

# The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

February 2022



## GROWING MISSIONALLY

Leadership magazine was devoted to “Going Missional,” with article after article devoted to what it means for a congregation to become “missional.” It is as if the entire evangelical arm of the church woke up one morning and discovered that the Church indeed has a mission to which we ought to give attention.

The word “missional” is new (indeed, I have repeatedly now placed it within quotation marks because my computer’s spell-check keeps informing me that this is not a word). The concept, however, is anything but new. In our Lutheran circles, we grew accustomed to using the term “mission-minded.” That phrase suggested a congregation, its budget, and its work plan had an eye on supporting what we have classically referred to a “mission work” — and that has usually meant sending workers to foreign lands to bring the Gospel to people who had never been exposed to the Gospel.

“Missional” is now used to describe something more all-encompassing. It does not refer solely to foreign or overseas mission work, and to sending others to do that work, but to shaping within a congregation a vision for how Christ can use all His people in any locale to bring those who do not know Christ into His presence to be touched by His love. Being “missional” means being attuned to the needs and opportunities for service and witness that exist wherever God’s people may be. There’s another term that has come alongside “missional” — “glocal.” It tells us that our vision can never be limited to a single locale, but must be open to seeing opportunities both near and far.

I believe that St. Thomas can claim to be a “missional” (and hereafter I will drop the quotation marks) congregation. Our support for many ministries of caring is testimony to that designation: our help to Redeemer Crisis Center (itself a missional ministry), our ongoing work with the local food pantry; support for Akron Pregnancy Services, our fifth-Sunday offerings, our support for the work of the Naumann’s in Latin and South America — all of these point to a congregation that has a missional bent.

But we have not yet become a glocal congregation. We need to encourage within one another a broader scope of vision of how our congregation can shape the world. John Wesley declared that

There’s a “buzz word” that has gained popularity in some segments of the Church — “missional.” It first appeared on my horizon when I went to the ChristCare training in St. Louis. One of the “pillars” of the ChristCare program is “missional service.” [When we began the ChristCare ministry at Epiphany in Northfield, we decided that the phrase “self-giving service” would be better understood.]

Since then, I keep running into this word “missional.” In January, the entire Winter issue of



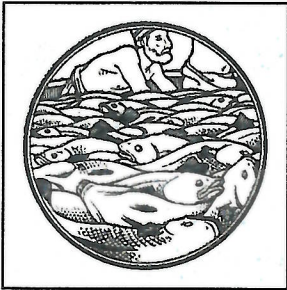
"the whole world is my parish;" it is a sentiment we could well adopt. Added to this month's newsletter (and I am planning for it to continue each month) is a "Pray for Us" calendar from the Synod, offering areas of concern that can help focus our attention beyond of congregation's boundaries.

*Growing* missionally is a key. Being satisfied is hardly ever a missional attitude; being discontented with the *status quo* is a more positive sign of missional thinking — because usually the *status quo* means that someone's needs are going unmet. As St. Thomas is moving ahead with the call process, we need to think beyond "our community" — or better, to redefine "our community" as the global community. We must strive to continue to grow as a missional church with a glocal vision. Please join in prayer for God's guidance and strength to do this.

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## Our Worship This Month

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### February 6 — Epiphany V

Sermon: *"In the Presence"*

Texts: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Isaiah in the Temple; Paul on the Damascus Road; the Twelve with Jesus — all are filled with awe. What happens when you encounter God?



### February 13 — Epiphany VI

Sermon: *"Blessings and Curses"*

Texts: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Luke's record of the Beatitudes reflects the Old Testament's message of blessings and curses. What does this mean for us?

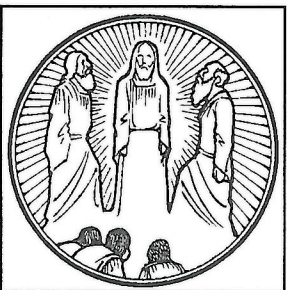


### February 20 — Epiphany VII

Sermon: *"Measure for Measure"*

Texts: Genesis 45:3-15; Psalm 103; I Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50; Luke 6:27-38.

Shakespeare's play explores issues of justice and mercy, and the lack thereof. How does God deal with those matters?



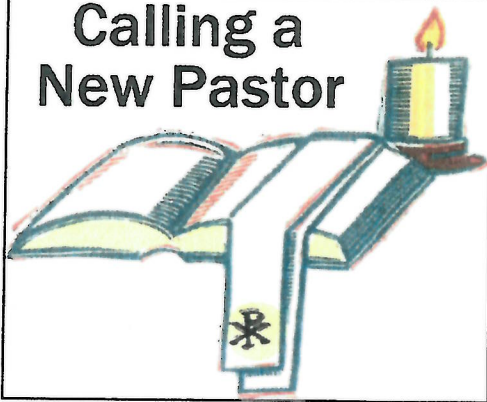
### February 27 — The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sermon: *"Two Prayers"*

Texts: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43  
Jesus' metamorphosis on a mountaintop yields two wondrous results for His people. We are urged to pray for them both.



## Calling a New Pastor



Our Call Committee has met again with the Call Committee from Christ Lutheran, Mantua to finish up the paperwork required from both the English and Ohio Districts, and are starting to put together interview questions for prospective candidates. In the next several weeks, they hope to begin reviewing the Personal Information Forms (PIF's) for each of the eleven (yes, eleven!) possible candidates provided by District leaders, so that they can narrow down the choice to those Pastors who most accurately fit the descriptions of each congregation's needs and intentions.

Continue praying for our Call Committee: Gilbert Ayers (Chair), Guy Jeanblanc, Robin Hoffman, and Diane Pencil, and our partnership with Christ Lutheran.



UH Portage Medical Center (known to most of us as "Robinson Memorial") offers volunteer opportunities to assist the hospital chaplain with spiritual care support for patients, their families, and staff. Support may involve in-person visitation, telephone calls, providing prayer or the Eucharist, as well as comfort to family and staff for end-of-life situations.

Volunteers traditionally serve 2-3 hours a week or as on-call support a few days a month. Volunteers do not have direct contact with patients in contact precautions (such as COVID). If interested in learning more about becoming a Spiritual Care Volunteer, contact UH Portage Medical Center's Pastoral Care Department at (330) 297-2445.

## Lent 2022

Ash Wednesday (March 2) we gather at 7:30 PM for a **Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes**. This begins a series of Lenten Sermons on the theme: "*Called to Be . . .*" Each Sunday, Pastor Just will guide us through our calling in Christ

March 2 — Called to Be Righteous

March 6 — Called to Be Conquerors

March 13 — Called to Be Reconciled

March 20 — Called to Be Foolish

March 27 — Called to Be His Workmanship

April 3 — Called to Be Obedient

In our **Midweek Lenten Services** (7:30 PM preceded by Soup Supper at 6:30 PM), Pastor Just will offer a series of sermons around the central theme: "**In the Thick of Things.**" Jesus joins us in the thick of life, where we need Him most. Unless the eyes of our hearts are open to Him, we often miss His presence. Give heed each Wednesday in Lent, as we discover Christ . . .

March 9 — In the Thick of Temptation

March 16 — In the Thick of Crisis

March 23 — In the Thick of Blindness

March 30 — In the Thick of Humiliation

April 6 — In the Thick of Deceit

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We would love to start meeting as a Women's Group for a monthly bible study. We will be meeting for the first time on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful Women's fellowship time. Any questions please see Joyce Torres or Marla Manijak.

## PHILIPPIANS BIBLE STUDY

Pastor is leading a bible study on Philippians on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Join us this Sunday!

## SOUP SUPPERS

Join us for soup suppers and worship during the Lenten season. Soup will be served at 6:30 p.m. on March 9, 16, 23 and 30<sup>th</sup> and on April 6. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Narthex for soup makers, salad, bread and whatever you would like to bring. We always have wonderful dinners. Please join us for this great fellowship. Worship follows at 7:30 p.m. See you in March!

## 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. Thank you for your generous giving heart!

Our fifth Sunday in January was given to the Portage County Job and Family Services. You can still donate to this organization. Thank you!!

## 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.

**Church Council** will be meeting February 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stthomasstreetsboro.com) Also Check out our Facebook page. You will find our worship services and bulletins each week on the page.

Please see Deb Wolff for your yearly giving records for your taxes.

**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.



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile	Jim Doerfler	Carol Earle	Corey Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	The Johnson Family	Lorene Kozar
Becky Larkins & Holly	Ken Nicely II	Carol Poston	Heather Poston
Rory Wolff	Alexa	Ruth Bennett	Chip Black
Nickoles Bohne	Patty Bowman	Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes
Debbie Conrad	Leona Corban	Deb Defer	Emma Borbely
Dan Erlandson	George Foerster	Christine Frank	Ava Gillum
Ken Granville	Kelly Heritage	Anita Hlava	Patty & Kenny Hansen
Evan Hlava	Karl Hlava	Charles Hovanetz	Debbie Hovanetz
Janice	Louise Jerina	Laura	Dave Lauver
Lexi	Frank Manijak	Joe Manijak	Amanda Nicely
Jodie Powers	Peter Power	Leo Rohaley	Sharon
Jim Shuster	Leslie Slanina	Angela Smith	Tim Tolodzieski
Jaay Valetta	Linda Valetta	Bennie Wegener	Benny & Mary Rose Wegener
Dan Wiley	Donny Wood	Carol Yurkschatt	
COVID-19 patients	All Natural disaster victims from fires, floods, earthquakes, snow storms etc.		

**We would love to have updates on our prayer list. If you have good news about someone on this list please let the church know or call Marla at 330-472-3045. Thank you!**

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  
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

**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!**

### WOULDN'T IT BE...

...wonderful if we all had beautiful voices and sang in the choir? Wouldn't it be great if each one of us had the ability to stand up in the front of the congregation and preach a powerful sermon? Wouldn't it be terrific if all the men were ushers and all the women were on Altar Guild? Oh, wait a minute, maybe not! Who would sit in the pews and listen to the sermon and hear the music? God has given each of us gifts and abilities that we can use to serve Him. Some of us are better at planning a fellowship event than washing dishes, and some of us are better at unloading folding chairs than counting the offering. Yet together we are able to make the church run smoothly, to spread the gospel in our communities and throughout the world.



**Happy Groundhog Day!**



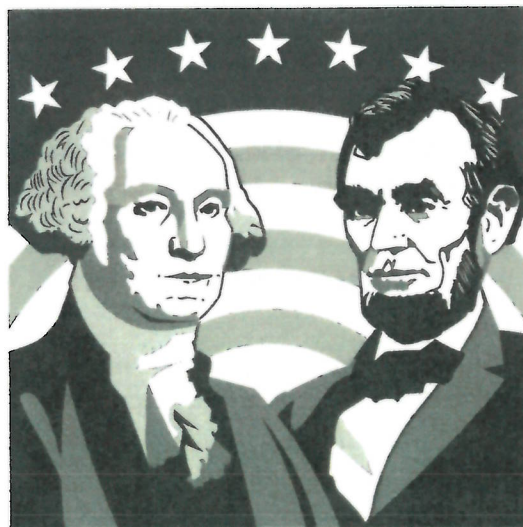
**Happy Valentines Day!**



**Happy Birthday Mr. Lincoln!**



**Happy Birthday Mr. Washington!**



**Happy Presidents Day!**





# ENGLISH DISTRICT GALA 2022

ROOTED IN CHRIST

ONLINE JUNE 12, 2022 @ 7:30 PM ET

In support of

**THE ENGLISH DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**

to enable the incredible missions and ministries of our district



Featuring inspiring speakers, awards, auction, and music  
in celebration of our ministry.

**TO REGISTER VISIT [www.englishdistrict.org](http://www.englishdistrict.org)**

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in  
him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7





**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 (Mask required)**