

# The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

October 2021

**Formed**  
**Deformed**  
**Reformed**  
**Informed**  
**Transformed**

The opening chapters of Genesis make it plain that God took particular care to fashion the creatures that would be known as “humans.” In Hebrew, the word is *yatzar*, and it means to form or shape. Moreover, the Bible tells us that God did this “in His image” (Gen.2:7). What this means is that the human creatures were formed into a special and intimate relationship with God, knew His will, agreed with it, and longed for nothing more than to be what God intended them to be.

It did not take very long before that ideal situation was disturbed. When Satan entered the scene, convinced Eve that God was holding something back from her by forbidding the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, bringing her to think that she (and later with her, Adam) could exist without or apart from God, something happened to that divine image — it was deformed. Intimacy with God was shattered, replaced by distrust and fear. It was not longer God’s will that mattered, but their own desires and priorities. Cast out from the garden, they were left to struggle in a world that would resist them, plague them, and bring them frustration and injury.

But God was not content to leave it at that. In the person of Jesus Christ, He gave us a “second Adam” — like the first, formed in God’s image, fully aware of and living to God’s will, who would lead a life that showed what it meant to be what God intended us to be. When He was crucified, Jesus’ death became the substitute for our own deaths. As one author has expressed it: “*Jesus lived that life that we are supposed to, but cannot, and died that death that we deserved, but now need not.*” (Harry Wendt). The proof of this is Jesus’ resurrection. When we are joined to that death and resurrection in the waters of Baptism, we are reformed into the relationship God has always desired to have with us.

We come to know this because Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to provide the means by which we could become informed of what had been accomplished for our salvation. Christ has done everything necessary for our salvation; we can add nothing to it, nor detract from it. We are given the Word and Sacraments to reform us anew into image of God, a condition we are given when we simply trust what God has done.

Over the centuries, people have attempted to add to what God has done, insisting that we must somehow be responsible for our own redemption. Some have labeled this “Jesus-plus theology.” It has a long history, and it was this problem to which God brought the insights and passions of Martin Luther and other reformers to address. In his theology, Luther sought to bring the Church back to the position that grace alone, and our trust in that grace, is what saves — not what we do. We have been given that heritage to embrace and celebrate.

The Spirit would take us a step further. That faith which trusts what God has done should also be doing something in us. St. Paul invites us to be transformed (Rom. 12:2). We are to be different people — different from what we would be had we not been joined to Christ, and different from the world around us. We are to be drawn into greater devotion to God, deeper awareness of the Spirit’s presence, more intense desire to serve and love in Christ’s name. We are to do odd things,

like pray for enemies, do good to those we would rather not even be around, forgive, and (most difficult of all) deny ourselves.

Formed, deformed, reformed (many times), informed, and transformed — this is our Christian journey. As the hymn reminds us, our *"walk is heavenward all the way"* (The Lutheran Hymnal 413).

## Our Worship This Month

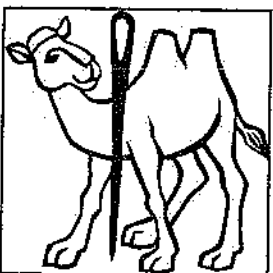


### **October 3 — Pentecost XIX**

Sermon: *"The Order of Things"*

Texts: Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4,2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

The world is often hung up on status. Once again Jesus teaches us how His values disrupts those of the world.



### **October 10 — Pentecost XX**

Sermon: *"What Is 'Good'?"*

Texts: Amos 5:6-7,10-15; Psalm 90; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Since most religions are performance-based, the question for most of them becomes "How good is 'good enough'?" Pay close attention to Jesus on this.



### **October 17 — Pentecost XXI**

Sermon: *"The Marks of a Servant"*

Texts: Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Some disciples are looking for prestige and perhaps power. Jesus sets them on the correct path: servanthood.

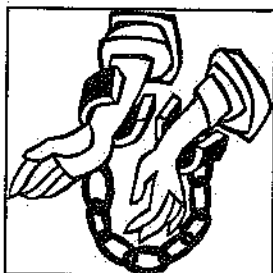


### **October 24 — Pentecost XXII**

Sermon: *"Faith and Restoration"*

Texts: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm, 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Blind Bartimaeus had his sight restored; but something even greater was restored as well.

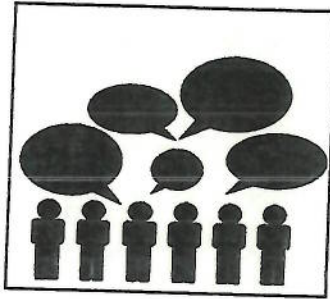


### **October 31 — Reformation Day**

Sermon: *"Covenants and Promises"*

Texts: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

God affirms His covenant with His people; He desires that we do the same. In Christ, we can.



Members of our Church Council and Call Committee have met twice with representatives from Christ Lutheran Church in Mantua to discuss the possibility of sharing a pastor. The conversation will continue on October 14 as we shape together our separate and shared expectations of how one pastor may serve both congregations. St. Thomas has the experience with Pastor Just and the agreement with Epiphany Lutheran in Northfield. Christ Lutheran had been served for many years by one pastor, Rev. Douglas Riley, and is presently served by Rev. Dan Esala as Interim.

Issues of finances, shared time, worship schedules, office time, and scores of other details will need to be considered and settled. There is also the issue that St. Thomas is part of the English District; Christ Lutheran is part of the Ohio District. None of these issues are roadblocks, but they will require attention. Keep our Call Committee and Church Council in prayer as they continue discussions with the Church Council and Call Committee at Christ Lutheran.



The Cleveland-Akron Circuits of the English District have agreed to study and implement the idea of serving as sponsors for Afghan Refugees. Pastors from the Ohio District Akron-Youngstown Circuits have indicated interest, as well. News reports indicate that several hundred such refugees will be coming to Northeast Ohio after the vetting process that leads to Special Immigrant Visas

(SIV). Pastor Just has been in contact with Lutheran Immigration and Refugees Services (LIRS) and is expecting more detailed information about how such sponsorships will be handled at what cost. As that information is made known, there will be a need for volunteers to help with planning, searching, finding, and gathering such things as: clothing, shelter, furniture, food, supplies, education opportunities, and the like. We have no idea about any of this right now; we need to proceed on faith. You can go to the LIRS website <https://www.lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies/> to learn more. Pray earnestly that we be available if the Lord calls on us to help in this way.



New red paraments (not those pictured at left) have been ordered for our chancel, which we pray will be available on Reformation Day, October 31. These paraments come as a gift in memory of Reginald and Mary Werner, Deb Wolff's parents. We are thankful for this thoughtful gift that will enhance our worship space for many years to come.



A reminder that at 2:00 AM on November 7 clocks will turn back one hour, so set your clocks back on Saturday so that you won't arrive at church and/or Bible Class at the wrong time.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Just is offering a Bible Study class on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. The first session is called "How Do I Know I Am a Christian?". We had 8 members participate the first Sunday. We would love to have more join us. See you this Sunday morning.

## **SERVICE PROJECT**

Our service project for the month of September is to help those in Haiti with all their needs. Monetary donations are being accepted through the month to be given to the Lutheran Missions Ministry. Thank you for your support!

## **WANTED—SUNDAY READERS**

We need volunteers for Sunday morning to read the First and Second Lessons. Pastor Just wants to provide the reading for the month to every Reader and make a schedule for the remaining months for 2021. We ask you to sign up on the sheets in the Narthex. Readings will be provided each Sunday.

## **MOVIE NIGHT**

In the mood for a good movie! If you have seen *Courageous*, *Fire Proof*, *Facing the Giants*, *War Room*, *Overcomer* or any other movie created by Stephen and Alex Kindrick then you are going to enjoy their latest two movies coming out this month. And if you have never heard of these movies or these creators let Marla know. She has all of these movies plus more that she would be happy to lend to you.

The first movie that came out is "Show Me the Father". Hopefully it is still in the theaters as of this printing. Steve and I saw this movie and were very impressed by how important fathers are to us, especially our heavenly father. This movie is a documentary featuring a variety of amazing true stories of unique father stories. Whether positive or painful, it's always personal and can deeply affect the core of our identity and direction of our lives. Providing a fresh perspective on the roles of fathers in today's society, *Show Me the Father* invites you to think differently about how you view your earthly father, and how you personally relate to God.

The second movie is "Courageous Legacy" which comes out the week of September 24. This movie is an updated version of *Courageous* 10 years later with a new ending. Filled with action-packed drama, it will once again have you laughing, crying, and cheering as you are challenged and inspired by everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children. Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous. Steve and I will be watching this movie soon, hopefully this week. I hope you will be too.

If you know of any other movies that our congregation would be interested in, please let me know so I can tell the folks. Thanks!

## **TRICK OR TREAT**

Trick or treat will be held on Saturday, October 30 and Sunday, October 31 in our communities. Please keep a special watch out for our little ones as they go door to door and walk our streets.

**Church Council** will be meeting October 17 after the worship service. If there is anything you would like the Council to discuss please let one of these members know... Steve Hlava, Jim Doerfler, Deb Wolff, Joyce Torres, Diane Lee, Del Groff, Marla Manijak or Pastor Just

**If you are in need** of a Maytag dryer, please let Deb Wolff know.

**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](http://www.stthomasstreetsboro.com)

**Check out our Facebook page also.** You will find our worship services and bulletins each week on the page.

**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 Wednesdays or Thursdays from 8:00-4:00. Please call ahead to make sure he is there.

#### TREASURERS REPORT - Month of August, 2021

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	4558.68	35263.60	34788.29
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4246.12	38023.67	41586.45
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>312.56</b>	<b>(2760.07)</b>	<b>(6798.16)</b>
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	104.00	6054.00	3439.92
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	306.73	417.77
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>104.00</b>	<b>5747.27</b>	<b>3022.15</b>
Average General Fund Income Per Week	<b>911.74</b>	<b>1007.53</b>	993.95
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1201.83</u>		

Special Funds Include:

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

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile	Jim Doerfler	Carol Earle	Corey Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins & Holly
Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely III	Kenny Nicely IV	Stephen Nicely
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Jenna Zimmerman	Alexa
Alice Artman	Aaron	Jim Barnes	Chip Black
Patty Bowman	Carl	Debbie Conrad	Leona Corban
Scott Corban	Tom Corban	Idabell Davis family	Deb Defer
Sue Ellinwood	Dan Erlandson	George Foerster	Christine Frank
Ken Granville	Kelly Heritage	Anita Hlava	Bob Hlava
Charles Hovavetz	Debbie Hovanetz	Janice	Jayne
John	Julie	Larry Kraus	Mike & Suzanne Latham
Laura	Dave Lauver	Lexi	Lori
Frank Manijak	Joe Manijak	Samantha	Amanda Nicely
Jodie Powers	Karen Power	Peter Power	Jessica Reker
Leo Rohaley	Kathi Rohrer	Sharon	Leslie Slanina
Ruth Svidron	Tim Tolodzieski	Kenneth Udovic	Linda Valetta and family
Bennie Wegener	Dan Wiley	Denny Wood	Carol Yurkschatt
Doris Zimmerman	COVID-19 patients	Haiti Earthquake Victims	
Homeless served by LMM	Afghans/Americans still in Afghanistan		

All natural disaster victims from fires, floods, earthquakes etc.

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

Mrs. Audrey Holland Willowood Care Room 1001 1186 Hancock Rd. Brunswick, OH 44212-4582	Carole & Heather Poston 3096 E. Pioneer Aurora, OH 44202	Lorene Kozar 681 Sweetnut Ct Streetsboro, OH 44241
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Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann and Joanna Nicely  
Our Military member—Troy Roman

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

#### Birthdays

3-Kim Kinder  
7-Joe Earle  
9-Jim Doerfler  
15-Stephanie Johnson  
17- Abigail Ayers  
20-Madelyn Ayers  
24-Linda Beuck  
27-Linda Hautmann  
31-Brianne Wolff



### OCTOBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

#### Baptism Birthdays

9-Trudy Ayers  
13-Joanna Nicely  
13-Gilbert Ayers  
13-Thomas Ayers  
20-Nick Phillips  
Steve Hlava

Happy Anniversary to...  
4-Keith & Becky Larkins

If anyone has been left off this list or any other list, please let Marla Manijak know so she can add you. I would love birthdays and anniversaries and baptism birthdays if you know when it is. Thanks!

# REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 31

JER. 31:31-34  
GOD WILL WRITE  
A NEW COVENANT  
ON THEIR 

PSALM 46  
GOD IS OUR  
REFUGE

Reformed

ROMANS 3:19-28  
JUSTIFIED by  
GRACE through FAITH

JOHN 8:31-36 WHEN THE SON SETS YOU FREE  
YOU ARE

and ALWAYS

FREE INDEED! 

Reforming 

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**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](mailto:doctorjust@gmail.com)**

**Web Site: [www.stthomasstreetsboro.com](http://www.stthomasstreetsboro.com)**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**BIBLE STUDY 9:00 A.M.**

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.**

**IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM**

**LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

**OR PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE**