

# The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

March 2022



We are taking up two foci for Lent this year. On Thursday Midweek (but not Ash Wednesday), we are listening for how Jesus is with us “in the thick of things.” On Sundays, we are listening to understand what we have been “Called to Be.” It is hard to do the one and not do the other.

When the Holy Spirit leads us to trust that Jesus is true to His promises and is always present with us, at the same time the Spirit opens us to desire how to respond. The response from Christ’s people to His loving presence is never, “*So what?*” It is always, “*So what now?*” Where will Christ take us in faith? What will He equip us to do? To whom will He send us? This is the response of faith — to go and do what Christ desires.

The first thing Christ desires is that we worship. Nothing is as central to the Christian faith and life as giving praise to God for His grace and mercy. Whatever else we may do in life, it begins and ends in worship. Our service, our giving, our understanding, our fellowship, our witness — none of these can happen apart from our life in worship. If we cut ourselves off from the worshipping community, we sever the connection to Christ.

It is in worship that we learn to forgive, to reconcile, to focus away from ourselves, to offer ourselves in joyous devotion. It is in worship that we realize that we are part of something much bigger and more important than our everyday lives. It is in worship that we are fed, nourished, and equipped to live as Christ wants us to live.

As we come together in worship during this Lent — both on Sundays and in our Thursday Midweek Lenten services — we will be energized as the Spirit speaks through the Word. We will discover the joy of knowing that Christ is with us in every circumstance, calling us to greater lives in His Kingdom.

Beyond our worship lie times for service, witness, teaching, caring, suffering, giving, relating. Some of us will be very busy at Kingdom work; others will be equipped and called to less active participation. All will be gifted by the Spirit for whatever tasks are set before them.

Plan to make this Lent a time when you encounter Christ more fully, and discover that He is always true to His promises. He will come to you, stand with you, and call you to a faith-life that is rich, active, and Spirit-filled.

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## Our Worship This Season of Lent

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### March 2 — Ash Wednesday (7:30 PM)

Sermon: *“Called to Be Righteous”*

Texts: Joel 2:1-18; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10; Matthew 6:1-21

In this service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes, we begin to examine our calling to follow Christ in righteousness.



### March 6 — First Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *“Called to be Conquerors”*

Texts: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91; Romans 8:31-39; Luke 4:1-13

Paul says that we are “more than conquerors” through Christ. What can that mean (take a look at Jesus in the wilderness)?



### March 10 — Lenten Midweek 1

Sermon: *“In the Thick of Temptation”*

Texts: Genesis 3:1-8; Psalm 118; James 1:1-18; Luke 4:1-13

When Jesus faces temptation, he shows us that God how will be with us in our times of struggles against whatever would lead us astray.

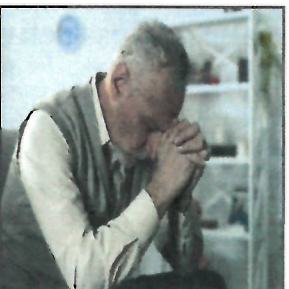


### March 13 — Second Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *“Called to be Reconciled”*

Texts: Jeremiah 26:8-15; Psalm 4; Romans 5:1-11; Luke 13:31-35

Since we are bound to Christ, we have received from God the forgiveness we need. The issue before us has to do with reconciling with others.



### March 17 — Lenten Midweek 2

Sermon: *“In the Thick of Crisis”*

Texts: Genesis 15:1-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Jesus shows us three ways to manage the difficult times that so often disrupt our lives.



### March 20 — Third Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *“Called to be Foolish”*

Texts: Ecclesiastes 2:12-21; Psalm 63; I Corinthians 1:18-24; Luke 13:1-9  
What does it mean to be “foolish?” Is this something we should embrace or repel?



### March 24 — Lenten Midweek 3

Sermon: *“In the Thick of Blindness”*

Texts: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 85; I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9  
How is it that we can so easily see sin at work in others and constantly miss it in ourselves? What does it take to “open our eyes?”



### March 27 — Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sermon: *“Called to be His Workmanship”*

Texts: Joshua 5:9-12; Isaiah 12:1-6; Ephesians 2:1-10; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  
God has done in us what we could never do for ourselves. Through the Holy Spirit, we are given insight to know how precious is that message.



### March 31 — Lenten Midweek 4

Sermon: *“In the Thick of Humiliation”*

Texts: Isaiah 12:1-6; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  
When the Prodigal Son finds himself destitute in a foreign land, he is swept up by humiliation. See what his father does about it.



### 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 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 March 10 and each Thursday thereafter through Lent, we will offer Soup Suppers from 6:30 until 7:30 PM, followed by our Midweek worship at 7:30 PM. We invite you to sign up to provide one of the following each week:

- Soup (we'd like to offer at least two varieties);
- Salad (of your choice)
- Bread (or rolls);
- Dessert (doesn't need to be anything fancy);
- and anything else you'd like to contribute.

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the narthex bulletin board for you to let the rest of us know what you intend to bring. If you can't bring anything, please come and share with us what does arrive on the table.



We now have our worship services posted on YouTube . All the services we had for January from Facebook Live have been posted and work is ongoing to bring February's on board. Here is the link for you to gain access:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCovtxgKXxUG7IkUIP1-KNcw>

That link is fairly complex but you can also search YouTube for St. Thomas Lutheran Church Streetsboro Ohio and it will take you to the page. We hope this will grow our online presence by providing people who may not want to join Facebook an alternative place to see our services. There is a link to our church website as well as Facebook to try and merge things together. People can Subscribe and be notified when we post new content.

THANKS  
FOR  
YOUR  
SUPPORT!

For our Fifth Sunday offering in January, we asked your support for Family & Community Services, Inc. located in Ravenna, serving all of Portage County. We are pleased to report that \$300.00 was sent to that charity in support of that mission.

A request came also from University Hospital Portage for support of their Department of Pastor Care. This provides care to patients from their pastoral staff; it also provides Pastor Just with information when one of our members is hospitalized there. The Church Council opted to send a \$50 donation.

With all the discussions these past few months about calling a Pastor to share our ministry with Christ Lutheran in Mantua, one issue that has been hovering in the background is finances. The two Call Committees have put together the financial pictures of both congregations, and it looks like there will be sufficient funding to proceed. A concern is that, if we call a Pastor, we want to ensure that the finances will be there "for the long haul." Council has talked about holding a brief session following our worship to inform the congregation just where things stand. Watch the bulletin for details about date and time.

## 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!

## 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.

## SYNOD CONVENTION

We would like to thank Robin Hoffman for graciously agreeing to attend the Synod Convention in June. Joyce Torres has agreed to be the alternate. Thank you ladies for committing to this Convention.

**Church Council** will be meeting March 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. 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](http://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 January 2022

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	10956.00	10956.00	7784.02
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	3759.48	3759.48	4021.37
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>7196.52</b>	<b>7196.52</b>	<b>3762.65</b>
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	93.00	93.00	330.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	109.56	109.56	77.84
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>(16.56)</b>	<b>(16.56)</b>	<b>252.16</b>
Average General Fund Income Per Week	2191.20	2191.20	1556.80
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1229.52</u>		

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile	Jim Doerfler	Carol Earle	Corey Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Jen Jones	Lorene Kozar
Becky Larkins & Holly	Ken Nicely II family	Carol Poston	Heather Poston
Rory Wolff	Alexa	Chip Black	Nickoles Bohne
Patty Bowman	Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes	Debbie Conrad
Leona Corban	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
Lexi	Frank Manijak	Joe Manijak	Amanda Nicely
Jodie Powers	Peter Power	Leo Rohaley	Sharon
Leslie Slanina	Angela Smith	John Szabo	Deacon Robert Szalai
Tim Tolodzieski	Jay Valetta	Linda Valetta	Bennie Wegener
Dan Wiley	Donny Wood	Carol Yurkschatt	
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

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

#### Birthdays

3-Jen Jones  
4-Joyce Torres  
9-Kari Earle  
12-Trudy Ayers  
13-Tim Nicely  
21-Tom Beuck  
24-Palagia Hlava  
25-Ian Phillips



### MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

#### Baptism birthdays

7-Becky Larkins  
11-Abigail Ayers  
23-Ken Nicely III

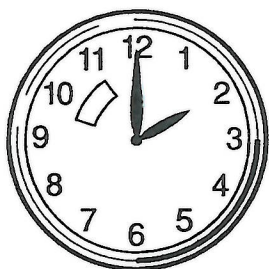
**If anyone has been left off this list or any other list, please let Marla Manijak know so she can add you. I would love birthdays and anniversaries and baptism birthdays if you know when it is. Thanks!**

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Group has started up again. We will be meeting on Saturday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m.. At this meeting we will be studying the book of Joshua. Please read this book of the bible and we will discuss it at our meeting. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful Women's fellowship time. Any questions please see Joyce Torres or Marla Manijak.



**Celebrate Mardi Gras on Tuesday, March 2  
as a prelude to our Ash Wednesday Worship service  
on Wednesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. See you Wednesday!**



**Don't forget to set your  
clocks ahead on Sunday, March 13!**



**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
Join us for soup supper on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 p.m. for a special St. Patrick's dinner.



**First day of Spring  
March 20**

**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)**