

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

April 2022



I was reading on-line about Easter (looking for some sermon ideas) and ran across this statement in Wikipedia: *“Although the event of the resurrection itself is not described in the Bible, many artists have depicted the scene.”* (It showed such a depiction by the German artist, Matthias Grünewald.) My reaction was: *“Not a single eyewitness account of the resurrection event?”* Then came my second reaction: *“What is to be made of that fact?”*

There is considerable eyewitness testimony to the crucifixion — all four Gospels give accounts. They are varied enough to ensure that we do not see them as one, fabricated, harmonized account. They really must be the collected memories of many witnesses to the horrible events of Good Friday.

There is one brief description of the events surrounding the resurrection. Matthew records: *“There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.”* [28:2-4] But this is not *per se* an actual eyewitness account of Jesus coming out of the tomb. So I’m still considering why is there no such account? Even if the disciples were not in the garden when it happened, there must have been a soldier or two they could have convinced to provide the details. Matthew had to have gotten his information from somebody. What we have instead of actual play-by-play details of the emergence of Jesus from a cave is the many eyewitness accounts of His post-resurrection appearances. St. Paul can point to more than five hundred who fit that category of witness [1 Corinthians 15:6].

Apparently, for the New Testament Church, that Jesus rose is far more important than how He did it. I think that must be true for us, as well, in part, because we may not be able to comprehend how it was done; we cannot comprehend death and eternity. But more to the issue of faith, if we knew how, then the resurrection becomes little more than magic; it is a trick that is known only to those with insider knowledge. When have evidence only that it was done, we must give ourselves in trust — first to Jesus who did it, and then to those witnesses who tell us.

Who first told you that Christ is risen? A parent or grandparent? A Sunday School teacher? A pastor? Did you trust their witness, or did you demand more proof? Thomas wanted proof; Jesus gave Thomas the proof requested. Thomas thought that, without such proof, he could not believe. You and I are convinced that he was wrong.

Some years back we got this report of the “Jesus Tomb.” Movie producer, James Cameron, and director, Simona Jacobovici, aired a documentary on the Discovery Channel, in which they claimed they had found the bones of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and their son, Judah. They claimed that DNA evidence scientifically proved it was Jesus and Mary, and that all leading scholars and archeologists agreed with their findings. Bunk!

Most scholars have come forward in the attempt to dispute, renounce, or even ridicule these claims. The DNA evidence is meaningless (there’s nothing to compare it to); the “find” is more

than 25 years old (hardly new!); the documentary was nothing but a hodgepodge of old heresies, myths, and fabricated scenes of the “dig.” Yet, on the heels of The DaVinci Code, many are ready to say, “There must be something to this!” One question: “According to The DaVinci Code, Mary Magdalene wound up in France, and was entombed there; how did her bones then get back to Jerusalem?”

I raise this question to show how ridiculous are the premises of both the book and the TV documentary. But I also want us to confront the reality that faith does not rely on, nor is it dispelled by, such “proof.” The disciples were first told that Jesus had risen. Luke tells us “. . . *it seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe . . .*” [24:11] Even seeing the Risen Christ did not at first convince them: they “*were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.*” [Luke 24:37]

All we have is the witness that Christ is risen; but that witness is what shapes us. The Holy Spirit works through that witness to make the reality of Christ’s resurrection come alive in us. The “proof” we are provided is the Spirit’s gift of faith that enlivens us. As one anonymous poet said well:

How do I know that Christ is risen? What proof have I to give?

He touched my life one blessed day And I began to live.

How do I know he left the tomb That morning long ago?

I met Him just this morning And my heart is still aglow.

How do I know that endless life He gained for me that day?

His life within is proof enough Of immortality.

Our Worship This Month



April 3 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: “*Called to be Obedient*”

Texts: Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 2:1-15; Luke 20:9-19

To obey, we must listen. But there is so much noise to distract us from hearing what we need to hear. How do we “tune in?”



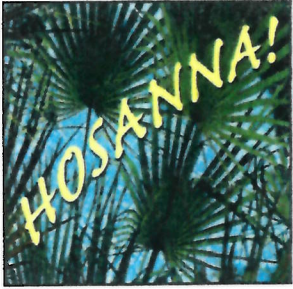
April 7 — Lenten Midweek 5

Sermon: “*In the Thick of Deceit*”

Texts: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 73; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Is it possible we live in a world where deception is so common place we have come to accept it as “normal?”

Beginning on Palm Sunday, we will return to serving communion at the altar rail. If you desire one of the communion packets that we have been using (especially if you plan to worship in your automobile), an usher will provide it.

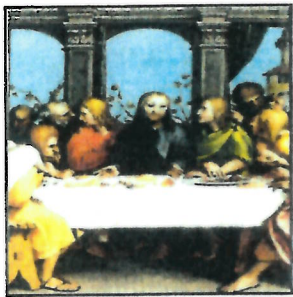


April 10 — Palm Sunday/The Sunday of the Passion

Sermon: *"Watching Death Die"*

Texts: Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31; Philippians 2:1-11;
Luke 23:1-49

We begin our service with a Palm Procession, recalling the crowds that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. Our focus then shifts to the Passion of Our Lord, as we hear read the account from St. Luke.



April 14 — Maundy Thursday; 7:30 PM

Sermon: *"Broken Sanctuary"*

Texts: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-7,31b-35

On this day we remember the first Holy Eucharist, and give special thanks for this ongoing gift.



April 15 — Good Friday; 7:30 PM

Sermon: *"You Can't Avoid It"*

Texts: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

We enter the church in silence. Through the Tenebrae liturgy, we are brought to the foot of Golgotha, and in the re-enactment of the Passion Narrative, we gain new insights into our Lord's Passion. Hymns give us time to reflect on what we see. Once we have witnessed His being placed in the tomb, we leave again in silence.

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

April 17

We invite you to join us, from 8:30 to 9:30 AM, for an **EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST** that will be served in the Fellowship Hall.



Sermon: *"An Idle Tale"*

Texts: Job 19:23-27; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; John 20:1-18

The joyous Easter celebration includes music, singing the praise of the Risen Lord. Familiar old hymns and new songs of praise help us express of joy in the victory Christ has given us!

ROOTED IN CHRIST

An online gala of fun, fellowship, and gracious giving.

You are invited to join the churches of the English District for a Virtual Gala on June 12, 2022. The gala is for the benefit of the District's Endowment Fund which supports congregations, church workers, and ministries in the district and around the world.

Did you know that your district is known for missions? The English District is made up of congregations across the USA and

Canada. This allows the District to partner together for amazing mission opportunities. At the Virtual Gala, you will learn more about these missions in YOUR District, enjoy fellowship with others in the District, and consider becoming a partner in ministry. You will hear directly from some of those missions and from Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, former speaker of The Lutheran Hour and currently with The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. Join us online for ROOTED IN CHRIST, the 2022 English District Virtual Gala, on June 12. Register at <https://englishdistrict.org>. For updates, read *Servant to Servant* (the weekly newsletter available online at the very bottom of site above; click onto: "Sign up for our emails. ").



On Saturday, May 14 at 10:00 AM, Akron Pregnancy Services will sponsor a "Walk for Life," a way to garner funds for this ministry of support for women as they move through pregnancy and beyond. This had been an annual event before the pandemic, and the goal is to make it an annual event hereafter. The walk itself can be joined at the APS location, 715 East Buchtel Ave in Akron; or you may choose to do your own walk (with friends or solo) in your neighborhood, or location of your choice. If you walk, you are invited to seek out sponsors to support you; sponsors may choose to offer donations on a by-the-mile basis, or as a single gift. That also means that, if you cannot or choose not to walk, you may help by sponsoring someone else.

More details will be available after the planning session on April 9; these will be shared in our Sunday bulletins and in the May newsletter. Please pray how God might best use you to help support a worthy outreach ministry in our community.

PASTORAL ACTS:

Burials:

Daniel Vana, born December 2, 1933, died February 4, 2022, received a Christian burial on February 11, 2022. Interment was at Crown Hill Cemetery in Twinsburg..

Kenneth F. Nicely, Jr., born February 27, 1957, died February 17, 2022, received a Christian burial on February 25, 2022. Interment was at Grandview Memorial Park in Ravenna.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile	Jim Doerfler	Carol Earle	Corey Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins & Holly
Ken Nicely Jr family	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Rory Wolff
David Adkins	Alexa	Chip Black	7unne
Peggy Bower	Patty Bowman	Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes
Leona Corban	Mary Defer	Dan Erlandson	George Foerster
Christine Frank	Ava Gillum	Ken Granville	Nancy Granville
Anita Hlava	Evan Hlava	Karl Hlava	Patty & Kenny Hansen
Charles Hovanetz	Debbie Hovanetz	Janice	Louise Jerina
Suzanne Latham	Laura	Lexi	Frank Manijak
Joe Manijak	Amanda Nicely	Larry & Sally Powerll	Sharon
Jodie Powers	Peter Power	Leo Rohaley	Deacon Robert Szalai
Leslie Slanina	Angela Smith	John Szabo	Lacey Werner
Tim Tolodzieski	Linda Valetta	Bennie Wegener	
Donny Wood	Carol Yurkschatt	Ukraine refugees	
COVID-19 patients	All Natural disaster victims		

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

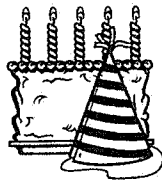
Lorene Kozar
8460 Westport Dr.
Mentor, Oh 44060

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

16-Wendy Weber
18-Jodi Earle
19-Haley Rohaley
19-Aggie Blankenship



APRIL BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Mike Phillips
20-Stephen Nicely
24-Kari Earle
30-Haley Rohaley

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!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Group has started up again. We will be meeting on Saturday, April 15 after setting up the sanctuary for Easter around noon. We are reading the book "Grace" by Max Lucado and will be reading the first 2 chapters and discussing those chapters at our meeting. If you have not received your book yet, please see Marla Manijak. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful Women's fellowship time. Any questions please see Joyce Torres or Marla Manijak.

Mark your calendars for June 5th! We will be having a picnic to celebrate our 60th anniversary!

SERVICE PROJECTS

We have several projects going on. The first is to help those in Haiti with all their needs after the earthquakes and for the refugees from Ukraine. 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!

Church Council will be meeting April 24th 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. The Church Council will be installed on Sunday, March 6 during the worship service.

Please check our church website 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 Also Check out our Facebook page. You will find our worship services and bulletins each week on the page.

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. Please call ahead to make sure he is there.

CHURCH FINANCES

Please continue to remember your church each month. Our expenses are still here and we could use your help in keeping up with these expenses. Thank you! You can send your offering to P.O. Box 2247.

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of February 2022

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	3980.36	14936.36	11018.36
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4640.04	8458.68	9554.94
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(659.68)	6477.68	1463.42
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	62.50	155.50	5552.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	150.80	260.36	110.18
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(88.30)	(104.86)	5441.82
Average General Fund Income Per Week	995.09	1659.60	1224.26
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1229.52</u>		

Special Funds Include:

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



Palm Sunday—April 10—10:00 a.m. with palm processional



Maundy Thursday—April 14—7:30 p.m.



Good Friday—April 15—7:30 p.m.

**Help set up for Easter Sunday on
Saturday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m.**



**Easter Sunday—April 17
8:30-9:30—Pancake Breakfast
9:00-9:45—Children Activities with Easter Egg hung
10:00 Worship**

**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

BIBLE STUDY 9:00 A.M.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE (Mask is optional)