

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church – Streetsboro, Ohio

November 2023



In middle school, I never enjoyed the end of the church year. Why? At the end of the church year, our lectionary readings are all about Christ's return in Glory. One aspect of Christ's return in glory is the final judgment. We confess in the Apostles' Creed that Christ "will return to judge the living and the dead." Christ describes this judgment in Matthew 25:31-46 with the parable of the sheep and the goats. "When the Son of Man comes in His Glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His throne of Glory. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." (Matthew 25:31-32) The righteous (those who have a right standing with God) will go into eternal life, and the unrighteous (those who do not have a right standing with God) will go into everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46). I was terrified of this judgment because I was not sure that I would be included among the righteous.

Some passages in Scripture describe Christ judging us according to our works. St. Paul writes: "He will render to each one according to His works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury." (Romans 2:6-8) If we are judged on the final day according to everything we have done, then we are indeed lost. There would be no hope for us. We could only approach that day with fear and trembling. Everyone has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, as St. Paul says elsewhere (Romans 3:23). Such statements about Christ's final judgment are meant to terrify the sinner. It helps us to realize that on our own, apart from Christ Jesus, none of us can stand before the judgment seat of Christ as the righteous. They reveal to us the insufficiency of our own merits and worthiness.

However, for those who believe in Christ Jesus, there is no need to fear the final judgment. The Christians will not stand before the divine throne clinging to their own righteousness; they will stand covered in Christ's righteousness. Christ has canceled the record of our sin by suffering the consequences of our sin on the cross for us (Colossians 2:14). By dying on the cross, He performed the perfect act of righteousness in obedience to the will of God for us, in turn making us righteous in God's sight (Romans 5:18). Therefore, Christ will come on that final day, not as our judge, but as our advocate (1 John 2:1). He delivers us from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10). For this reason, the Christian can approach the last hour confidently, knowing that they have a good standing with God on account of what Christ has done. The only thing they have to look forward to on the final day is eternal life. As Christ promises: "Whoever trusts in [Christ] is not judged...." (John 3:18)

Pastor Blake

STEWARDSHIP

We are looking for a few volunteers to head up our stewardship committee. It's an exciting time here at St. Thomas and we're looking towards our future growth. Come use or develop your skills in the area of stewardship. Help create a great vision and plan for our future. See Del or Joyce for more information on this committee. Thank you for your help!

SPAGHETTI DINNER

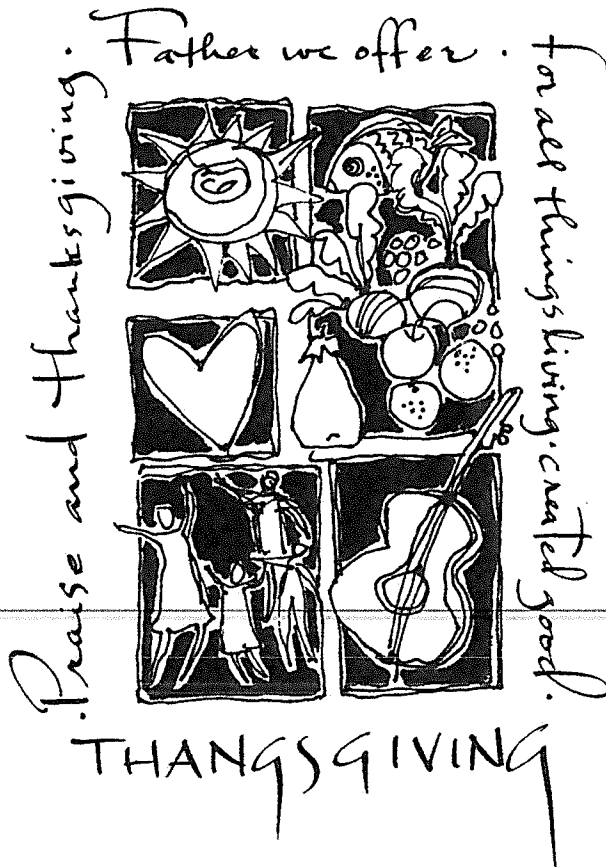
A **spaghetti dinner** is being planned for Saturday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m. to thank all our members for being the special people you are. You helped in our spring and fall cleanups, painting, organizing our files, running our technology, mowing, weeding and more. We are growing and it is all thanks to you. Join us for some delicious spaghetti and more. A sign up sheet is available to sign up for desserts and drinks. Church council will provide the meal.

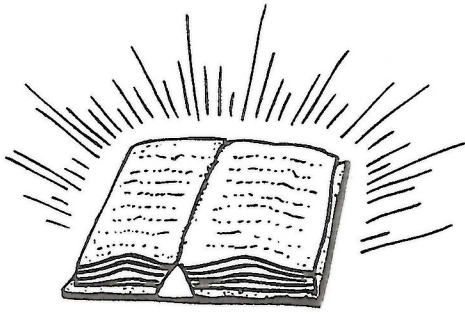
We are going to have a White Elephant gift exchange as part of our entertainment. Bring a used, new or funny wrapped gift and we'll play a game to give them away. Mark your calendars today so you don't miss this fun event!



CATHECHISM CLASSES

Confirmation classes are being held on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. at the parsonage at Christ Lutheran Church in Mantua. Any child in Middle School and up is encouraged to join this class. Any questions please see Pastor Blake or call him at the church on Thursdays or his cell at 989-372-5318.





BIBLE STUDIES

Join us for Bible Studies at Christ Lutheran and St. Thomas.

Bible studies at Christ Lutheran, Mantua will be on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on the sermon text from the previous Sunday.

Bible studies at St. Thomas will be on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m.. This study is called "Who is Jesus?" and will be over the personal claims that Jesus makes about Himself in the Gospels.

These studies are open to all members and guests from both churches. We hope you will be able to make one or both of these studies.

COFFEE CLUTCH

Have you ever been to a coffee clutch? Well now's your chance! Join us Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:30 for some coffee and to talk about anything you want. There have been some great conversations! All are welcome to join in! See you this Thursday.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for a way to help out during the service on Sundays. Volunteers are needed for Lectors, Ushers, Communion, Singers and refreshment hosts.

A sign up sheet is in the Narthex to sign up for Lectors. Another sheet is being added for Ushers, Communion helpers. If you would like to help out singing during communion or offering, see Marla. She would love to have more voices. Refreshments are being served in the Fellowship Hall once again. A sign up sheet will be available for Sundays in November. It is wonderful to be able to meet with our friends socially after the worship. Join us this Sunday.



**Christ the King Sunday
November 19**

The church cupboards are in need of small and large paper plates and plastic ware. You can leave these items in the fellowship hall on the table and we will put them away. Thank you for your generosity.

Deb Wolff has pickles ready. Please bring back your empty jars and she will fill them up again. The pickles are delicious!!

Becky Larkins is collecting Paper towels and toilet paper rolls for craft projects. Also 2 litre plastic bottles. You may give them to Deb Wolff. Thank you!

Deb Wolff is collecting bottle caps for Ohio Easter Star Home. They will be using them to make park benches. Thank you!

Church Council will be meeting Sunday, November 19 after the worship service. If there is something you would like the council to work on, please let one of the council members know. They are Steve Hlava, president, Del Groff, Guy Jeanblanc, Joyce Torres, Deb Wolff, Gilbert Ayers and Marla Manijak.

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Blake Martzowka at the church on Thursdays from 9-3 at 330-626-4945 or on his cell phone 989-372-5318 for emergencies or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions.

Finance Report

Treasurer's finance notice

Inflation and recent capital improvements of parking lot sealing, concrete leveling & cleaning and the lawn tractor repairs have increased the 2023 YTD expenses by \$7,754 compared to YTD 2022.

A comparison of these YTD expenses is below.

YTD	2022	2023	difference
Utilities	\$4,179	\$5,463	
Pastoral support	\$27,914	\$30,270	
Copier/ Postage	\$2,895	\$3,631	
Property	\$6,879	\$12,308	
Other/ Misc	\$2,350	\$2,585	
Total Expenses	\$45,307	\$52,881	\$7,754
Total Offerings	\$51,070	\$63,864	\$12,794

Pastoral support is currently 2/3 of total expense. Our shared expense with Christ Lutheran Church for Pastor Blake is currently \$2,787.45 per month. This covers our portion of his salary, housing, utilities, mileage re-imbusement, retirement, disability/ survivor insurance and most of the health care premium.

The increase in expenses is more than offset by an increase in our offerings as our YTD totals for attendance and offerings have both increased in 2023 compared to 2022. We also have significant savings in a Thrivent Money Market account that is currently earning about \$9/ day.

Thank you to all who support of our congregation and its ministry with your time and talents as well as monetary donations.

We have not had a stewardship program in many years and are intending to start one soon. We are looking for volunteers to be on the stewardship committee. The function of our stewardship committee is to evoke and promote the expression of Christian faith in daily living. It shall teach the Christian use of money, and spread knowledge of the Congregation's local, national and world-wide ministries. It shall lead all its members to higher levels of proportionate giving for the Lord's work. It shall also be responsible for other congregation efforts, which lead to informed and grateful giving.

1-1-1 Reignited!

211,915... this is an amazing number. It could represent many things but for 1-1-1 it is the number of times an individual person, young and old, has put a dollar into one of the 1-1-1 collection boxes in 59 different participating congregations of our English District over the past five years. 1-1-1 is and has always been

about many doing little and accomplishing much. \$211,915 has been received by our District, above and beyond our regular District budget, to support and strengthen identified missions of our District as designated by Bishop Hardy. Our 2022-2023 identified missions were **Logos, Philadelphia, PA** and **Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine**. Each of these missions received half of the gifts received. Our 2023-2024 identified recipients are the new LCMS-U chapter at Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Washington led by Pastor Marc DiConti and the Nuer Language (South Sudanese) Ministry at the Church of St. Mark - Lutheran, Mississauga, Ontario led by Pastor Philip Gai.

1 + 1 + 1
A Dollar for Missions

Of the 59 congregations that have participated over the years, 27 have participated every year. The dream has always been that every English District congregation would participate. To renew our emphasis of 1-1-1 we are intentionally focusing this year with the theme of "1-1-1 REIGNITED!" Bishop Hardy was recently interviewed by Rev. Thomas Engler about this renewed emphasis. In this interview Dr. Hardy shares his heart and thoughts about 1-1-1 and its value to the mission of our English District. Please [click here](#) to watch the interview.

This is the power of many giving a little as we are moved by God's Spirit.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Gilbert Ayers	Kathy Brashear	Palagia Hlava	Pastor Just
Lorene Kozar	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Becky Larkins & Rowan
Patty Abramovich	Adalyn	Diane Altier	Ray Bishop
Archer Bradshaw	Barb Basmagy	Marshall Camp	Russ & Lana Carnes
Carl	Billy Earle Jr.	Evelyn French	Dennis Fuldauer
Daniel Gump	Mary Hardesty	Lance	Kim & daughter
Christine Kuntzman	Steve Mamber	Frank Manijak	McGowan family
Amanda Nicely	Larry Powell	Don Thornton	Bennie Wegener
Renee White	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	Lorene Kozar
12790 Chamberlain	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

OUR SERVICE PROJECTS

We remember all those who are facing a crisis in their lives. Lutheran Missions Ministry is our main organization that we donate to. They are doing a great job helping these families.

Please remember the families of Streetsboro by donating to the Streetsboro Community Pantry with a monetary donation or food donation. You can do this through the church through your offering or placing food items in the basket in the Narthex.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

9-Ken Nicely III
17-Grace Rohaley
24-Amy Rohaley
25-Jayden Fuldauer
29-Thomas Ayers



NOVEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

4-Stephanie Johnson
14-Jarid Phillips
29-Sam Nicely

Happy Anniversary to...
9-Sam & Denise Nicely
29-Pastor & Kristine Just

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!

WORK DAYS

MINI MISSION TRIP IN CLEVELAND, OH

November

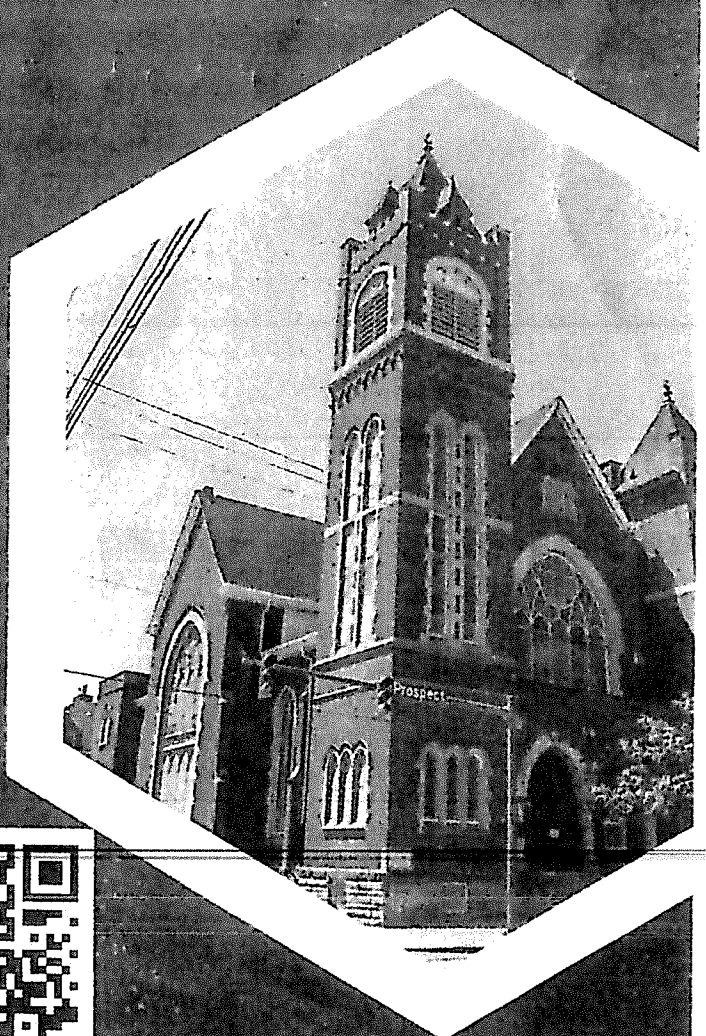
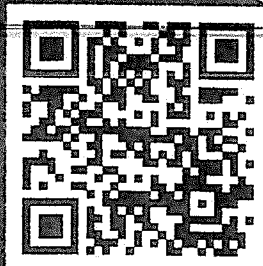
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Contact Sharon for
the schedule & details
stieman@immanuelcl.org.

Historic Zion Lutheran is working to renovate the school building to connect with the community and launch a Campus Ministry in the downtown area.

Zion began in the 1840's and built the present building shortly after 1900. Rich in history and ministry, the church and surrounding churches are asked to gather to clean up, spruce up, and fix up the building for continued ministry opportunities. Monetary donations for food and supplies are also needed.

Whether you can volunteer for 3 hours or 3 days, we'd love your help! Scan here to see volunteer opportunities and to sign up!



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

Web Site: www.stthomasstreetsboro.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.

IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!!