



God the Father calls our Lord Jesus His “beloved Son” at His baptism in the Jordan (Matthew 3:17). In the Old Testament, the term beloved son often refers either to the first-born son or/and the heir apparent. This phrase denotes favor as it does in the case of Isaac, the son whom Abraham loved (Genesis 22:2). St. John uses a similar phrase in his gospel to denote Jesus’ special status as the son of God. He uses the Greek term *monogenes*, which means “only-begotten” or “unique” to denote Jesus’ divine sonship (see John 1:18; 3:16). Like the beloved sons of the Old Testament, Jesus is the unique, one-of-a-kind son of God the Father. He alone is the Son who has existed with the father from eternity (John 1:18), who has life in Himself as the Father does (John 5:26), who shares one

divine essence with the Father (John 10:30). These things are true of no other person.

To give up one’s beloved son to death is the greatest form of love in both the Old and New Testament. Even today, parents understand the great tragedy of losing a child. In the Ancient Near East, the death of the beloved son had other repercussions as well. The death of the beloved son would leave a father without an heir apparent, his property and his future relegated to the limbo of an uncertain future as a result. Moreover, as a patriarchal society that did not mind showing favoritism among one’s offspring, the beloved son was closest to his father. As Jesus says, “No one knows the father except the [unique] son...” (Matt. 11:27) For this reason, the willing sacrifice of one’s beloved son for another is the greatest sacrifice and display of love possible in the Old Testament (see Genesis 22:16-17; Micah 6:7)

The New Testament picks up on this image and uses it as the ultimate display of God’s love for us. God the Father loves us so much that He handed His beloved Son, His only Son, over to death for the forgiveness of our sins (John 3:16; Romans 8:32). As St. Paul proclaims: “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:7-8) If God loves us so much that He

suffered the death of His Son for us, what good will He withhold from us? He will withhold nothing from us and work all things for our good out of unconditional love, the same unconditional love He showed by sending His Son to save us.

Moreover, delivered from sin on account of Jesus' death on the cross, we are now made the beloved children of God through Christ Jesus (John 8:34-36; Galatians 3:26). Through Christ, God His Father has now become God our Father in heaven. His love for Christ, His beloved son, is now His love for you. As the beloved child of God, the inheritance of Christ is now our inheritance as well. What a blessing it is to be God's beloved child!

Join us for our midweek services at St. Thomas this Lent as we go throughout the Old Testament and learn from the beloved sons of the Old Testament what it means for Christ Jesus to be God's beloved son and what His identity as the beloved son means for us.

Pastor Blake

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BIBLE STUDIES

NO BIBLE STUDIES through Lent.

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FAT TUESDAY

We will be celebrating Fat Tuesday on Tuesday, March 4th at 6:00 p.m. with a dessert buffet. Please bring your favorite dessert to our Mardi Gras celebration. This will be a joint celebration with Christ Lutheran. See sign up sheet in the Narthex to sign up for your dessert.

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ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday will be observed on Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas. Join us for this joint service with Christ Lutheran on this holy day to begin the Lenten season.

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LENTEN SERVICES

We will be hosting the Lenten services with Soup Supper at 6:00 and Worship at 7:00 on Wednesdays March 12, 19 and 26 and April 2 and 9. The theme for the services is "Death & Resurrection of the Beloved Son". There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex to sign up to bring soup, bread and other items for out joint suppers and worship.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Newsletter Article – March 2025

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed. The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

If you have any questions on stewardship please let Pastor know. He would be happy to help with these questions.

Pastor Just will be undergoing surgery to replace his left shoulder on May 15 at the Cleveland Clinic. He and Kristine hold tickets for the Cleveland Orchestra on May 24-25 (yes, that is Saturday and Sunday) featuring Janacek's opera: on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. and a medley of music on Saturday at 8:00 pm. Go online to Cleveland Orchestra for more details about the programs; if you would like to go to one or both concerts, let Pastor and Kristine know. The tickets, with parking, are yours at no cost.

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AUDIO SYSTEM

Gilbert Ayers has graciously agreed to help us understand the audio system. He will be meeting with anyone who is interested on Saturday, March 15 at noon to go over any questions on how to work the system.

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SOCIAL MEDIA PERSON

Looking for a social media person who can help us out with our Facebook and YouTube streaming services. If you would like to help out with this please see Del Groff for more information.

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CIRCUIT VISITOR

At our recent synod conference the Akron and East Cleveland areas have been combined into one. Our new circuit visitor will be Robert Weldon. Thank you to John McCall for being our past circuit visitor and being with us through our choosing Pastor Blake as our new pastor.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Thank you to the property committee for all their hard work this winter. We have new doors, bathrooms have been updated and the mowers are serviced and ready for the spring thaw. Spring cleaning will be announced soon.

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WORSHIP SONG MEETING

The worship committee met on Thursday, February 27 to choose hymns for the Lenten season. We ran out of time and will continue this meeting on Thursday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We would love to have your input on your favorite songs for the season. Join us on the 6th.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman	Lorene Kozar	Richard
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Grace Rohaley	Rory & Deb Wolff
Patty Abramovich	Allan	Isabella Andrews	Lynn Arnett
Ray Bishop	Brian	Chris	Russ & Lana Carnes
Grant Clare	Danny	Debbie	Denise
Yorum Fierenstein	Bill Foster	Tresse Gardner	Gary
Walter Glatz	Dwight Hask	Kenny Hanson	Daniel Gump and wife
John Henry	Janice	Jerry	Jim
John	John	John	John Zema
Paul Kaiser	Kathy	Kathy	Kenny
Kevin	Larry Kraus	Laura	Debbie Mace
Logan McGowan family	Jessice McGowan	Dan Meenach	Kyle Moisio
Joyce	Amanda Nicely	Denise Nicely	Patriots family
Patti	Patty's family	Kathy Robicheau	Bill Stewart
Susan	Tina	Brenda Ward	Bennie Wegener
Greg Werner			

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

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

The world/USA—racism and lack of love outside of God's words

Our military veterans All Natural disaster victims COVID virus patients

Gaza & Israel victims Ukraine refugees

All those who have lost their jobs recently

**The power of prayer is so miraculous that we would love to hear 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

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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
- 24-Pastor Martzowka
- 25-Ian Phillips
- 31 Aaron Fuldauer



MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism birthdays

- 7-Becky Larkins
- 11-Abigail Ayers
- 23-Ken Nicely III

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. 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.

Church Council will be meeting Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. 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-Vice President, Joyce Torres-Secretary, Deb Wolff-Financial Secretary, Guy Jeanblanc, 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

If you haven't sent back your Stewardship form yet, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sunday March 30 will be the fifth Sunday of the month. We have designated this Sunday to reach out to Shepherd's House, the homeless shelter in Ravenna. Please make your donations by marking your envelope or check "Shepherd House". Thank you!

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Our new weekly budget need is \$1,306.73. Please help us meet this goal through your stewardship giving. Thank you!

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of January 2025

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	26748.00	26748.00	23292.00
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	8537.01	8537.01	3085.13
NET GAIN (LOSS)	18210.99	18210.99	20206.87
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	56.00	56.00	66.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	0.00	52.92
NET GAIN (LOSS)	56.00	56.00	13.08
Average General Fund Income Per Week	6687.00	6687.00	5823.00
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1275.96</u>		

Special Funds Include:

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 Worship	3	4 TOPS 9:30 6:00 Fat Tuesday Celebration Bring a dessert!	5 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	6 Office hours 9-3 10:00 Worship Song Meeting	7	8
9 9:00 Worship	10	11 TOPS 9:30	12 6:00 Soup 7:00 Worship	13 Office Hours 9-3	14	15 12:00 Audio system lesson
16 9:00 Worship	17	18 TOPS 9:30	19 6:00 Soup 7:00 Worship	20 Office Hours 9-3	21	22
23 9:00 Worship	24	25 TOPS 9:30	26 6:00 Soup 7:00 Worship	27 Office Hours 9-3	28	29
30 9:00 Worship 5 th Sunday donation to Shepherd's House	31	Upcoming events April 13 Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship	April 17 Maundy Thursday 6:00 Worship	April 18 Good Friday Service at 5:00 Christ will be at 7:00	April 19 Set up for Easter 10:00	April 20 Easter 7:30 Breakfast 9:00 Worship



**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.

PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE 6:00 SOUP SUPPER AND 7:00 WORSHIP