

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

March 2021



Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

At first, Lent was a short time of preparation (as short as forty hours), but gradually it became lengthened to its present 40 days, reflecting the 40 days our Lord was in the wilderness when He was tempted by the Devil. It became a time for fasting, penitence, and doing works of obligation (designed, in part, to appease God).

Luther H.C. Reed writes: “Whether we fully realize it or not, the church has made a major shift in emphasis from the sense of joy and triumph felt by the early Christians in the long celebration of Eastertide to the somber contemplation of Christ’s sufferings and death and the subjective stress upon personal penitence and self-discipline which pervades the lengthy observance of Lententide. In this, as in other matters, we might well discard the garments of mourning and put on again the robes of victory and rejoicing worn by the [early] church” [*The Lutheran Liturgy*, p. 491].

Does Lent need to be a time of sorrow? Yes and no.

Dennis Bratcher writes: “The journey through Lent is a way to place ourselves before God humbled, bringing in our hands no price whereby we can ourselves purchase our salvation. It is a way to confess our total inadequacy before God, to strip ourselves bare of all pretenses to righteousness, to come before God in dust and ashes. It is a way to empty ourselves of our false pride, of our rationalizations that prevent us from seeing ourselves as needy creatures, of our external piety that blinds us to the beam in our own eyes” [[crivoice.org/The Season of Lent](http://crivoice.org/The%20Season%20of%20Lent)].

Such emptying is necessary far beyond the season of Lent, but is especially appropriate for this season. Yet Dr. Reed has a point about taking this so far that we remove ourselves from the joy of Christ’s victory. How do we find a balance? I think the answer lies in self-giving. I see this as different from self-sacrifice.

Many people give up things for Lent like eating meat or chocolate, or not smoking, or perhaps a favorite pastime — as a token sacrifice in honor of Christ’s sacrifice. That is self-sacrifice, and may have some limited benefit.

Self-giving goes beyond mere token gestures. It involves setting aside time, energy, and resources to help others. The best kind of self-giving is hands-on care. Spend an afternoon at a nursing home reading to residents. Volunteer to work at a homeless shelter. Cook a meal to bring to someone who just came home from the hospital. Record a book on tape for someone who is blind.

The problem is that many of us do not know where to offer our self-giving. Who would benefit? How do I begin? Here's three ideas on how to start self-giving:

- 1) Go to the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry web site: www.lutheranmetro.org and click on the item "Get Involved," then click onto "Volunteer" and you will find dozens of opportunities.
- 2) Go to the web site for Building Hope in the City: www.buildinghopeinthecity.org and click on "Volunteers" to find many ways to get involved.
- 3) Use our bulletin board (the one in the Fellowship Hall) to either:
 - a) Let others know something you think you'd like to do for others (a skill, an art, or something most people can do) and ask if anyone knows where you can plug in to do that, or they themselves can use what you're offering to do; or use that space to
 - b) Alert others to volunteer possibilities that you know are in the greater community.

Self-giving has the benefit of restoring joy into our lives. When we do for others, we are also lifted up. We follow Christ in joy and confidence, not in sorrow and defeat. Let's share that good news with others as we minister — give of ourselves — in His name.

Our Worship This Month



March 7 — Lent III

Sermon: "*Cleanse Your Life*"

Texts: Exodus 20:1-7; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

God commands us to keep sabbath, but we let so many other things clutter our lives. How can we get clean?



March 14 — Lent IV

Sermon: "*Look in Trust*"

Texts: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Jesus shows Nicodemus the path to faith — look to Him lifted up. It is to the cross He points. Are our eyes fixed there?



March 21 — Lent V

Sermon: "*Give God Glory*"

Texts: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Jesus teaches us that we can give God glory only when we give our lives away in service to Him. Can we?



March 28 — Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

Sermon: *"Tears and Joy! Joy and Tears!"*

Texts: Procession: Mark 11:1-11; Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 118;
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 15:1-39

We gather to celebrate our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem as we enter in with palm branches and singing, but also focus on His Passion and Death for us, as read from the Gospel of Mark.



We continue to gather throughout the Lenten season in our Midweek Lenten services. Our theme is:

Jesus' Saving Questions

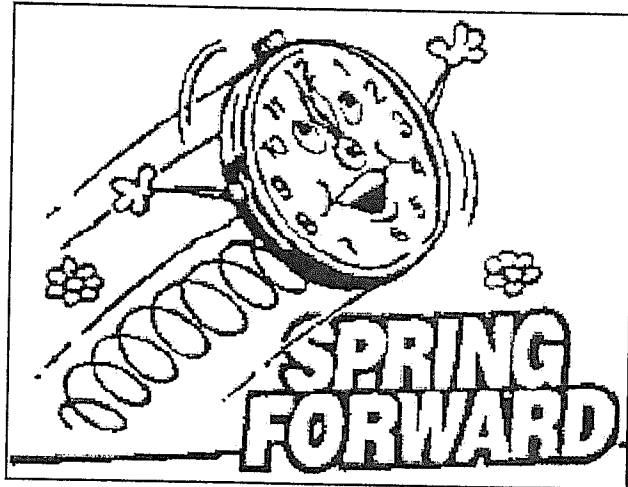
March 3: "Why Do You Call Me 'Lord, Lord'?" (Luke 6:46)

March 10: "Who Are My Brothers and Sisters?" (Mark 3:32)

March 17: "What Does It Profit a Man to Gain the Whole World and Forfeit His Soul?" (Mark 8:36)

March 24: "Will the Son of Man Find Faith?" (Luke 18:8)

Soup Supper is offered from 6:30 to 7:30 PM (a sign-up sheet to volunteer to bring soup, salad, bread, or other goods will be posted on the narthex bulletin board); Worship is from 7:30 to 8:15 PM.



March 14 begins
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME** so remember to turn
your clocks ahead on
Saturday March 13 before
you retire.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday will be held on Sunday, March 28 with our Procession of Palms at 10:00 a.m. beginning in the Narthex.

Maundy Thursday will be on Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. with Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar in preparation of Good Friday.

Good Friday will be held on Friday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. A solemn service of readings and hymns.

Easter Sunday will be Sunday, April 4 with children activities at 9:00 a.m. and a celebration service at 10:00 a.m.

Would you like a pancake breakfast? Let us know by March 14th!

Don't forget our Wednesday Soup Suppers! Delicious soup, salad, bread, pizza, desserts and other items are always available. (We have some great soup makers!!) Sign up on the volunteer sheet in the narthex. Join us at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday!

Our worship service follows at 7:30 p.m. with readings, music and an inspirational sermon. See you on Wednesday!

TREASURER'S REPORT

We would like to thank all of you for your continued support through these trying times. Your support of this ministry is proof of your love for Jesus and your desire to serve Him. Again Thank You!!

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of Jan. 2021

	CurrentMonth:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	7784.02	7784.02	5288.24
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4021.37	4021.37	4551.48
NET GAIN (LOSS)	3762.65	3762.65	736.76
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	330.00	330.00	15.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	77.84	77.84	63.08
NET GAIN (LOSS)	252.16	252.16	(48.08)
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1556.80	1556.80	1057.65
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1201.83</u>		

Special Funds Include:

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

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. One of those ministries is the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Campus Ministry program which was started in February 2020. The pandemic has made it rough for them but they are meeting via Zoom for Bible Studies. Thank you for supporting this program. 1+1+1 means \$1 per member each Sunday. There is a plastic box at the door to the sanctuary for your donations or you can give them to Steve in the parking lot and he will put it in for you. Thank you for your donations!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee and Church Council will be meeting with Pastor Gau on March 20 to discuss all the information that has been collected for our search for a new pastor. Any questions on this search can be asked from our search committee members Gilbert Ayers, Guy Jeanblanc, Robin Hoffman and Diane Pencin or our council members Steve Hlava, Jim Doerfler, Diane Lee, Deb Wolff, Joyce Torres, Marla Manijak and Del Groff.

PROPERTY NEWS

You will be happy to hear that we have replaced our water heater with a new Bradford White tank. The installation included new valves and code updates. A 6 year warranty is included with the \$1,1000.00 cost. Thank you to Steve Hlava, Jim Doerfler and Del Groff for all their hard work to make this happen.

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**

New Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex.

Our January-March and April-June 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.

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR MARCH!!

1-Peanut Butter Lover's Day
2-Dr. Seuss's Birthday and
Read Across America Day
6-Employee Appreciation Day
8-International Women's Day
10-Day of Awesomeness
14-Daylight Saving Time and
Pi Day and
Albert Einstein's Birthday

16-Everything You Do is Right Day
17-St. Patrick's Day
19 First Day of Spring
21-World Poetry Day
22-Goof Off Day
23-Chip and Dip Day
28-Something on a Stick Day
31-Crayola Crayon Day

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Crile	Carol Earle	Deb Earle	Cory Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Nicole Johnson	Lorene Kozar
Joanna Nicely	Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely III	Kenny Nicely IV
Diane Pencin	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Diane Seman
Joyce Torres	Debbie Anderson	Alice Artman	Becky Larkins and Holly
Rick Artman	Avis Blowers	Ed Boland	Tim Borbely
Patty Bowman	John Butterbaugh	Jeremy Campbell	Carl
Jerry Chapala	Leona Corban	Scott Corban	Tom Corban
Sommer & Mark Dunlevy	Jamie Dunn	Bill Earle	Billy Earle Jr.
Sue Ellinwood	George Foerster	Christine Frank	Felicia Finley family
Bridget Gehri	Ken Granville	Lisa Hlava	Scott Hoover
Debbie Hovanetz	Janice	Kathi	Brad Kozar
Matt Langsten	Suzanne Latham	Lauren	Tyler Lutz
Dave Lauver	Lori	Anne Mack	Frank Manijak
Nadine Nicely	Samantha Nicely	James Olsen	Inge Osborne
Sandy & Ron Platten	Karen Power	Peter Power	Valonte Ragland
Latesha Ragland	Art Robinson	Agnes Rovison	John Rutherford
Barbara Schreiber	Leslie Slanina	Mary Small	Derrick Smith
Thelma	Tim Tolodzieski	Kenneth Udovic	Tara Vargo
Tim Wheeler	Zack	COVID-19 patients	The National Guard
Family Units being attacked by Satan		All Marriages to stay strong in Christ	
Safety for all our school and college students			

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

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

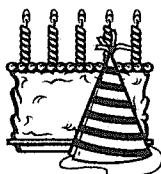
Carole & Heather Poston
3096 E. Pioneer
Aurora, OH 44202

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann and Joanna Nicely
Our Military member—Troy Roman

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
25-Ian Phillips



MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

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

EASTER FLOWERS

Deadline is March 22. You may place your order in the offering plate or give to Marla Manijak. Money is due by Palm Sunday. Check should be made out to Marla Manijak. Thank you for your order.

NAME _____ Phone Number _____

LILY BLOOMS ON THE OLD RUGGED CROSS \$2.00 each
In Loving Memory of In celebration of

LILIES \$8.25 In loving memory of In celebration of

TULIPS \$8.25 Red Pink Orange Bi-Color
In loving memory of In celebration of

DAFFODILS \$8.25 In Loving Memory of In Celebration of

HYACINTHS \$8.25 Pink Blue White
In Loving Memory of In Celebration of

MUMS \$8.25 Pink Yellow White Coral
In loving memory of In celebration of

HYDRANGEA \$13.75 In loving memory of In celebration

**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
