

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church – Streetsboro, Ohio

January 2024



After the twelve-day celebration of Christmas and before the 40-day celebration of Lent, we observe Epiphany. “Epiphany” in classical Greek refers to the revelation of a god. Christians have used this term for the season following Christmas and preceding Lent because during this time we meditate upon the fact that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. The baby born of the Virgin Mary more than 2,000 years ago is the eternal Second Person of the Trinity, God the Son (John 1:14). For a time His Divine majesty was hidden beneath the lowly form of a human being. For this reason, many of the religious authorities and people during Jesus’ day rejected Him as a blasphemer for teaching that He was equal to the God of Israel (John 5:18). Jesus was rejected, among other things, for preaching the truth about who He is. Jesus is equal to the God of Israel because He is the God of Israel in human

flesh (Colossians 2:9). When people saw the man, Jesus, they saw none other than the Lord of Hosts.

Our Lord’s divine majesty (i.e., Glory) was revealed at points throughout His ministry. The readings for Epiphany focus on times when our Lord revealed His Glory, such as when the Father proclaimed His identity as His “beloved Son” at His baptism or when our Lord revealed Himself to be the Bridegroom of Israel (i.e., God) by providing wine at a wedding in Cana. Above all else, our Lord’s divinity was revealed and confirmed in His resurrection, as St. Paul writes: “He was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord...” (Rom. 1:4 ESV) The feast day of the Transfiguration concludes our celebration of Epiphany how our Lord revealed His divine light to Peter, James, and John before going to the cross (Mark 9:2-13). The Transfiguration revealed His identity as both God and man while also foreshadowing our Lord’s glorified appearance after His resurrection (2 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 1:14).

Yet our Lord revealed His Glory above all in His death on the cross. There, Jesus Christ says, the Father glorified Him (John 13:32). Jesus even refers to His crucifixion as the moment when He would be enthroned as the glorious Son of Man (see Mark 14:62, “from this moment on you will see”). The cross is where the Lord of Glory was crucified (1 Corinthians 2:8). The cross revealed the very heart of God, His love for us. As St. John the Elder, thinking about the cross, writes: “God is love” (1 John 4:8-10). The God of the universe through whom all things were made gave up His imperishable and priceless life for your sins so that you now have eternal life in His name. The cross is the Glory and Wisdom of God because in it we learn who God is. We learn about our loving Father who would send his only begotten Son to die for us. We learn about the love of the only begotten Son who laid down His life for us. And we come to know the love of the Father and the Son on account of the love of the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts and causes the Glory of the Lord to shine within through the proclamation of the Gospel. Through our Lord’s cross, we see an epiphany of the Triune God: God is love.

Pastor Blake

God is Love!
Happy New Year!

THANK YOU....

Dear brothers and sisters at St. Thomas,

The latter part of this past year has been filled with new experiences for you and me. Your kind words to me and the time and gifts you devote to ensure that God's work of delivering His gifts of Word and Sacrament here at St. Thomas has made my experience as your new pastor a blessing. Since Ruth and I moved here this summer, you have greeted us with open arms and made us feel welcome as we settled into our life here. At Christmas, we often think of family as one of the gifts of the season, and we are grateful to God for giving you as our family in Christ Jesus. Thank you for your generous Christmas gift and all the other ways you have shown us the love of Christ. May all the blessings of the season be with you.

In Christ,
Pastor and Ruth

++++++

My deepest thanks for the most thoughtful and generous gift at Christmas. I especially appreciate that you considered my time as your Pastor deserving such an honor. It comes just at a time when I will be setting up a home office and will be put to good use to make that project happen. I hope and pray that you will continue to be as thoughtful and generous with Pastor Martzowka as he serves among you.

In Christ,
Pastor Just

++++++

Thank you to all who have participated in the Stewardship & Graceful Giving program by turning in the completed form. If you have not turned in your completed form, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you to those who helped with our fall clean-up event. A lot was accomplished. Please look for information regarding our winter and spring clean-up events in our upcoming newsletters.

In Christ,
Steve Hlava

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. See the signup sheets in the Narthex on the bulletin board. 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 December. It is wonderful to be able to meet with our friends socially after the worship. Join us this Sunday.

**LET THE LIGHT OF YOUR FACE SHINE UPON US!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Gilbert Ayers	Kathy Brashear	Palagia Hlava	Pastor Just
Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins	Carol Poston	Heather Poston
Patty Abramovich	Adalyn	Diane Altier	Betsy & Peggy
Ray Bishop	Archer Bradshaw	Barb Basmagy	Heather Burton
Marshall Camp	Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes	David Colvin
Family of Dan	Dan	Billy Earle Jr.	Evelyn
Evelyn French	Dennis Fuldauer	Daniel Gump	Mary Hardesty
Heather	Karen	Lance	Vicar Herr & Jackie
Calee Langston	Theresa Ludwigsen	Kim & daughter	Maria Knittle
Family of Christine Kuntzman		Family of Steve Mamber	
Frank Manijak	Eva McCall	McGowan family	Amanda Nicely
Larry Powell	Powers Family	Tom Reed	Helen Stanley
Pastor Bob Tauscher	Don Thornton	Bennie Wegener	Weston
Renee White	Ukraine refugees	COVID-19 patients	All Natural disaster victims
Tuscarawas Valley School community and the driver of the semi			Gaza & Israel victims
Our military veterans			

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 12790 Chamberlain 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

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. Mark on your envelopes “Lutheran Mission Ministry”.

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.

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 Eastern Star Home. They will be using them to make park benches. Thank you!

**Shine Jesus Shine!
Happy New Year!**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

6-Joanna Nicely
6-Gabe Johnson
12-Deb Wolff
21-Nicole Johnson
22-Sam Nicely
28-Logan Hagen
29-Rory Wolff
30-Becky Larkins



JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

11-Kathy Brashear
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!

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

Church Council will be meeting Sunday, January 21 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 Stephanie 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

No Report this month.

**GOD IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



May God bless us and keep us.
May God's face shine on us
and be gracious.
May God look on us with favor
and give us peace.

**LOVE AND SERVE MORE IN 2024!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**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

BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS 6:00 P.M.