

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

January 2023



Mark Twain once said, “The only person who likes change is a wet baby.” Yet change is inevitable. It is more tolerable when we can anticipate it; less so when change comes as a surprise.

What will this new year, 2023, hold in store for us — as individuals, as families, as a congregation, as a community, as a nation, as a world (that should about cover all the bases)? There will be predictions. Nostradamus is sure to be quoted, The Farmer’s Almanac will be consulted. It will all sound as if people know what’s coming and how good or bad it will be.

But nobody knows. Some can take educated guesses based on past performance. So we will hear about trends in the stock market, projections for various economic indicators, pundits’ ideas about which politician will do what and for what reason. Many will nod their heads at the sagacity of these pronouncements; many more will dispute them. It makes for somewhat interesting talk radio and television. But . . . nobody knows.

Except that I do know this (*come on, check it out; wow yourself at how smart I can be*): there will be changes. There, I crawled out on that precarious limb!

Good changes? I don’t know. Bad changes? Could be; maybe not. Will we all like the changes? Will we like all the changes? See Mark Twain above. I wish I could be more helpful, but as I said before: Nobody knows.

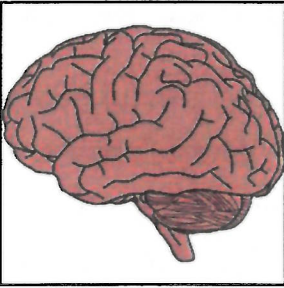
Now, this does not mean that we cannot effect change. What we decide to do can have profound impact. What steps we take early on can determine the nature of the entire journey. We simply cannot accurately predict the outcomes, or know what paths we will eventually travel.

So . . . how about thinking about a few changes? What if we altered our worship schedule? What if we changed our board structure? What if we determined to really accent Bible Study? What if we . . . well, you get the idea.

As a congregation, we have been anticipating a major change: a new pastor. Without question, that will bring about some changes. So we need to be ready for something(s) new. But we don’t have to wait until change “happens,” we can begin to effect change starting right now.

Blessed 2023!

Our Worship This Month



January 1 — Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Sermon: *“How to Have the Perfect Church”*

Texts: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:18-52

When Paul urges us to take on “the mind of Christ” he has set the conditions that can lead to a “perfect church.” Or has he?



January 8 — The Baptism of Our Lord

Sermon: *“For Now . . . and for Eternity”*

Texts: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus tells John to baptize Him “for now;” we rejoice in our baptisms into eternity, as this day we renew the covenant.



January 15 — Epiphany II

Sermon: *“Seeking Jesus”*

Texts: Isaiah 49:1-11; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

When two of the Baptist’s followers come to Jesus, He gives them a number of reasons to follow Him. We get to listen in.



January 22 — Epiphany III

Sermon: *“Fishing for People”*

Texts: Acts 20:28-35; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus told His disciples that he would make them fish for people. They leapt at the chance. Do we respond?



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.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ayers Family	Carol Earle	Del Groff	Palagia Hlava
Robin Hoffman	Lorene Kozar	Steffen Nicely	Becky Larkins & foster children
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Rory Wolff	Patty Abramovich
Alexa	Ally	Diane Altier	Paul Berry
Shirley Blackerby	Paul Bowers	Archie Bradshaw	Russ & Lana Carnes
Bryan Corban	Leona Corban	Carlton Dorris	Bill Earle Sr.
Sandy Eicher	Evelyn French	Dennis Fuldauer	Daniel Gump
Mary Hardesty	John Johnson	Naomi Just	Lance
Laurance Jeanblanc	Nancy Kirkpatrick	Steve Mamber	Sam Mamber
Frank Manijak	Amanda Nicely	Karen Panier	Kathy Peters
Larry & Sally Powell	Sarah	Leslie Slanina	Barb, Dan, Carl, Linda, Pat
Angela Smith	Mary Lou Snider	John Szabo	Deacon Robert Szalai
Dave Tregoning	Tyler	Linda Valetta	Bennie Wegener
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
Willowood 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

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Please keep Jim Doerfler and the family in your prayers. Jeannette passed away on December 19th. Her services were held on December 27th at St. Joan of Arc where she was a member. Jeannette will be deeply missed. Our deepest sympathies are with Jim and the family.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Church Council has announced that we will be having a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 15th after the worship service. We will be voting on a call for a seminary student. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.

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

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!

Church Council will be meeting January 15th after the congregational meeting. We will be electing our council officers at that meeting. If there is anything you would like the Council to discuss please let one of these members know...Steve Hlava, Guy Jeanblanc, Deb Wolff, Joyce Torres, Del Groff, Marla Manijak or Pastor Just.

Church Council will be installed at the January 22nd worship service.

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.

**HAVE A BLESSED
NEW YEAR
IN
2023!**

PORTALS OF PRAYER

The congregation is offered the Portal of Prayer every 3 months. Following is an excerpt from the January 1st reading. If you would like to receive this inspirational devotional please let Marla know. We will be happy to mail it to you if you are unable to pick one up in the Narthex.

Sunday, January 1
Circumcision and Name of Jesus
{+}
Read Luke 2:21 and Psalm 8

Life in His Name

A popular trend when a new year begins is to choose one word to focus on that will shape the new year, such as *peace*, *gratitude*, or *resilience*. And there's certainly nothing wrong with that. But there is one word, one name, that shapes our entire lives as Christians—the name of Jesus.

The name *Jesus* means “God is salvation,” and His name is powerful. For example, in the Book of Acts, demons are driven out, people are healed, and the Church is built, all in the name of Jesus. Peter proclaims that “there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12) **more in the reading of the lesson**

**Dear Lord, help me live this new year in the powerful name of Your Son, Jesus.
Amen.**

In the back of the devotional are also daily prayers and prayers for special occasions. For example the prayer for January 1st follows in part....

Dear Jesus, Your circumcision as a baby foreshadowed the day You would bleed and die for me on the cross. And Your name—which means “God is salvation”—points to what you would give to me through your life, death, and resurrection. I praise You that in Your name, I am saved.....

This is a wonderful devotional book and I highly recommend it for everyone. Please call me today 330-472-3045.

HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR!!

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

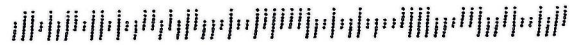
CLEVELAND OH 440
29 DEC 2022 PM 2 L



Change Service Requested

Groff, Delbert
7387 Meadow Creek Rd
Saagamore Hills, OH 44067

44067-250087



44067-250087



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)