

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

October 2020

FORMLESS
FORMED
DEFORMED
REFORMED
CONFORMED
TRANSFORMED

We are told in the opening lines of Genesis that “the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep” (1:1 [NRSV]). It took the creative action of God speaking His Word to create form, that is order, out of the formless. Thus did God begin all things; He provided form.

The prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah declare God’s message that He “formed you in the womb.” This is a very personal way of communicating that every one of us is the result of God’s purposeful act of creation. It tells us that

God did not wind up His creation like a clock and leave it sitting on a shelf; He is always intimately involved with what He has created, including and especially us.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the tree from which they were told not to eat, this perfectly formed world became deformed — it was no longer in the form that God intended it to have. St. Paul affirms that the creation became subject to a “bondage to decay” (Romans 8:21 [NRSV]), and was itself, as are we, in need of freedom. We, whom God formed, have become deformed in our sinfulness.

This month, we celebrate that Martin Luther and others led a movement to reform the church. They recognized that the church had lost the form given it by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; that form had been based on grace and faith. The church of the sixteenth century had deformed into one based on works and power. Luther and the rest called the Church back to its original form, insisting that the heart of the Gospel was not performance but God’s unconditional acceptance of every one of His children, acceptance that had been demonstrated and secured in the death and resurrection of Christ.

But to find reform it is necessary to conform. The image of Christ is the template to which we must aspire. We are to be conformed to Christ in our living out the Gospel. This means we must learn from Christ’s example to become more sacrificial, less self-centered; more loving, less judgmental; more God-oriented, less worldly. It is one thing to admire Jesus and His teachings; it is something much more to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live into them. To be conformed to Christ requires great discipline and attention.

But Paul takes it yet a step further when he calls us to “not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2 [NRSV]). The transforming power of the Gospel is that the Holy Spirit works through Word and Sacrament to provide such a radical difference in our lives that we can hardly explain the change. True transformation is not just cosmetic updating; it is a deep, very personal, and very radical change in our thinking, believing, and doing. The Holy Spirit is constantly positioning us for such change; we cannot close ourselves off from what the Spirit seeks to do in our lives.

A song by Larry Holder and Elton Smith expresses it well:

From the beginning of time was a plan

That all who believe understand:

Salvation is ours as a gift, through God's only Son. (Mercy and Grace, Copyright © 2003)

Thus does God take the unformed, form it in love, and when deformed, He reforms, conforms and transforms to reflect His glory. For that, we give Him praise and worship.

Our Worship This Month



October 4 — Pentecost XVIII

Sermon: *"What Will I Wear to the Feast?"*

Texts: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Feast presents us with some problems. Grace overcomes them.



October 11 — Pentecost XIX

Sermon: *"The Power of Power."*

Texts: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Jesus teaches us to recognize and honor worldly power, but to realize that all of life comes from God.

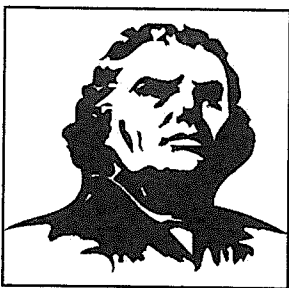


October 18 — Pentecost XX

Sermon: *"Be Holy!"*

Texts: Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

"Love God . . . Love Your Neighbor!" In this, Jesus tells us, is the whole counsel of God.

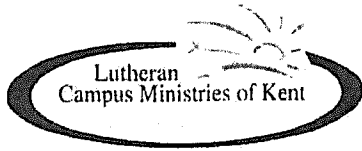


October 25 — Reformation Sunday

Sermon: *"Stuck inside of Mobile (with the Memphis Blues Again)"*

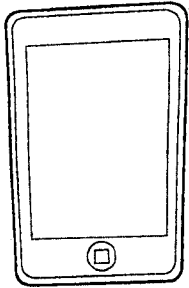
Texts: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 3:16-21

Has the message of the Gospel been distorted by the many messages we hear daily? We need to pay closer attention to what Jesus has to say.



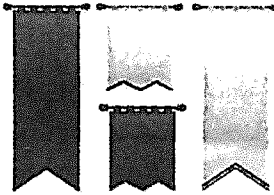
On October 4, we will have a visitor, Wesley Johnson, from Lutheran Campus Ministry at Kent State University, who will be setting up a table (outdoors, weather permitting) with information about what is happening at our closest Lutheran campus ministry.

We ask you to stop by the table before and after our worship service to hear about the campus ministry activities, maybe pick up a brochure or two, and, if so moved, make a donation.



As we continue to develop our capacity to make our worship services broadcast quality both on the car radios in our parking lot and online via Facebook, we are looking into upgrading some equipment. The most pressing need is a new (or slightly used) I-Pad (probably a "mini") that we use to video our worship. It would be helpful if there would be some special donations to bring that to reality. If you have a used tablet that you'd consider donating, please let Rory Wolff or Del Groff know; they will need to assess if what you have meets the specifications we need. More common would be offers to

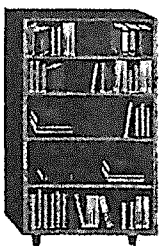
donate funds to make the exact purchase that we can use now and on into the future. Thank you.



Our thanks go to Marla and Steve Manijak and Diane Lee for taking the time to mount several banners in our sanctuary. A series of seven banners on the Lord's Prayer have been affixed to the back wall. These banners came to St. Thomas from Epiphany, Northfield and were designed and sewn by Barbara Martin. In addition, a banner has been placed near the exit door toward to front of the sanctuary. Right now, that banner is one that was constructed back in 1999, and shows the hands of many actual

members of the congregation fashioned in felt. It is envisioned that, in this location, a banner will be changed as is appropriate to the season or occasion (we have many banners from which to choose).

(If you are one who chooses to worship in your car as we continue through this CoVid19 period, you may want to take a step into the building in the next few weeks just to check out how these supplements to our worship space appear.)



We call your attention to the book cart that is situated in the narthex. You will find there Bibles, Bible study aids, and other books on matters religious. They are there for you to take home. Read one, then give it to a friend or relative to read. Know someone who needs a Bible? Take one and pass it on. Just to emphasize: This is not considered to a "lending" library, but a "take it home with you" library. We can add other books when these are been claimed, so don't hesitate.

PASTORAL ACT

Burial: On September 24, 2020, a graveside service was provided for *Marling L. Rider*, born October 1, 1935 in Uniontown PA; died September 1, 2020 in Streetsboro, OH. Interment at Evergreen Cemetery, Streetsboro, OH.

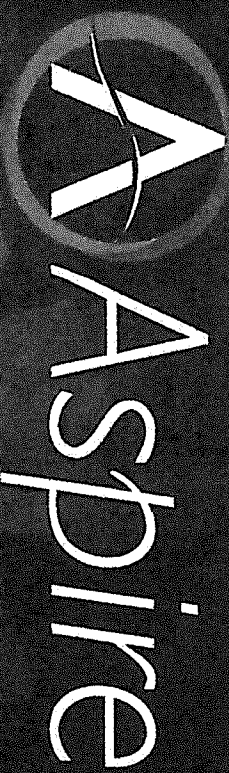
We would like to thank Diane Pencin, Robin Hoffman, Gilbert Ayers and Guy Jeanblanc for volunteering to be on the search committee to help us gather all the facts we need to present to the Synod to begin our search for a new Pastor. Pastor Just will be retiring from his ministry with St. Thomas at the end of December.

Some of the options are 1) Call a full time pastor,, 2) Call a seminary student, 3)Share a pastor with another congregation 4) possible interim pastor. The committee is recommending that a congregational assessment be done. It would help the committee have an idea of the strength and weaknesses of our congregation.

If anyone has a suggestion please let this committee know. You can find their numbers in the new directory.

ASPIRE


Women of St. Thomas, you are invited to attend one of the Aspire shows. Please let Joyce or Marla know if you would like to attend one of these events. We are leaning toward the Sunday show. It promises to be a great evening.



1 night - 3 hours just for Women • An evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music


3 SHOWS IN OHIO THIS FALL

Comedy by *Author & Speaker*
 ANITA RENFROE MELISSA SPOELSTRA JAIME JAMGOCHIAN
 Worship with




FRIDAY, OCT. 9, 2020 7:00PM SHOW
 GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH • 3480 LAUREL RD. • BRUNSWICK, OH 44212

Author & Bible Teacher
MARY SHANNON



Comedy by
KAY DODD





Worship with
KENDALL PAYNE

SATURDAY, NOV 14, 2020 6:00PM SHOW
 NORTH OLMSTED FRIENDS CHURCH
 5665 GREAT NORTHERN BLVD. • NORTH OLMSTED, OH 44070

SUNDAY, NOV 15, 2020 5:00PM SHOW
 HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
 7707 MARKET AVE. • NORTH CANTON, OH 44721

ADVANCE TICKETS
 \$25 Gen Admission | \$35 VIP
 \$20 Groups of 10 or more.
 Group sales call 480-812-1100

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100**
 or online at:
ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com

VP ticket includes early entry for preferred seating and Qn-A session with all the speakers and artists.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO
JIM DOERFLER!**

Jim will be turning 80 on October 9th.

Due to the pandemic a party is not possible at this time.

Jeanette is asking everyone to send Jim a birthday card.

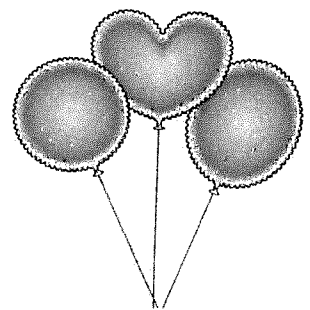
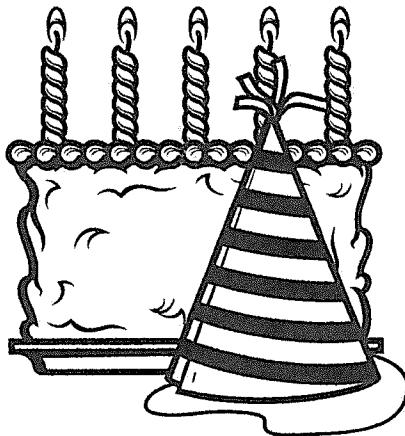
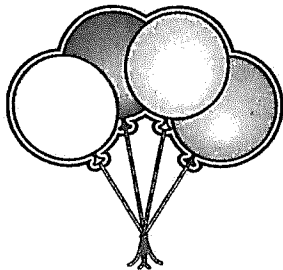
Let's see how many we can send him.

His address is
8641 S.R 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241

There will also be refreshments at the church

on Sunday the 4th.

Thank you everyone!



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers	Trudy Ayers	Bill Crile	Deb Earle
Cory Hautmann	Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar
Joanna Nicely	Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely IV	Tim Nicely
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Ron Stenglein	Debbie Anderson
Ed Boland	John Buterbaugh	Jeremy Campbell	Carl
Russ Carnes	Scott Corban	Tom Corban	Toni Corban
Christine Combs	Sue Ellinwood	Brian Fisher	Summer & Mark Dunlevy
George Foerster	Pastor James Gau	Bridget Gehri	Todd Gless
Karen Groves	Charles Hohne	Debbie Hovanetz	Kathi
Brad Kozar	Suzanne Latham	Dave Lauver	Frank Manijak
Martino family	Nadine Nicely	Samantha Nicely	James Olsen
Sandy Platten	Art Robinson	Diane Seman	Barbara Schreiber
Teri Stroki	Mary Small	Derrick Smith	Tim Tolodzieski
Kenneth Udovic	Tara Vargo	Tim Wheeler	COVID-19 patients
Hurricane and fire victims	Peaceful demonstrations		
Safety for all our school and college students			

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, Troy Roman and Joanna 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.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

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



OCTOBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

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

Happy Anniversary to
Becky & Keith Larkins on the 4th

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR OCTOBER!!
October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

2-World Smile Day
4-Taco Day
5-World Teachers' Day
11-It's My Party Day
12-Columbus Day
14-Dessert Day
16-Boss's Day

17-Sweetest Day
24-United Nations Day
28-First Responders Day and
Chocolate Day
29-Cat Day
30-Candy Corn Day
31-Halloween and
Reformation Day

1 + 1 + 1 giving

We thank you for continuing to give to our 1 + 1 + 1 fund raiser throughout this pandemic. The missionaries who spread the good news of Jesus are very appreciative of your generosity. 1+1+1 means \$1 per member each Sunday. There is a plastic box as you pick up your bulletin for you to place your \$1 each Sunday. It will be posted each Sunday in the Offering List. Thank you for your donations!

WE CARE!

We care about you! Please let us know if there is any need during this time of the pandemic. We are here to help you in any way it is needed, driving you somewhere, picking up groceries for you or just someone to talk to, please call your church family. Everyone has a new church directory! We are here for you!

You have several options to worship with us. If you can't get out, then please join us on Facebook. We are meeting in the parking lot and you can listen to the service on Channel 96.9 FM. You can also come inside. Your temperature will be taken at the door. Masks must be worn. We have plenty of room to space members out so it is very safe. However you worship with us it is just great to see all of you!

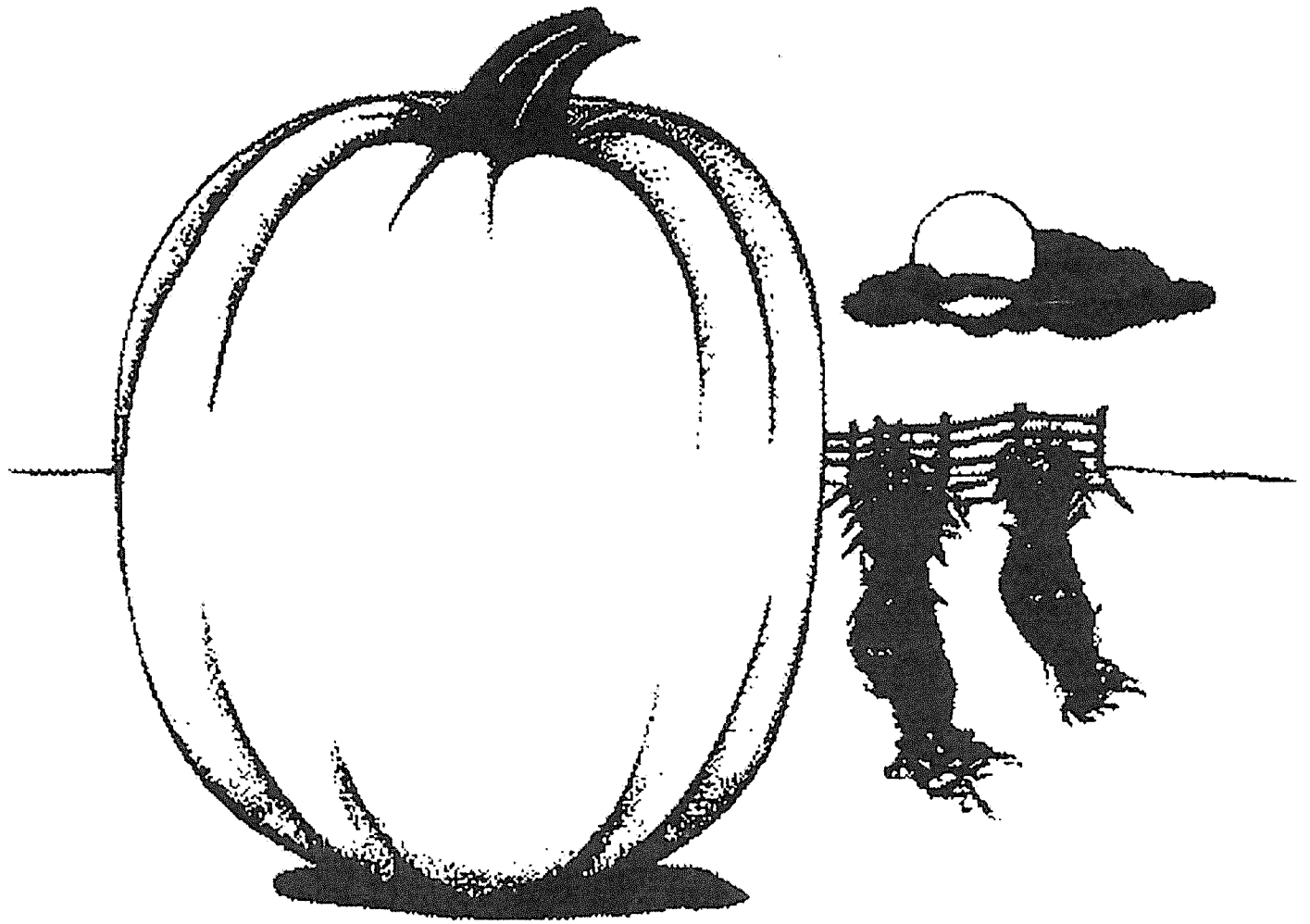
Stay safe everyone! You are all in our prayers!

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**

Our October-December Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door or ask Steve for one and he will bring it to your car.

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.



**As you decorate this pumpkin
May you remember**

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket,
but on a stand, and it gives great light to all in the house.

In the same way

let your light shine

before others, so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

**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

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 THE CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US INSIDE