

# The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

November 2021



It is customary in November to focus attention on Thanksgiving Day, and on our need to be, or be more, thankful for all that we have. That is certainly a good idea — to be thankful. But November has two other days of festivity that we ought to keep in focus: All Saints Day and Christ the King.

All Saints Day (which falls on November 1, and is observed in worship on November 7), marks the day when we think about that interesting concept, The Invisible Church. We spend our lives looking at The Visible Church, and a portion of those lives looking at the one segment of The Visible Church we know as St. Thomas Lutheran Church. For one Sunday, we consider that we are connected to all the saints of all of history and of all the future. We remember those whom

we have known personally by observing Totentag (A Remembrance of the Faithfully Departed); we reflect on the witness of those unknown to us.

The concept of The Invisible Church conveys to us two ideas. First is the notion that most Christians live out lives of faith in obscurity. They are invisible to the lens of history. Most of us are numbered among those Christians. Faithful followers of Christ whose names are known to Him and relatively few others. Few of us become as well-known as Martin Luther or Mother Theresa. Second is the notion that any person's faith is invisible to others. The Invisible Church carries the idea that, seated within the gathered congregation, there are people whose faith is obvious and people whose faith has not yet blossomed.

Both Visible and Invisible Church gather in the presence of Christ the King (the day is celebrated on November 21). Some may tend to think of Christ's Kingship only on Palm Sunday, when the crowds hailed Him as king, or Ascension Day, when He assumes His throne on high. But the Biblical witness tells us that we are to see, recognize, and honor Christ as King always. To be a Christian is to hail Jesus as King.

We more frequently use the term "Lord." Both titles bring us to the same posture — on our knees. It is the posture of saints. Saints kneel before their Lord and King because they know His authority over them. Saints kneel to emulate their Lord and King as they serve others in the way that He served others.

All Saints Day and Christ the King go together. We rejoice to celebrate both this month. We rejoice to be numbered among God's saints, His chosen and redeemed. We rejoice to serve so glorious a Servant King.

Then November 28 brings the First Sunday of Advent.

It's a busy month.

## Our Worship This Month



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.



### November 7 — All Saints Sunday

Sermon: *"Catch the Vision?"*

Texts: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 149; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

Our community in Christ affirms that we are saints in His eyes. This instills in us a vision of the present and the future — a real source of joy and hope.

Each year we take time to remember, and thus honor, those who have died in the Lord during the previous twelve months. We will observe **Totentag** on **All Saints Sunday, November 7**. If you wish to add a name to this public reading, please provide Pastor Just the following information by November 1: Your Name, The Name of the Deceased and relationship to you, the date of death. A form has been in the bulletin for this purpose, or you can call Pastor Just's cell number: (216) 789-6688.



### November 14 — Pentecost XXIV

Sermon: *"A Widow's Mite"*

Texts: I Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Jesus commends a poor widow for her gift—not so much for the amount, but for the faith that enabled her to give it.

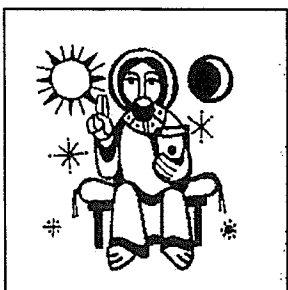


### November 21 — Christ the King

Sermon: *"Not So You'd Notice"*

Texts: Daniel 7:9-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Two visions of the reigning Christ seem to be in conflict with His own witness. Which one do we embrace?



### November 28 — Advent I

Sermon: *"The Days Are Coming"*

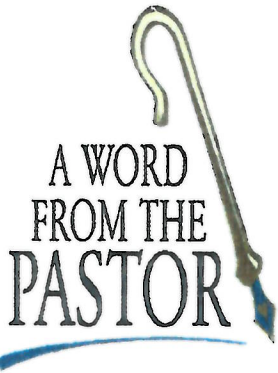
Texts: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Jesus gives us signs to look for that signal the end. More importantly, He tells us what we need for those days.



### Congregational Meeting

On December 5, we will hold our **Annual Congregational Meeting** after our worship service. All members are encouraged to join us. Along with the usual items like the budget, the Church Council will bring a proposal regarding membership. For the past several months, Diane Lee and Robin Hoffman have been combing through to update the Parish Register and identified a number of names that appear to no longer meet the terms of membership that are in the by-laws. That list of names will be made available the week before the meeting so that you can take it home to review and help us make proper decisions about these memberships. We ask you to pray about how we can best handle what can be a delicate decision.



As you have read or heard from news reports, a large number of Afghani refugees have fled their native land due to the resurgence of the Taliban. I have been in contact with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) and learned that they will be helping with the effort at resettlement. I am awaiting further information on how, when, and where that will be taking place. Several congregations from the English and Ohio Districts in the Greater Cleveland-Akron area have indicated willingness to join the effort. In addition, a possible source for grant money to assist such an undertaking has emerged, and I just learned that Lutheran Heritage Foundation has recently published (and will be sending me) materials in Dari and Farsi, the two languages spoken in Afghanistan. This is all sounding to me very much like “a God thing” to which we should give due attention. I hope to have more detailed information to share in the very near future.



Our Search Committee has been meeting with the Call Committee from Christ Lutheran in Mantua to discuss calling and sharing a pastor. They have invited St. Thomas members to join them on November 6 at 2:00 PM for an Ice Cream Social. Christ Lutheran is located just north of “downtown” on Main Street (Route 44) in Mantua. While our meetings are not designed to merge our congregations, it would likely be beneficial for members of both churches to get to know one another; this is a beginning. Join in!

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Just is offering a Bible Study class on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. The study is called "The Third Peacock". We would love to have you join us for this very interesting study. See you this Sunday morning.

## **SERVICE PROJECTS**

We have several projects going on. The first is to help those in Haiti with all their needs after the earthquakes. Monetary donations are being accepted with checks made out to the church. They will be given to the Lutheran Missions Ministry. Thank you for your support!

The second one is for our Streetsboro Community Pantry. They are always in need of food and monetary donations. Please bring your items to the church any Sunday. We will make sure they get to the cupboard. Thanksgiving is coming so they would appreciate your donations. Thank you for your generous giving heart!

## **SINGERS NEEDED**



Marla would love to gather a group of people who love to sing to sing during the worship service. Please let her know if you are interested. We can meet briefly after the worship service to go over a song.

## **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.



**Have a blessed Thanksgiving!**

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile Linda Hautmann Ken Nicely II Carol Poston Alexa Chip Black Leona Corban Christine Frank Anita Hlava Jayme Larry Kraus Lexi Joe Manijak Jodie Powers Leo Rohaley Ruth Svidron Dan Wiley Doris Zimmerman Haiti Earthquake Victims All natural disaster victims from fires, floods, earthquakes etc.	Jim Doerfler Palagia Hlava Kenny Nicely III Heather Poston Alice Artman Patty Bowman Sue Ellinwood Ken Granville Charles Hovavetz John Mike Latham Lori Samantha Peter Power Kathi Rohrer Tim Tolodzieski Donny Wood COVID-19 patients Homeless served by LMM	Carol Earle Lorene Kozar Kenny Nicely IV Rory Wolff Aaron Carl Dan Erlandson Kelly Heritage Debbie Hovanetz Julie Laura Frank Manijak Amanda Nicely Jessica Reker Sharon Bennie Wegener Carol Yurkschatt Missionaries being held hostage in Haiti	Corey Hautmann Becky Larkins & Holly Stephen Nicely Jenna Zimmerman Jim Barnes Debbie Conrad George Foerster Patty & Kenny Hansen Janice Levi Just Dave Lauver Roberta Lesko family Kim Monegan family Riley Ann Roch baptism Leslie Slanina Linda Valetta and family Terri Zeigler
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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, Thomas Ayers and Joanna Nicely  
 Our Military member—Troy Roman

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

#### Birthdays

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



### NOVEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

#### Baptism Birthdays

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

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

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!

**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**