

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

February 2023

Lent is out-of-touch with our contemporary world — which is why we need it so desperately.

At the end of this month we come, once again, to the season of Lent. Lent may be an anachronism in our contemporary world — or to say it another way: “Why in the world do we hold onto this old-fashioned notion of Lent?” Lent seems so out-of-touch.

As commonly understood, Lent is to be a time of self-sacrifice and self-denial. There’s that old practice of

“giving up something for Lent” — which usually involves some sort of favorite thing (like chocolate), or some vice (like smoking), or some pleasure (like going to the movies). But who wants to make sacrifices these days? That is so counter-culture! In a society that is absolutely awash in concerning itself with acquiring, how can we expect there to be this time of doing without?

Lent is also seen as a somber time — reflecting of the Passion and death of Jesus, and all that. How unacceptable is that? We live in the feel-good culture; nothing is to deprive us of our sense of happiness. We are bombarded with messages that tell us the goal of life is to live what we have come to call “the good life” — which we can gain as long as we use the right products, live in the right kinds of places, suitably decorated with the right kinds of styles, all of which we can access through our Discover, American Express, VISA or Master Cards.

Lent is a time when we are asked to make extra trips to church. Suddenly, we hold midweek services, in addition to Sunday worship, not as an alternative. What’s up with that? Don’t we have enough to do during the week? Work, school, recreation, dance lessons, swim classes, getting the house clean, the laundry done, the ironing (okay, maybe that last is off the wall).

Lent is out-of-touch with our contemporary world — which is why we need it so desperately.

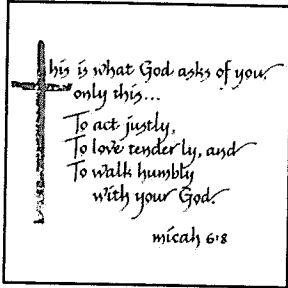
Lent is a time to focus on our baptism. In the ancient church, Lent was literally a time of baptismal preparation. Many converts were instructed during this time period so that they could be received into the full fellowship of the church by Baptism on Palm Sunday or even Easter morning. That practice has pretty much given way to baptisms being done on an individual basis, not in mass-groupings.

So Lent needs to become for us a time for personal baptismal reflection. It raises questions: What does it mean to be a baptized child of God? How does our baptism tie us to the cross of Christ? What does that mean for our daily living? How should we act in response to the grace given us at baptism? What should we do? What should we give up doing?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22 — although, we will observe this on Thursday, February 23 (see the next page) . Come journey with us through this necessary time and discover new depths in your relationship with God and with His people.

Our Worship This Month

Pastor Just began on January 29 and will conclude on February 12 a sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount under the heading: "Learning to Live."

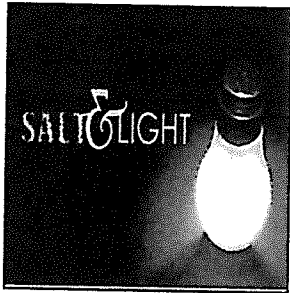


January 29 — Epiphany IV

Sermon: "*Learning to Live: Getting our Bearings*"

Texts: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm, 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

The prophet Micah, St. Paul, and Jesus all have something to teach about our life before God. Today we begin with the roadmap.

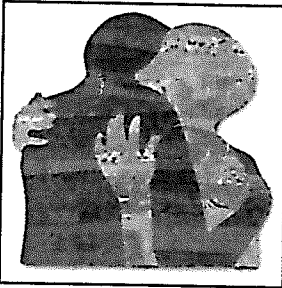


February 5 — Epiphany V

Sermon: "*Learning to Live: Know Who We Are*"

Texts: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 12; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

Jesus calls us "salt" and "light"; Paul says we are "of the Spirit"; Isaiah proclaims how to put all that together.

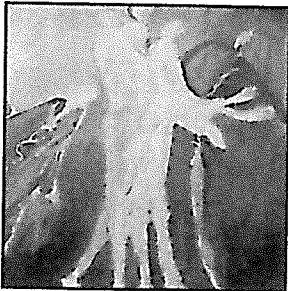


February 12 — Epiphany VI

Sermon: "*Learning to Live: The New Terrain*"

Texts: Deuteronomy 30: 5-20; Psalm 119; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Jesus takes the old covenant and reshapes it in His own image; just as He reshapes us. Are we paying close enough attention?



February 19 — The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sermon: "*On the Mountaintop*"

Texts: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

We join Peter, James, and John as they witness a phenomenal change in Jesus. Can we still be awed by His presence?

Sundays in Lent — “..Like Jesus?”

In our Lenten Sunday worship, we will explore the many ways that we are called to be “Like Jesus.” We often fail to realize the full nature of our Lord, but the Spirit constantly works in us to equip us to be more like He is.



February 26 — Lent I

Sermon: “*Tempted ... Like Jesus?*”

Texts: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

In two accounts of temptation we gain a clear picture of the threat we face and how we may resist



March 5 — Lent II

Sermon: “*Flesh and Spirit ... Like Jesus?*”

Texts: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5,13-17; John 3:1-17

Jesus lays out the reality that our flesh cannot get us to where we need to be. Only the Spirit touching our spirits can do this.



March 12 — Lent III

Sermon: “*A Gift ... Like Jesus*”

Texts: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Jesus tells the woman at the well that He is God’s Gift. We also are called as gifts to those around us.



March 19 — Lent IV

Sermon: “*A Prophet . . . Like Jesus?*”

Texts: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Questions swirl around Jesus after He gives a blind man sight. The man who had been blind grows not only into sight, but into faith and confesses Jesus.



March 26 — Lent V

Sermon: “*We Weep . . . Like Jesus*”

Texts: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

At the death of His friend, Jesus weeps, as do we in the face of death. But we weep with hope.

Lenten Midweek 2023 — The Body of Christ

When we began to share Pastor Just's leadership with Epiphany in Northfield, we moved our Lenten Midweek services to Thursdays; when Epiphany was closed, we simply continued the practice. In anticipation that we may need to make a similar accommodation with Christ in Mantua when we share a new pastor, we will again this year gather on Thursdays.

Our Lenten series for 2023 will focus on the Body of Christ. We begin on Ash Thursday, February 23, and join together each Thursday through the season. **Each midweek service begins at 7:30 PM.**

Beginning March 2, we will offer a **Soup Supper**, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Come join us for a time of fellowship, enjoy some good (usually homemade) soup, and stay to worship.



February 23 — Ash Thursday

Sermon: *"The Ears of Christ"*

Texts: 2 Samuel 22:2-7; Psalms 51, 86; James 1:19-25; Mark 7:31-37

We learn again that our ears are to be tuned to the voice of God and to the needs of those around us.

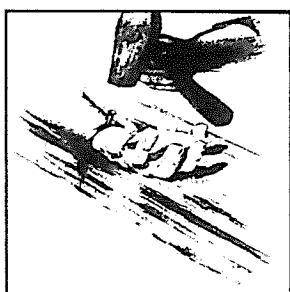


March 2 — Lenten Midweek 1

Sermon: *"The Mouth of Christ"*

Texts: Deuteronomy 8:1-3; Psalm 81; Romans 3:10-18; Luke 4:14-22a

From Christ's mouth comes all manner of blessings, which we, in turn, pass on to others.

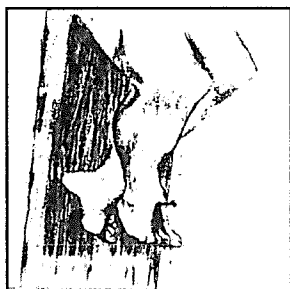


March 9 — Lenten Midweek 2

Sermon: *"The Hands of Christ"*

Texts: Genesis 2:4-8; Psalm 95; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; John 8:1-11

Jesus' hands were very busy throughout his ministry and especially in his Passion. We are blessed by this and are called to be "hands on" in ministry.

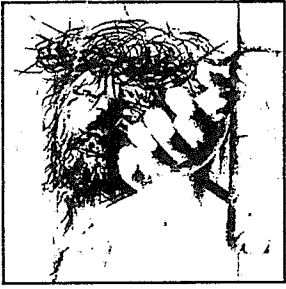


March 16 — Lenten Midweek 3

Sermon: *"The Feet of Christ"*

Texts: Isaiah 65:17-66:2; Psalm 119; 1 Corinthians 15:19-28; Luke 7:36-50

When the feet of Jesus are washed by an unnamed woman, we catch a glimpse of how important his feet were in ministry.



March 23 — Lenten Midweek 4

Sermon: *“The Eyes of Christ”*

Texts: 1 Samuel 16:1-7; Psalm 33; 1 Peter 3:8-12; John 9:1-11

When Christ looks at someone, he sees more than they often see of themselves. We need to gain that kind of insight.



March 30 — Lenten Midweek 5

Sermon: *“The Heart of Christ”*

Texts: Jeremiah 3:12-18; Psalm 51; Hebrews 8:8-12; John 11:17-44

Jesus taught his disciples to not let their hearts be troubled. His heart was the ultimate model for how ours are to work.

HOLY WEEK 2023

April 2 — Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

Sermon: *“Humble . . . Like Jesus.”*

Texts: Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 27:11-54

We begin with the Palm Procession, and come to focus on the goal of our Lord’s humility.



April 6 — Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM

Sermon: *“The Blood of Christ.”*

Texts: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

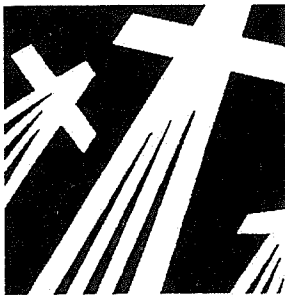
We gather around the table of our Lord as He did with His disciples in the Upper Room.



April 7 — Good Friday 7:30 PM

Sermon: *“The Body of Christ”*

On this solemn day, we center our attention on our Lord’s Passion and Death in a traditional Tenebrae Service. Through readings, hymns, and the extinguishing of candles, we mark our Lord’s sufferings for our sins until we come to the darkness of His tomb.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kathy Brashear | Jim Doerfler | Del Groff | Palagia Hlava |
| Robin Hoffman | Jill Earle | Lorene Kozar | Becky Larkins & foster children |
| Steffen Nicely | Carol Poston | Heather Poston | Rory Wolff |
| Patty Abramovich | Alexa | Ally | Diane Altier |
| Paul Berry | Shirley Blackerby | Paul Bowers | Archie Bradshaw |
| Carmen | Russ & Lana Carnes | Bryan Corban | Leona Corban |
| Jeff | John Cowling | Evelyn French | Dennis Fuldauer |
| Daniel Gump | Mary Hardesty | Heather Hendrix | Bob Hudson |
| John Johnson | Naomi Just | Linda Kuzniakowski | Lance |
| Laurance Jeanblanc | Mary Lott | Steve Mamber | Sam Mamber |
| Frank Manijak | Amanda Nicely | Delilah Nicely | Karen Powers |
| Kathy Peters | Larry & Sally Powell | Joan Rupp | Barb, Dan, Carl, Linda, Pat |
| Leslie Slanina | Angela Smith | Mary Lou Snider | John Szabo |
| Deacon Robert Szalai | Todd | Tom | Tyler |
| Linda Valetta | Bennie Wegener | Kim Weiggart | Darcy Wood |
| Donny Wood | | | |
| 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
Willowwood Care Room 1001
1186 Hancock Rd.
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582

Carole Poston
3096 E Pioneer
Aurora, OH 44202

Lorene Kozar
8460 Westport Dr. #225
Mentor, Oh 44060

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jenna Zimmerman, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

10-Tina Hagen
16-Kristine Just



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!

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer congratulations to Grace Rohaley on her recent graduation from Kent State with a Master of Material Science degree (it's a physic thing). She is continuing on for her PhD. We're proud of you Grace!

Church Council will be meeting February 19th after the worship service at 11:30 a.m. At our January meeting officers were elected. They are as follows

Steve Hlava- President and Treasurer
Del Groff-Vice President
Deb Wolff-Financial Secretary
Joyce Torres-Council Secretary
Guy Jeanblanc-At Large member
Marla Manijak-At Large member
Pastor Just

We are currently looking for another council member to take the place Diane Lee. Diane submitted her resignation in December. We thank Diane for all her hard work while being on Council and will greatly miss her input. If you are interested in helping out in this position please let one of the above members know.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 2022

Our offerings exceeded our expenses, so we ended the year of 2022 in the black. Thank you for your dedication and financial support of St. Thomas Lutheran Church in these trying times.

Specifically, our average monthly offerings were \$290.10 below budget, but these offerings exceeded our expenses by an average of \$192.77 per month.

The main factor in the \$482.87/month difference between budget and expense is the health insurance premium cost under the Pastor benefits line item. Our budget anticipated a new Pastor for part of the year which, of course, did not happen. Even when sharing a Pastor with Christ Lutheran in Mantua, the premium is large compared to the Medicare premium of Pastor Just. As such, the health care premium was \$470.58/month below budget.

Steve Hlava, Treasurer

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.

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of December 2022

| | Current Month: | Current YTD | Prior YTD: |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only | 3082.19 | 55253.36 | 51121.98 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only | 4779.71 | 54933.26 | 53948.07 |
| NET GAIN (LOSS) | (1697.52) | 320.10 | (2826.09) |
| | | | |
| TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below) | 30.00 | 3465.42 | 7690.25 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below) | 30.82 | 665.07 | 1701.41 |
| NET GAIN (LOSS) | (0.82) | 2800.35 | 5988.84 |
| | | | |
| Average General Fund Income Per Week | 770.55 | 1062.56 | 983.12 |
| 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

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

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)