

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

April 2023

Without Good Friday, Easter is little more than colored eggs, peeping chicks, and fuzzy, little bunnies. Without Easter, Good Friday is nothing more than a gaping maw of depression and despair.

Yet many Christians think that one can step into Easter without the bother of Good Friday. Because Good Friday seems to them so morbid, depressing, and sad, they don't want to consider such matters as whippings, beatings, crucifixions, death and burial. They would rather focus on happy news, new life, new possibilities.

The mistake is in thinking that Easter is about such mundane matters. It is not. Easter is about celebrating an historical fact and event — the victory of Jesus Christ over death and the grave by rising from the dead. That celebration could not happen if He had not first died and been laid in the grave.

A real death and resurrection demands a real celebration.

But it must always be “death and resurrection.” It cannot be just resurrection. If we focus solely on resurrection we miss the whole point of Jesus' incarnation: He came to die. This was the Father's plan — indicated already back in the garden of Eden: *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”* This “proto-evangel” (as it is called) is the first mention that God had set into motion a plan whereby Satan's apparent victory in seducing humankind would be reversed. Imbedded in this hint of promise is the idea that death is a component of this plan.

God had warned Adam and Eve that, if they ate of the fruit of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” they would die. In His mercy, He covered them with the fur of animals (so something had to die) when they had tried their own inadequate covering. Even this was but a temporary “fix” to the problem. Death had been warned as the punishment for sin; death would need to be the full payment. Not animal sacrifice — human death for human sin.

Hence Good Friday.

The death of Jesus means that His death has been substituted for our deaths. Yes, the gory details of the crucifixion make for a grim remembrance. But the real sorrow of Good Friday is not so much the manner of His death, it is the “why” of His death. In the words of the Good Friday hymn: *“My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me, For it was my transgression Which brought this woe on Thee.”*

We shy away from Good Friday because it reminds us — nay, it hammers on us — that our sin, not just the disobedience of Adam and Eve, brought about Christ's crucifixion. We don't like to dwell on that. We would rather see ourselves as wonderful people, good people, maybe not-quite-perfect people, but certainly a notch above the rest. Good Friday reminds us that sin lies at the heart of each of us. That sin brought Christ to this earth. That sin led Him to the cross.

If that were the end of it, what a horror! But the Good News is that Good Friday was not the end. He rose! His resurrection is proof positive that what happened on the cross did what God intended it to do — provide atonement for each of us. Christ's rising on Easter demonstrates that God has accepted the payment of His life in exchange for the death we deserved.

Our explosive joy at Easter would make no sense if it were only a rite of Spring, a celebration of the cycle of new life we see in the creation. We cannot understand or appreciate that joy without understanding and sharing in Good Friday. As we journey toward both of these days of worship, may the Holy Spirit fill us with humility, gratitude, repentance, insight, faith, hope and joy.

Our Worship This Month

HOLY WEEK



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 a Procession of Palms from the Narthex into the Sanctuary. We focus on what it means for us to be "Like Jesus" in humility.



April 6 Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM

We continue the Lenten series, **The Body of Christ**, as we focus this day on *"The Blood of Christ."*

Texts: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; John 13:1-17, 31b-35



April 7 Good Friday 7:30 PM

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. Pastor Just's sermon is *"The Body of Christ."*

The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 9

Texts: Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm, 118; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

We rejoice in our Lord's victory over death and the grave. Pastor Just concludes the series for Lent, The Body of Christ, with his sermon *"The Risen Body of Christ."*



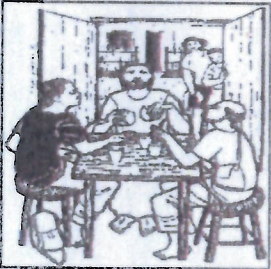


April 16 — Easter II

Sermon: *"Take a Good, Hard Look"*

Texts: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 148; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Thomas refuses to believe the witness of the other disciples. Jesus forces the issue by insisting that he do what he said he needed to do to believe.



April 23 — Easter III

Sermon: *"Foolish? Slow? Or both?"*

Texts: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

When Jesus encounters the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he is less than complimentary to their faith. How might we fare?



April 30 — Easter IV

Sermon: *"Flock Behavior (or, "How to Be a Sheep without Getting Fleeced")"*

Texts: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

The Good Shepherd does the faithful work of protecting and caring for the sheep. What is the flock to do?



Preparations are made for an Easter Pancake Breakfast on April 9 beginning at 8:30 AM.

Come for church early to share some fellowship time. Want to help? Check the narthex bulletin board for suggestions of ways you can assist with this endeavor.



April 26 is the day when graduates from our church's two seminaries receive their calls to new ministry assignments. We are invited by our sister congregation, Christ Lutheran in Mantua, with whom we are sharing the possibility of hosting a new pastor, to join them on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 PM for a "Watch Party" on Call Night. We will be able to hear the names of the candidates and the locations for their assignments (all the while praying to hear the names of our two congregations). Let one of the members of our Call Committee know that you plan to attend with them.

Pastor Just will be attending a seminar through Healing Care Ministries, "The Movement from Broken to Beloved," on April 13, 14, & 15 in Ashland.

EASTER SCHEDULE

Our Palm Sunday service will be April 2 with our Procession of Palms and Holy Communion service starting at 10:00 a.m.

Our Maundy Thursday service will be held on Thursday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Our Good Friday service will be held on Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Our Easter Sunday service will be held April 9 at 10:00 a.m. with a Pancake Breakfast at 8:30 am. An Easter Egg hunt will be held after the worship service.

A work day is being planned for Saturday, April 8 starting at 10:00 am to set up the sanctuary and fellowship hall for Sunday and also some cleaning around the church. All are welcome to join in on the fun!

Chuck and Ruth Dennison will be presenting a moving program on Sunday, April 2 at 6:00 pm at the New Testament Baptist Church, 3583 S.R. 59 in Ravenna. Hear Caiaphas, Mary, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene and the grandmother of Jairus' daughter tell their stories about Jesus. These presentations are always moving and I encourage you to attend this program. Call Marla if you would like a ride.

The Streetsboro Senior Center is presenting "A Night of Stories: Seniors on Display: Living History" on Tuesday, April 11 from 5:30pm-7:00 pm at the Streetsboro Annex (formerly the old Middle School) on Annalane. Several seniors will be displaying a sentimental item or experience. It promises to be an interesting evening with stories of a famous opera singer in Italy, working with Neil Armstrong on the 1st moon landing, Apollo 11, a month long Harley bike road trip across country, a trip to Rome and many more. RSVP to 330-626-2398 to help them with a count for refreshments or let Marla know.



Easter

A small yellow and orange lily flower, positioned below the word "Easter". It is a simple, stylized representation of a lily, with three petals and a central stem with leaves.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Kathy Braesher	Bill Crile	Jim Doerfler	Del Groff
Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman	Jill Earle	Lorene Kozar
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Ben Wolff	Becky Larkins & foster children
Patty Abramovich	Alexa	Ally	Diane Altier
Barb Basmagy	Paul Berry	Archer Bradshaw	Donna Burau
Peg Campano	Russ & Lana Carnes	Christine	Jeff
John Cowling	Evelyn French	Dennis Fuldauer	Daniel Gump
Mary Hardesty	Heather Hendrix	Jaylah	Naomi Just
Linda Kuzniakowski	Lance	Laurance Jeanblanc	Adalyn
Steve Mamber	Sam Mamber	Frank Manijak	Mike Menhart
Ron Olesinski	Amanda Nicely	Delilah Nicely	Paul
Karen Powers	Barb, Dan, Carl, Linda, Pat	Mary Lou Snider	Larry & Sally Powell
Joan Rupp	Leslie Slanina	Bennie Wegener	John Szabo
Deacon Robert Szalai	Tyler	Chris Zimmerman	Kathy & Greg Wolf
Darcy Wood	Donny Wood	All Natural disaster victims	
Ukraine refugees	COVID-19 patients		

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

Carole Poston	Lorene Kozar
3096 E Pioneer	8460 Westport Dr. #225
Aurora, OH 44202	Mentor, Oh 44060

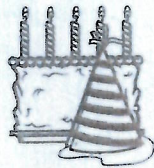
Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jenna Zimmerman, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

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. We would love birthdays and anniversaries and baptism birthdays if you know when it is. Thanks!

*God's Palette Creates The
Lovely Pastels Of Spring*

CLOTHING DRIVES & FREE CLOTHING GIVEAWAYS

Donations of clean, wearable condition clothing for all ages as well as diapers (especially sizes 4-6) and wipes are welcome on Clothing Drive Weekends before and after Masses. Please have all clothes folded and bagged. Accessories items (shoes, belts, purses, etc.) and bedding will also be accepted (no pillows or furniture). Plastic hangers are also welcome. Place in the All-Purpose Room.

023 Clothing Drives: May 13/14 & 20/21, August 19/20 & 26/27, November 18/19 & 25/26

St. Joseph Cares will be holding a Free Clothing Giveaway for the greater Crestwood area three times this year. A collaborative effort of area churches providing free clothing to families in need, the events will be held from 9 a.m. to Noon in an upstairs classroom in the school building. You do not need to be a resident, there is no limit, and no questions are asked. **Upcoming Giveaways:** March 11 (includes prom dresses!), June 6, September 9, December 9.

If you'd like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact the Parish Office (330-274-2253 or parishoffice@stjosephmantua.com).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The volunteer program at UH Portage Medical Center in Ravenna includes opportunities to serve patients and family members with spiritual care support. Volunteers typically commit 3-4 hours per week or serve on-call a few days per month. If interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer to provide spiritual comfort to patients, families and staff, contact UH Portage Medical Center's Pastoral Care Department at (330) 297-2445.

Church Council will be meeting Sunday, April 16 after the worship service. Visitors are welcome to sit in on a meeting.

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Just at 216-789-6688 or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 22-1959 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 February 2023

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	4331.38	17951.93	14936.36
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4559.35	9023.59	8962.68
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(227.97)	8928.34	5973.68
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	66.00	161.00	155.50
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	109.56	260.36
NET GAIN (LOSS)	66.00	51.44	(104.86)
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1082.85	1994.66	1659.60
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>505.77</u>		

Special Funds Include:

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

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-23

To discover the secret message, write the letter of the alphabet that comes before each letter found below.

“BOE, CFIPME, UIFS F XBT B

HSFBU FBSUIRVBLF: GPS UIF

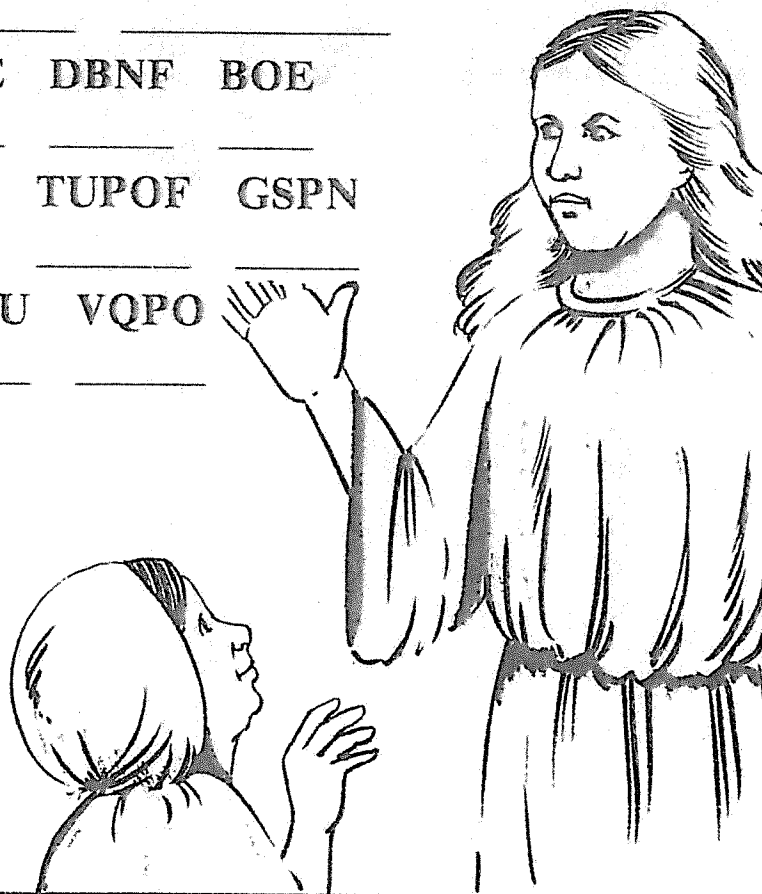
BOHFM PG UIF MPSE EFTDFOEFE

GSPN IFBWFO, BOE DBNF BOE

SPMMFE CBDL UIF TUPOF GSPN

UIF EPPS, BOE TBU VQPO

JU.”



Name _____

Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 2247
42 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)