

# The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

October 2019



Martin Luther himself wrote that his motives for the Reformation movement grew primarily out of pastoral concern for the members of his congregation in Wittenberg. When he learned of the indulgences being sold by John Tetzel in neighboring communities, and that his members were buying them, he recognized that they were being offered false hope. In short, they were being “ripped off” (not Luther’s phrase).

Luther tried several approaches to keep this evil from coming to his parishoners, including preaching against the entire concept of indulgences. The more he looked into this practice, the more he recognized how harmful this idea was to Christian hope and faith. It finally led him, on October 31, 1517, to post his now-famous 95 Theses against indulgences, and thus launch the German Reformation.

Eventually, this movement would become embroiled in national and global politics, military actions, and a divide within the Christian church. This was not Luther’s intent. His was first a concern for the spiritual welfare of Christ’s redeemed people.

As we observe the anniversary of the 95 Theses this month, it would be an excellent time to remind ourselves that our mission and ministry must also be about concern for the spiritual welfare of all those for whom Christ came and offered up Himself. We can get so caught up in doing “churchy” things that we forget what it means to be the Church.

Luther understood that being the Church meant bringing Christ to people, especially to people who do not know Him, or who have drifted away from Him. That is the Church’s mission and ministry. We do that through many means — direct witnessing, sharing our own faith with others; caring service, helping people experience the love of Christ; and bringing people to the Word and Sacraments, where Christ is always found.

As we honor the history of the Reformation, we need also commit ourselves to extending its goals and purposes — to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ alive in the hearts of all people. We can do that only with the people we encounter. We can support others who go out in our stead to work in places we cannot go. In either case, the driving motive remains our concern for those who may be led away from Christ by many allurements, and restore them in loving relationship to Christ.

Someone you know needs that ministry. Someone only you can reach needs to experience Christ’s grace. In the spirit of the Reformation, bring the Good News to that person’s life this month.

*Soli Deo Gloria* (“To God alone be the glory”).

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## Our Worship This Month

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### October 6 — Pentecost XVII

Sermon: *"No, Not 'Worthless'"*

Texts: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 95; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Jesus defines what our attitude toward ourselves and our service to the Lord we should hold. Mostly, we get it wrong.

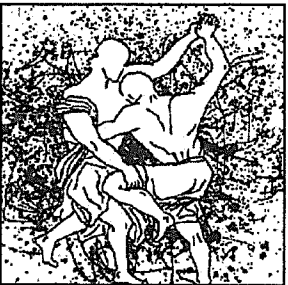


### October 13 — Pentecost XVII

Sermon: *"Clean and Well"*

Texts: 2 Kings 5:1-15c; Psalm 66; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Jesus heals ten lepers, makes them clean. He tells the one who came back that faith made him well. See the difference?

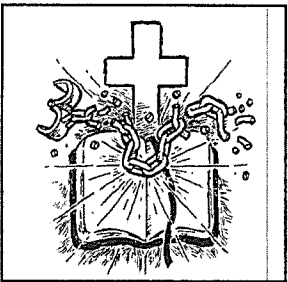


### October 20 — October XIX

Sermon: *"Faith Rasslin'"*

Texts: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Jacob physically wrestled with God. There are many other ways that our faith is pushed, and we need to battle to hold on.



### October 27 — Reformation Sunday

Sermon: *"Freeing Truth"*

Texts: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

Jesus proclaims that the truth shall set us free. What truth? Free to do what?

On September 29, Pastor Just began an **Adult Study on Martin Luther and the Reformation**, a video series featuring Dr. Paul Maier, Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University. The first episode addressed the Pre-Reformers. The series continues for the four Sundays in October, each episode covering the following years of Luther's influence: October 6: 1483-1510; October 13: 1510-1518; October 20: 1520-1522; October 27: 1522-Present. The class meets at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers	Madeline Ayers	Trudy Ayers	Bill Crile
Deb Earle	Cory Hautmann	Linda Hautmann	Nicole Johnson
Pastor Just	Lorene Kozar	Joe Lenno	Ken Nicely II
Kenny Nicely IV	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Amy Rohaley
Ron Stenglein	Agnes Whinnie	Rory Wolff	Barb Alcorn
Alice Artman	Roger Black	Michael Brooks	Joyce Cavanaugh
Franklin Conn	Scott Corban	Tom Corban	Christine Combs
Claire Coumos	Dan Crile	Joe Fishcone	Martin Goss
Karen Groves	Mr. Joe	Steve Kolar	Brad Kozar
Sharon Kress	Suzanne Latham	Bob Mandau	Pastor Mark
Frank Manijak	John Retherford	Art Robinson	Deb Rosenlib
Mildred Slanina	Mr. T	Petrina Twigger	Tara Vargo
Jon Yenulonis	John Yurkschatt		

Mr. Steve Gerhard  
The Gardens of Western Reserve  
9975 Greentree Parkway  
Streetsboro, OH 44241-4328

Mrs. Audrey Holland  
4552 Aspen Lake Road  
Apartment 102  
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582

Mrs. Eunice Haschak  
Avenue at Macedonia  
9730 Valley View Road  
Macedonia, Ohio 44056

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann and Joanna Nicely  
Our College Graduate—Stephen Nicely

If there is anyone you would like to add or delete from this list, please let Marla Manijak know. You can reach her at 330-626-5120 or fill out one of the cards in the pew and put in offering plate.

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

#### Birthdays

3-Kim Kinder  
7-Joe Earle  
9-Jim Doerfler  
15-Stephanie Johnson  
15-Agnes Whinnie  
17-Abigail Ayers  
20-Madelyn Ayers  
24-Linda Beuck  
27-Linda Hautmann



### SEPTEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

#### Baptism Birthdays

9-Trudy Ayers  
13-Joanna Nicely  
13-Gilbert Ayers  
13-Thomas Ayers  
20-Nick Phillips  
Steve Hlava

### 1 + 1 + 1 giving

We, along with other English District congregations, are raising money to help our missionaries spread the good news of Jesus. 1+1+1 means \$1 per member each Sunday. There is a plastic box in the narthex under the bulletins for you to place your \$1 each Sunday. Because of the break-in we are now emptying the box each Sunday. It will be posted each Sunday in the Offering List. Thank you for your donations!

Also being collected are can tabs for Thrivent and cancelled postage stamps for an organization in Kent. Thank you for your donations!

**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**



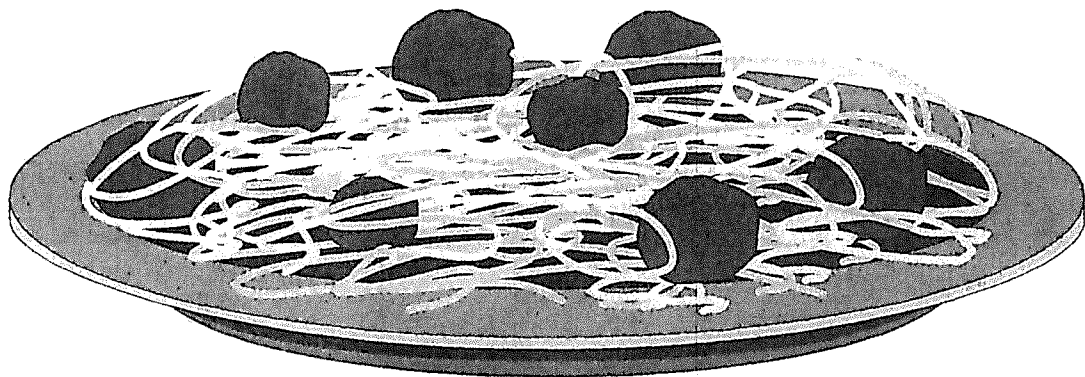
October is Pastor Appreciation Month. We would like to celebrate Pastor Just but we would like to also celebrate you! St. Thomas wouldn't be here without you!

**Join us on Saturday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m.**

We will be celebrating with a spaghetti dinner provided by the church council. Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread and a cake will be our main meal.

If you would like to bring something to compliment this meal, a dessert or drinks we wouldn't turn you away! But please don't feel that you have to. We just want your presence!

We hope to see all of you there! It will be a fun filled evening! Please see a council member if you have any questions.



## THE SEASON OF GIVING

As November approaches and our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving dinner, now is the time to think about helping those less fortunate than us. There will be a basket out in the Narthex to collect food for the Community Pantry to help with their Thanksgiving Baskets that they provide for our community. We will be collecting until November 10<sup>th</sup>. But keep that giving spirit in your hearts because we will be doing something for Christmas also. Thanks!

## WOMEN'S GROUP

It's been a long time since we have met as a Women's group. We need a brain storming session. Some thoughts we have are outreach programs, a prayer session, a bible study, Christmas basket raffle(?). We need your input. Maybe an evening out? Ideas always go better with food! . Please let Joyce or Marla know if you are interested so we can set a date.

## BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00 p.m., we will be celebrating Stephanie Johnson's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday at Steve and Marla's home—9819 Sunny Lane. Everyone who knows Stephanie is invited to help us celebrate this special birthday. See you there!

## WEBSITE

If you haven't checked out our church website yet, please do and let Del Groff know how you like it or if there is something you would like to see added. The website is [www.stthomasstreetsboro.com](http://www.stthomasstreetsboro.com)

**Sunday School** has started. I would love to see more children join us. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. Please join us this Sunday!

**Our October-December** Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door.

**Council will** be meeting in October on the 20th at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. All members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. New ideas are always appreciated.

**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.

**Welcome Fall and**



**Pumpkin Carving Time!**