

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

January 2022



“We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives . . . not looking for flaws, but for potential.” *Ellen Goodman*

What is true for us as individuals may be equally true for us as a congregation. We often spend a lot of energy exploring what is wrong, and too little time examining what is right and therefore what we can build on.

Potential does not mean what must be, but what can be. A group of people asked Jesus, “*What must we do to perform the works of God?*” He told them, “*This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.*” [John 6:28-29] So, according to

Jesus what we must be doing is believing in Him. How does that effect potential.

A major part of belief is trust. Trust comes when you have spent sufficient time with someone to have a deep level of intimacy with that person. So it is with Jesus. We need to spend major time with Him in order to increase our level of trust, that is faith, in Him.

This is called positioning. Faith, while a gift from the Holy Spirit, is much like planted seed. The better prepared the soil is, the more likely that seed, once planted, will take root and flourish. There are many traditional and effective forms of positioning — daily Bible reading, prayer, meditation, small group sharing, fasting, to name a few — which enable us to become more open to the presence of Christ. The more we engage in such activities, the more deeply we come to trust.

Once we are in that position of trust, we become tools that the Spirit can use powerfully to further the goals of the Kingdom of God. Until we are in such a position of trust, we have a diminished idea of the potential the Spirit will invest in us and then tap into for the welfare of the Kingdom.

What can we do, that is, what is our potential as individuals and as a congregation? I have no idea. As far as the Spirit is concerned, even the sky is not the limit.

What must we do, as individuals and as a congregation? Devote more time and energy to allowing the Spirit to build and foster our faith. We can be positioned by the Spirit in Word and Sacrament to become what the Spirit needs.

Our Worship This Month



January 2 — Epiphany Sunday

Sermon: *"Made Known"*

Texts: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 24; Ephesians 3:2-12; Matthew 2:1-12

The arrival of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus is but the beginning of revelations that have led to our having the Good News. What joy!



January 9 — The Baptism of Our Lord

Sermon: *"Death, Rebirth, Resurrection, Revival"*

Texts: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-22

Tied up in Jesus' baptism is his death and resurrection. Our's, too! We reflect on the meaning of baptism this day.



January 16 — Epiphany II

Sermon: *"Is This Really Necessary?"*

Texts: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 67; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Jesus performs His first miracle, changing water into wine, in response to a real need. Do we dare to "bother" Him with our problems?

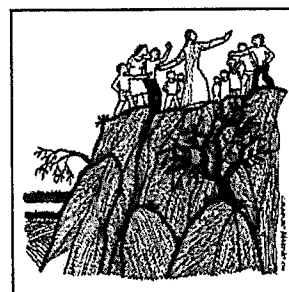


January 23 — Epiphany III

Sermon: *"That Same Spirit on Me, Please"*

Texts: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a;
Luke 4: 14-21

Jesus announces how the Spirit works in and through Him. That same Spirit has been given to us — to do what?



January 30 — Epiphany IV

Sermon: *"Love Also Has to be Tough"*

Texts: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71; 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13;
Luke 4:21-30

"Tough Love" is a modern slogan — the oldest evidence tells us that to love requires that we, not love, must be tough.



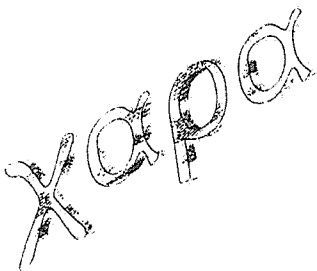
For the past several years, we have set aside offerings on the fifth Sunday of the month to support a charity chosen for that purpose. The Annual Congregational Meeting on December 5 determined which charities are to be supported in those months with five Sundays.

For January, that charity is Family & Community Services, Inc. located in Ravenna, serving all of Portage County. From their website we read: "Family and Community Services, Inc. (FCS) is one of the largest,

most diverse social service agencies in Northeastern, Ohio. The agency began in 1941 as the Catholic Charities Bureau of the Ravenna Deanery with two programs and two staff members. Today, FCS operates over 70 programs with nearly 600 dedicated staff, and extends to 23 counties in Ohio and 4 counties in Michigan. Throughout its 79 years of service, FCS has grown exponentially in order to accommodate a variety of services and needs. Last year, FCS served almost 200,000 children and adults. The impact of these services is magnified further through the efforts of 3,600 volunteers who are dedicated to its programs and its mission. FCS is continually striving to promote volunteerism, develop innovative partnerships, and achieve a high level of satisfaction among those served."

Their latest newsletter reports: 427,292 hot meal provided by the Center of Hope, Kent Social Services, and Mobile Meals; 9,006 bed nights and 2,534 crisis call administered by Safer Futures and Someplace Safe; 7,923 clients assessed FCS' Counseling Department for behavioral health services; 3,448 individuals received referrals or financial assistance by Housing and Emergency Support Services; 2,740 senior participated in health and wellness activities with SCOPE Senior Centers; 389 veterans received housing, assistance, or support by FCS Veterans Programs.

On January 30, we encourage you to add an extra offering to be sent to this broad-based agency.



On January 9, Pastor Just will begin a new study on the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians. The study is entitled simply, **Χαρά** (Chara) — the Greek word for joy. Plan to join us each Sunday at 9:00 AM as we "walk through" St. Paul's exploration of the joy to be found in the Gospel. Since we have opened this study to our young people who would be otherwise involved in catechetical instruction, Pastor will add a segment each week that will include input from Luther's Small

Catechism (not a bad thing for adults to review, as well).

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile	Jim Doerfler	Carol Earle	Corey Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins & Holly
Steve Manijak	The Manijak family	The Johnson Family	Tom & Jen Jones
Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely III	Kenny Nicely IV	Carol Poston
Heather Poston	Amy Rohaley	Rory Wolff	Alayna
Alexa	Alice Artman	Aaron	Chip Black
Nickoles Bohne	Patty Bowman	Carl	Debbie Conrad
Leona Corban	David Defer	Dan Erlandson	George Foerster
Christine Frank	Ken Granville	Kelly Heritage	Pastor Frerich's father
Ken Granville	Evan Hlava	Anita Hlava	Patty & Kenny Hansen
Charles Hovavetz	Debbie Hovanetz	Janice	Jayme
John	Laura	Dave Lauver	Lexi
Lori	Frank Manijak	Joe Manijak	Samantha
Amanda Nicely	Jodie Powers	Peter Power	Leo Rohaley
Kathi Rohrer	Sharon	Jim Shuster	Leslie Slanina
Angela Smith	Joe Svidron	Tim Tolodzieski	Bennie Wegener
Dan Wiley	Donny Wood	Carol Yurkschatt	Linda Valetta and family

COVID-19 patients Haiti Earthquake Victims Homeless served by LMM
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
has moved to Mentor will have an
address soon

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

6-Joanna Nicely
6-Gabe Johnson
11-Troy Roman
12-Deb Wolff
21-Nicole Johnson
22-Sam Nicely
28-Logan Hagen
29-Rory Wolff
30-Becky Larkins



JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

13-Ben Wolff
25-Grace Rohaley
31-Amy Rohaley

Anniversaries

24-Jim & Jeanette Doerfler

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!

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!

WANTED—SUNDAY READERS

We need volunteers for Sunday morning to read the First and Second Lessons. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. Readings are beside the signup sheet. Please sign up this Sunday. Thank you for volunteering your services!

Church Council will be meeting January 16 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 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

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

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

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

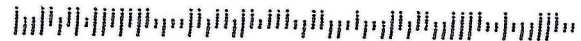
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THE PARISH VOICE NEWSLETTER

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

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