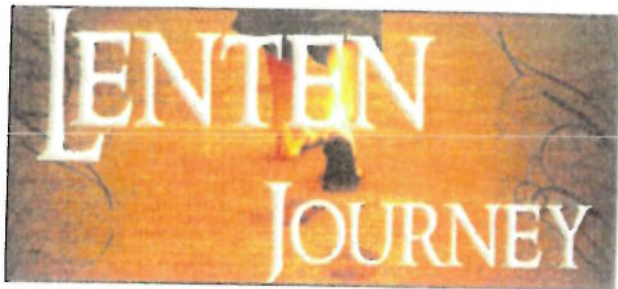


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

March 2023



Lent is a journey; it requires much of us. We are asked to increase our worship time, our prayer time, our meditation and devotional life. For many it is a season for fasting. For many it is a time of increased giving.

Above all else, it is a journey. We walk with Christ along the path to where we already know the journey will end: at His crucifixion and death.

This Lent, we will make some stops along the way each Sunday, as we engage some rather lengthy narratives for the Gospel of John. The events in those narratives set the stage for a series of discourses Jesus has with such people as Nicodemus, Mary and Martha, a man born blind. As we listen to them exchange words, we are edified in our understanding of what Jesus had to teach and why He had to take that journey eventually to Golgotha.

Each Wednesday, we examine one of the many ways our brokenness has been restored in Christ's Body. Sin has shattered our relationship with God; it damages our relationship with others; it even distorts our self-understanding. In Christ, we find restoration in all these areas of life.

Why do we take this annual pilgrimage? Our Lord bids us come with Him, learn from Him, and walk beside Him. That is our baptismal invitation. We begin this Lenten journey being marked by ashes in the form of a cross — a reminder of how we were marked by the same time when we were baptized. We want to know more deeply what that mark means for our lives.

Part of its meaning is that we are joined to fellow-travelers. It is with them that we learn how to love, how to care, how to support, and how to nurture as Christ continually nurtures us. As the ancient Hebrews marked forty years in the wilderness, and came to recognize it as a time when God was preparing them to be His people, so we spend forty days with Christ and one another preparing to live as Christ's people.

Lent is also a time for prayer, in which we learn that praying involves as much listening as speaking. We desire to make our needs known to God (which is kind of silly, since He already knows them); but we rarely spend as much time listening to discover what He wants from us. Lent is a time to seize the opportunity to step back from the busy-ness of life, come into the presence of God, and listen — just listen — as He helps us hear His voice.

We are a pilgrim people. We walk with Christ; we walk toward Christ. We walk together, because any pilgrimage requires others alongside to sustain us and direct us. Whenever we think we can walk alone, we start to wander off the path.

Let this Lent be an “us” time — a time of coming together, worshiping together, sharing meals together, praying together, working together, helping one another, lifting up one another, strengthening one another. As we journey together with Jesus and are restored in Him, we can discover anew the joy that the destination leads ever past Golgotha to the empty tomb, as we will walk with the risen and ascended Christ.

So our Lenten Journey is a journey of hope and of promise, of deliverance and forgiveness, of knowing yet again to boundless love of God.

Journey on.

Our Worship This Month



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 began 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.



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.

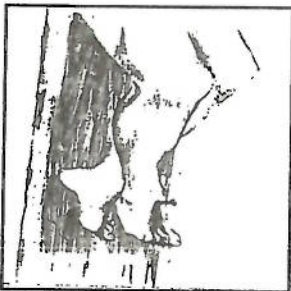


March 9 — Lenten Midweek 2

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.

Given that March weather can be somewhat erratic (you can read there, “nasty”), we will try to alert you when the weather makes our midweek activities less than attractive. Unless you hear to the contrary via a phone call, we will hold our Soup Supper and Midweek Service each Thursday at the scheduled time. Pastor Just is in the office each Thursday from morning to evening, so he can make the decision by 5:30 for a cancel notice to be sent out.



A request came from Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for assistance with their response to the horrible earthquake that damaged Turkey and Syria. The immediate request is for donations to help send support for the relief efforts that are needed right now. If you can offer such a donation, please look to LWR.org and use their website to donate.

Aware that some of their response will involve the various kits that organizations (like St. Thomas) have assembled and shared over the years, Pastor suggested, and Council agreed, that it might be well for us to assemble **Personal Care Kits** and to make this a project for Lent.

Each week in Lent we will invite our members to bring in the following items for each kit:

- March 5: Two or three bath-size bars of soap (8-9 oz. any brand in original wrapping)
- March 12: One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- March 19: One sturdy comb, remove packaging.
- March 26: One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging.
- April 2: One lightweight, bath-sized towel (between 20"x40" and 52"x27"), dark color recommended.

The week after Easter, we will then assemble the kits by wrapping the first items in the bath towel and securing the kit with yarn, string, ribbon, or rubber bands. The kits can then be boxed and shipped to LWR in Baltimore. There will be a need for cash to offset the cost of shipping.

We made such an effort a few years ago in conjunction with Epiphany, Northfield. We will ask our sister congregation, Christ Lutheran, Mantua, to join us. Can we aim for at least 50 kits this Lent? With your help, we can probably accomplish that.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jim Doerfler	Del Groff	Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman
Jill Earle	Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins & foster children	
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Amy Rohaley	Patty Abramovich
Alexa	Ally	Diane Altier	Barb Basmagy
Paul Berry	Archer Bradshaw	Christine	Russ & Lana Carnes
Jeff	John Cowling	Evelyn French	Dennis Fuldauer
Daniel Gump	Mary Hardesty	Heather Hendrix	Bob Hudson
Jayla	Naomi Just	Lance	Linda Kuzniakowski
Laurance Jeanblanc	Adalyn	Steve Mamber	Sam Mamber
Frank Manijak	Amanda Nicely	Delilah Nicely	Karen Powers
Larry & Sally Powell	Joan Rupp	Barb, Dan, Carl, Linda, Pat	
Leslie Slanina	Mary Lou Snider	John Szabo	Deacon Robert Szalai
Tyler	Bennie Wegener	Kim Weiggart	Kathy & Greg Wolf
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

Carole Poston 3096 E Pioneer Aurora, OH 44202	Lorene Kozar 8460 Westport Dr. #225 Mentor, Oh 44060
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Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jenna Zimmerman, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

In Remembrance—With sadness we remember in our prayers the Audrey Holland family. Audrey passed away on Feb 6. Audrey was a member of Epiphany where Pastor Just was her pastor for 30 years. Audrey was a Sunday School superintendent and a member of many circles at Epiphany. She will be greatly missed.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Jen Jones
4-Joyce Torres
9-Samantha Weber
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!

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.

2023 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, March 19 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 330 422-1959 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 January 2023

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	13620.55	13620.55	10956.00
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4314.24	4314.24	1958.46
NET GAIN (LOSS)	9306.31	9306.31	8997.54
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	95.00	95.00	93.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	109.56	109.56	109.56
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(14.56)	(14.56)	(16.56)
Average General Fund Income Per Week	2724.11	2724.11	2191.20
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1292.31</u>		

Special Funds include:

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

LENTEN AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Our mid-week Lenten worship services will be held on Thursday evenings starting with Soup Supper and other items at 6:30 p.m. The worship service follows at 7:30 p.m. We would love to have more of you attend these fantastic fellowship times. They are March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30th. The theme this year is "Body of Christ". See you on the 2nd!

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. An Easter Egg hunt will be held after the worship service. A tentative plan of a Pancake Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. is still being discussed. Check your April newsletter for definite plans.

If you would like to help with the setting up for Easter Sunday we meet at 10:00 a.m. on the Saturday before. All are welcome to join in on the fun!

EASTER FLOWERS

Deadline is March 19. You may place your order in the offering plate or give to Marla Manijak. Money is due by Palm Sunday. Check should be made out to Marla Manijak. Thank you for your order.

NAME _____	Phone Number _____
LILY BLOOMS ON THE OLD RUGGED CROSS \$2.00 each In Loving Memory of _____ In celebration of _____	
LILIES \$9.00 In loving memory of _____ In celebration of _____	
TULIPS \$9.00 Red Pink Orange Bi-Color In loving memory of _____ In celebration of _____	
DAFFODILS \$9.00 In Loving Memory of _____ In Celebration of _____	
HYACINTHS \$9.00 Pink Blue White In Loving Memory of _____ In Celebration of _____	
MUMS \$9.00 Pink Yellow White Coral In loving memory of _____ In celebration of _____	
HYDRANGEA \$15.55 In loving memory of _____ In celebration of _____	

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