St. Thomas Lutheran Church
NEWS & NOTES

Preaching, Teaching and Reaching Through the Love of Jesus Christ

NOVEMBER 2026

As I have thought about what to write this month, two things have come to mind: Stewardship and Thanksgiving. Now, I suppose I could just focus on one but the more I thought about it, they seemed to fit well together.

First of all … stewardship. What is stewardship? What is it to be a steward?

Perhaps one of the first thoughts to our mind is that of giving. It is true, as we approach our Annual Budget Meeting, we seek your prayerful consideration in what you might give in the coming year. This is so important … for the church, but also for you.
It is important for the church, as what you give allows (or does not allow) us to carry out faithful ministry and service. It is also important for you as you ponder, consider, struggle with and finally make a decision.

What is it that really goes into that decision? Or maybe what I'm asking is this: "What is our approach?"

Some would say that stewardship is about what I give to God of what is mine. We often look first at the things we need (want?), at what is left after all the bills are paid, at what we might be able to get along without (often that will vary from month to month). This thought almost always begins with what is mine. To look at it that way makes it very hard to let go.

Here is another view. When you think of what a 'steward' is, Webster's Dictionary will define it in this way: "one who manages another's property." It then becomes not what is mine but how has God blessed me in this life. Is it not easier to give back to someone what is already theirs in the first place?

God has placed us on this earth … God has breathed into us life … God has given to us gifts and talents … God has given to us family and friends … God has promised us the Holy Spirit … God has provided for God's people throughout history … God has promised us love and peace … God has promised us Jesus and through him has given to us – as a gift – the hope and knowledge of life eternal for all who believe. And the list goes on as long as we are willing to think and write. GOD … that's what it is really about … that's what we are truly about.

It is this that leads us to another form of giving … Giving Thanks … Thanksgiving. It is giving or returning to God, what is already God's.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."
Psalm 136:1

continued on next page…

Pastor's Page continued...

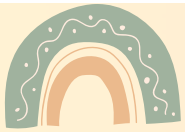
For me personally it is important to tithe ... to give 10% of what I am blessed with back to the work of the church ... knowing that in and through my blessings others might be blessed. Now to be honest, there are certain months of the year when the budget is pretty tight, when extra bills come in, or when I can think of something else that I would like to get. But the church is always there ... my promise ... my need to give thanks and the joy I find in giving thanks.

Stewardship and Thanksgiving truly go hand in hand. Whether it is through tithing or giving of our time and talents, the joy is in knowing that we do it for God and out of gratitude for what God has done and continues to do for us.

The Good News is this – we know it well, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16

How might we respond to this Good News?
How will you respond to this Good News?
With Joy and thanksgiving, we give!

+ Pastor Dave



THANK YOU!

Sandy and I would like to offer a BIG word of THANKS to the Council and congregation for the "Clergy Appreciation" gift that was given this past month. Over the last number of years, you have generously given us a couple-night stay on Mackinac Island. We love to walk and there are so many places to explore on the Island. More than that, is the opportunity for us to spend some quiet time away ... and together. It is renewing. Thank you! We also thank you for the cards, gifts and many kind words that you sent our way. We are blessed to have been called here by God to serve at St. Thomas and we too appreciate your sharing in this ministry together. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

THANKFUL, GRATEFUL, BLESSED

The parking lot project is completed! Thanks to Dave Valot for all of the phone calls with contractors and the City, and his extra time and work at the job site. Thanks also to Terry Knaffle and to **Rock Solid Asphalt** who did the work within a few weeks of being contacted - we are ready for winter. ***Grateful*** for all who donated: $29,000 was raised and the final bill came to $40,697, leaving $11,697. (Council is happy with these numbers as one quote came in at $68,000). The Neumann farmfield where crops were raised and cattle once grazed is ready once again to host worship parking for years to come....***BLESSED***

NOVEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 **8 & 10:30 Holy Communion** **9:15 Sun Sch** **ALL SAINTS**	**2** 10am-1pm Pantry Open	**3** *3:30 pm Worship & Music Team Mtg	**4** *6pm Handbell Practice	**5**	**6** 9:00 am Feeding America Team	**7**
8 **8 & 10:30 Holy Communion** **9:15 Sun Sch** ***9:30 Budget Mtg**	**9** 10am-1pm Pantry Open *7pm Friendship Circle library	**10** *Noon Bunch for Lunch at Mulligans *6pm Parish Ed Team Mtg	**11** *6pm Handbell Practice *8:30 am Men's Bible Study *Vetrans Day	**12**	**13** 9:00 am Feeding America Team	**14**
15 **8 & 10:30 Holy Communion** **9:15 Sun Sch** *9:**15** **5th grade mtg**	**16** 10am-1pm Pantry Open	**17** *10 am Quilt Bee *3:30 pm Church Council Mtg	**18** *6pm Handbell Practice	**19**	**20** 9:00 am Feeding America Team	**21**
22 **8 & 10:30 Holy Communion** **9:15 Sun Sch** ***9:15** **5th grade mtg** **Christ the King**	**23** 10am-1pm Pantry Open	**24**	**25** *8:30 am Men's Bible Study ***7pm Thanksgiving Eve Service** ***Praise & Pies follows**	**26** **Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow! Happy Thanksgiving!** **Church Offices Closed Today**	**27** 9:00 am Feeding America Team	**28**
29 **8 & 10:30 Holy Communion** **9:15 Sun Sch** **Advent 1**	**30** 10am-1pm Pantry Open					

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds"

Hebrews 10:24

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am and 10:30 am ~ in-person worship
8:00 am Live-Stream ~ worship online
ST. THOMAS WEBSITE: www.stthomas-elca.org
FACEBOOK: search for: @StThomasCheboyganMI
YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com Search "St. Thomas Cheboygan"

SUNDAY LESSONS

NOV 1	Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
NOV 8	Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
NOV 15	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
NOV 22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46
NOV 29	Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVERY SUNDAY at 9:15 am
Meet in the upper level of the parish education unit

pre-school - 2nd grade: Miss Kathy & Miss Cori
3rd - 6th grade: Mr. Lafrinere

REMEMBER: Students collect an offering of loose change prior to worship services on the third Sunday of each month for our Sunday school's mission: God's Global Barnyard

7TH & 8TH GRADE CATECHISM STUDENTS:
Sundays at 9:15 am with Mr. Kaye.
Be sure to check with Mr. Kaye about class schedule.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Would you like to knit or crochet a prayer shawl for someone in need of healing or comfort? Do you know of someone who needs to be wrapped in prayer? Contact the church office for a pattern and instructions or to acquire a shawl:
231-627-3167
st_thomas@sbcglobal.net

St. Thomas Together Lifting Children Ministry Program

TLC confidentially provides new clothing, winter-wear and hygiene items to Cheboygan area students in need as identified by school personnel.

130 orders were filled in the 25/26 school year. Thanks to our wonderful TLC board and especially the selfless shoppers who cheerfully fill these orders!

We have received over 30 orders since September and are anticipating a busy year. Over 65% of students in the Cheboygan Area Schools district are classified as economically disadvantaged. Please remember our students in your prayers.

5th Grade Frist Communion

5th grade students who desire to receive their first communion in December should plan to meet with Pastor Dave at 9:15 am on Sundays November 15th & 22nd. If you cannot meet on these dates, please contact Pastor Dave.

ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY

"Serving Others, Serving Christ"

Food Distribution to Cheboygan County

➠ **Food Distribution Hours**
Monday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Inside client choice distribution

The Pantry serves families in Cheboygan County in need of food supplements. God Bless our volunteers! Feeding America Teams stock the Pantry Mondays & Fridays, between 9am-Noon

There is a box for donations of non-perishable food items at the back of the church. Food donations can be dropped of Mon-Fri on the table in the entrance to the parish education unit.

BUNCH FOR LUNCH

November 10th at Noon at Mulligans
All ladies are invited to “lunch out” at Mulligans Restaurant on Main Street in Cheboygan.
A simple gathering of Christian women for good food and fellowship.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

November 9th at 7:00 pm in the church library ~ Hostess: Arleen Hansen
All ladies are invited to gather for Bible study and fellowship each month

QUILT BEE

Tuesday, November 17th at 10:00 am in the church basement.
Gather with others to put together quilts for world relief! We will send the quilts off with our health & school kits next October to those in need around the world.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Bring your coffee! 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 8:30-9:30 am church library

WORSHP & MUSIC TEAM	Tuesday, November 3rd at 3:30 pm
PARISH EDUCATION TEAM	Tuesday, November 13th at 6:00 pm
COUNCIL MEETING	Tuesday, November 17th at 3:30 pm
EVANGELISM/STEWARDSHIP	Thursday, November 19th at 6:30 pm

VETERANS DAY: NOVEMBER 11TH

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954, a day when we remember and recognize all veterans who have served.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 1ST

A day that began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant. At the 8:00 & 10:30 am services we will light a candle for those saints who have passed since the last All Saints Sunday.

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 22ND

The last Sunday of the church year bids us to remember:
The One on the throne is the Lamb who was born to be slain.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT: NOVEMBER 29TH

The first day of the new church year! Let us prepare our hearts in this season leading up to the birth of our Savior

St. Thomas Lutheran Church

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING NOTICE

Sunday, November 8th at 9:30 am

All active, voting members are asked to attned to review/vote on the proposed budget for 2027

FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM: Convenient options to tithe

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER via Simply Giving®**

The Simply Giving® program allows you to have your regular donation deducted directly from your checking or savings account. Request a registration form from the church office.

VANCO ONLINE

This program is made available from Vanco, whom we have been working with utilizing the Simply Giving program for over a decade. "VANCO ONLINE" allows you to give online via our church website. Log in at: www.stthomas-elca.org and click on the "GIVE" at the top.

GIVING VIA TEXT

In your texting app on your phone, enter the following under recipient: 855-458-0141
Enter the amount of your gift in the message area and send.
A registration link will be texted back to you.
Enter your information, confirm your gift amount and tap the "process" button.
You will receive a text verifying your gift has been processed.

***The Simply Giving® Program endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union is operated by Vanco Services, LLC. Simply Giving® is a registered trademark of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*

A NOTE ABOUT 2027 OFFERING ENVELOPES...

Every few years we need to re-assign our offering envelope numbers to close up gaps. 2027 is one of those years when givers will receive a new number. Our count team has requested that 2027 envelopes are not used until the new year otherwise someone else may receive credit for your tithe. Thanks for your understanding.

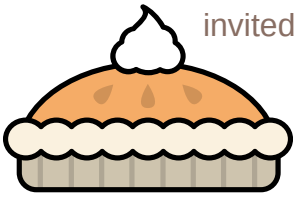
THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 pm

Let us gather to worship and give thanks to God!

Invite your family, friends, neighbors!

PRAISE AND PIES



Immediately following the Thanksgiving Eve service, all worshipers are invited to gather in the Fellowship Room for a variety of homemade pies and fellowship!

If you would like to donate a pie for this special evening, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Room

NOVEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

PROJECTOR/livestream

	8AM projector	10:30 AM projector	cameras/livestream
NOV 1	Angie Duvall	Kari Kortz	Mike Duvall
NOV 8	Elizabeth Dinner	Bill Suitor	Marie Douglas
NOV 15	Ann Douglas	Kyle Valot	Marie Douglas
NOV 22	Marie Douglas	Barb Kaye	Ann Douglas
NOV 29	Angie Duvall	Adele Schulz	Mike Duvall

ALTAR GUILD

Cheryl Heiny/Communion

Marie Douglas/Paraments, Flowers

GREETERS

NOV 1	Dick & Brenda Pollex	Rhonda Finn
NOV 8	Carol Spray	Pat Robydek
NOV 15	Karen Schramm	Linda Krause
NOV 22	Bunny Bohn	Bob & Diane McCarthy
NOV 29	Piper Duvall	Karen Valot

READERS/ASSISTANTS

NOV 1	Deanna Hart	Joan Kelley
NOV 8	Susan Radka	Kevin Kaye

Welcome Bags

White "Welcome Bags" are available on the table at the back of the church for our first-time guests at worship.

If you meet a guest on Sunday, please share a Welcome Bag with them!

A NOTE ON OUR NEWSLETTER...

Beginning in the spring, we will start emailing our monthly newsletter to household members.

The newsletter will continue to be available on our church website, but be aware we do not publish names with birth dates/addresses there.

Our shut-in's or folks who have zero access to the internet will be mailed the newsletter.

This change in the way we do things will save a substantial amount of money. As with most area churches who have graduated to electronic newsletters/communication apps, we do not have the minimum amount of newsletters to qualify for the bulk-mail discount (the church currently pays $390 per year to receive this discount) and to mail the newsletter at first-class rate which goes up twice each year, would become too expensive.

In the next five months the church office will be collecting emails. Please write the email for each person in your household who wishes to receive the monthly church newsletter on the back of a green card and place it in the offering plate. Thanks for your help to ensure a smooth transition.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Just a "head's up" for your holiday planning:

This year St. Thomas will hold two Christmas Eve services on December 24th at **4:30 pm & 7:00 pm**

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

Turn your clocks back 1 hour