this.

In the narthex you will also find Lenten Coin Folders, which encourages you to make a small daily financial sacrifice by inserting a coin into each slot and to make that a donation for the ministry of St. Thomas.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Crile	Carol Earle	Deb Earle	Cory Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman	Nicole Johnson
Lorene Kozar	Joanna Nicely	Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely III
Kenny Nicely IV	Diane Pencin	Carol Poston	Heather Poston
Diane Seman	Joyce Torres	Becky Larkins and Holly	
Debbie Anderson	Alice Artman	Rick Artman	Avis
Ed Boland	Tim Borbely	Peggy Bower	Patty Bowman
John Butterbaugh	Jeremy Campbell	Carl	Jerry Chapala
Leona Corban	Scott Corban	Tom Corban	Sommer & Mark Dunlevy
Jamie Dunn	Bill Earle	Billy Earle Jr.	Sue Ellinwood
George Foerster	Christine Frank	Bridget Gehri	Ken Granville
Jerry Green	Debbie Hovanetz	Janice	Kathi
Brad Kozar	Matt Langsten	Suzanne Latham	Lauren
Tyler Lutz	Dave Lauver	Lori	Frank Manijak
Nadine Nicely	Samantha Nicely	James Olsen	Inge Osborne
Sandy & Ron Platten	Karen Power	Peter Power	Valonte Ragland
Latesha Ragland	Art Robinson	Agnes Rovison	Barbara Schreiber
Mary Small	Derrick Smith	Thelma	Tim Tolodzieski
Kenneth Udovic	Linda Velatta	Tara Vargo	Tim Wheeler
COVID-19 patients	The National Guard		
Family Units 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	Carole & Heather Poston
4552 Aspen Lake Road	3096 E. Pioneer
Apartment 102	Aurora, OH 44202
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582	

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann and Joanna Nicely
 Our Military member—Troy Roman

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

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



FEBRUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Bob Earle
 23-Marla Manijak

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 at the door to the sanctuary for your donations or you can give them to Steve in the parking lot and he will put it in for you. 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!

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

New Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex.

Our January-March 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.

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR FEBRUARY!!

2-Groundhog Day

5-Wear Red Day

6-Frozen Yogurt Day

7-Super Bowl Sunday

8-Kite Flying Day

9-Pizza Day

10-Umbrella Day

11-Don't Cry over spilled Milk Day

12-Lincoln's Birthday

14-Valentine's Day

15-President's Day and

Gumdrop Day

16-Mardi Gras

17-Ash Wednesday and

Random Acts of Kindness Day

20-Margarita Day

22-Washington's Birthday

25-Purim begins at sundown

27-Chili Day

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee and Church Council will be meeting soon with Pastor Gau to discuss all the information that has been collected for our search for a new pastor. Any questions on this search can be asked from our search committee members Gilbert Ayers, Guy Jeanblanc, Robin Hoffman and Diane Pencin or our council members Steve Hlava, Jim Doerfler, Diane Lee, Deb Wolff, Joyce Torres, Marla Manijak and Del Groff.

PROPERTY NEWS

A leak has been found in our water heater. Unfortunately this means we will need to replace this. The council has been looking into replacing it with another regular water heater or a tankless heater. If you have any knowledge on a tankless heater please let the council know. This is not a budgeted item and they cost up to \$5,000. Any information you can give us is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of Dec. 2020

	CurrentMonth:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	4187.34	59268.99	53817.98
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4045.84	59118.12	58767.17
NET GAIN (LOSS)	141.50	150.87	(4949.19)
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	82.00	1293.69	4321.92
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	41.87	622.98	3502.15
NET GAIN (LOSS)	40.13	670.71	819.77
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1046.84	1139.79	1034.96
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1182.69</u>		

Special Funds Include:

Special Building/Property, Pastor's Second Chance, Memorial Gifts, New Building, Lutheran Women's Group, 5th Sunday Benevolence



LOVE

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

And now these three remain:

FAITH

HOPE

LOVE

But the greatest of these is love.

**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

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