



# St. Thomas News



PREACHING, TEACHING AND REACHING  
THROUGH THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

MAY 2026

These past few weeks have been something ... the snow melt, the rains, the flooding, and all the concerns and danger and plain mess that have come with that.

I'm not one to read all the comments that people are making online, but I know there are many who complain. How true it is ... when things go well, we don't even think about it ... but when something happens, there is always someone else to blame for it. As I watch people working around the clock for solutions to what we are facing, I am thankful. I am appreciative.

Here's what I see ... and hear. We received a call recently from a representative from Consumers Energy – they've set up in the Family Fare parking lot, doing things to set us up for what might happen (advanced preparation) but also I'm sure, a part of getting the hydro-electric dam with its turbines up and running. They called, as they were about to leave town. With a food truck present to provide for the workers, they make it a practice of giving any food that remains to a local organization to help others. Thus, they reached out to our Food Pantry. We will gladly distribute what they give, and what we can't use, we will pass on to the Lord's Kitchen.

In conversation, they said that they were amazed by all the people who stopped by to ask if there was anything they could do to help out. Their amazement is that here we have people who themselves are going through difficulties – flooding, danger, loss – but yet found it in their heart to still seek to help others.

This is not the only time this has happened. I think back to a year ago when we were dealing with the results of the ice-storm ... how people were helping people. There were those who left their 'mess' to go help with someone else's 'mess.' There were people who offered generators, a place to warm up or get a cup of hot coffee, or a charging station for a cell phone. People ... putting aside their own needs to offer a helping hand.

I remember when the government was shut down and SNAP benefits were being cut, how we at church received calls from people offering and wanting to help ... contributions of food and monetary gifts that increased, amidst the need.

We are reminded that even though we are in the midst of survival at the present, there will come a time of recovery. Help will continue to be needed and I pray that hearts and actions will continue to flow with love, support, and care.

We read in Galatians: *"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* Galatians 6:2 This reminds us that helping others in their struggles is a direct expression of Christian love.

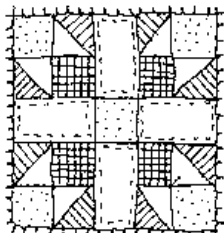
Of course, we have these words from Jesus: *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:34-35

We can always find those who complain and blame. How much better to be those who live and act in the way of God's love. God gave – in Christ – everything. As we continue to celebrate the living Christ, may we give as we are able.

Thankful to be a part of this community.

+ *Pastor Dave*

**MISSION QUILT GROUP**



If you would like to sew quilt tops together at home, please speak with Nancy Ostwald, Diane McCarthy or call the church office.

Thanks to all who gather once a month to put quilts together for folks in need all over the world. *Please join us!*

*Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the church basement*

.....

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Would you like to knit or crochet a prayer shawl for someone in need of healing or comfort? Contact the church office for a pattern and instructions.



.....

**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.

**125 orders filled since Sept 2025**

*Thank you to all who support the TLC ministry program through donations, memorials, prayer and service!*

**Please remember our local students in your prayers +**

**ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY**

**“Serving Others, Serving Christ”  
Food Distribution to Cheboygan  
County**

▶ **Food Distribution Hours** ◀

**Monday 10:00 am to Noon**

Inside client choice distribution

**Monday 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm**

Outside drive-thru 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 off Mon-Fri on the table in the entrance to the parish ed unit.

.....

**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 first-time guest on Sunday, please share a Welcome Bag with them!**

.....



**HANDBELL  
CHOIR**

**Final practice before  
summer break:  
May 6th**



## **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](http://www.stthomas-elca.org)

FACEBOOK: search for: @StThomasCheboyganMI

YOUTUBE: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) Search "St. Thomas Cheboygan"

## **SUNDAY LESSONS**

**MAY 3**

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

**MAY 10**

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

**MAY 17**

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

**MAY 24**

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23

**MAY 31**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**9:15am in the upper level Sunday school  
classrooms**

**Students age 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
are invited to learn and grow in God's love!**

***All Are Welcome ~ Bring A Friend!***

**End of school year celebration: May 10<sup>th</sup>**

*This will be the last day for our students. We encourage everyone to participate in our joint Vacation Bible School with St. Paul's (Lincoln Ave across from the Fairgrounds) this year June 24-26. See you in September for more learning and growing in the love of Jesus!*



**DO YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE GRADUATING THIS SPRING?  
WE WILL OFFER PRAYERS FOR THEM ON MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (231-627-3167) OR  
WRITE THEIR INFO ON THE BACK OF A GREEN CARD AND  
PLACE IN THE OFFERING PLATE**

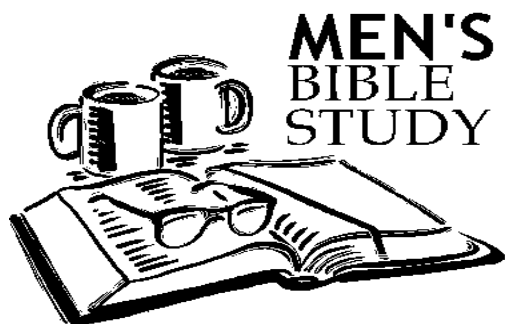




**NOISY OFFERING: MAY 17<sup>th</sup>**

The Sunday School would like to thank all who share their spare change with the Noisy Offerings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month! Your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters help in our mission to support "God's Global Barnyard" through which we purchase farm animals, honeybees, crops, water access and education to help folks in need move toward living sustainable lives.

~Small change makes a BIG change in the lives of others~



**MEN'S  
BIBLE  
STUDY**

**Meet at St. Thomas  
bring your coffee!  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays  
of each month  
8:30-9:30 am**

**Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm**

*++ Many hands make light work ++*

Spring pick-up is important: let's get our sponsored two-mile stretch of highway looking good for summer! Meet at the entrance to the Cheboygan State Park on east US 23 highway (past Tractor Supply).

*Thanks to Kevin Kaye for leading this effort!*

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**



**MOTHERS DAY: MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Guiding, protecting, teaching, sacrificing, cheering and loving.

May God bless our mothers and those who are like mothers to us.

*Proverbs 31:25-26 - She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*

**MAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

**PROJECTOR/livestream**

**8AM projector**  
**MAY 3** Elizabeth  
**MAY 10** Angie  
**MAY 17** Marie  
**MAY 24** Ann  
**MAY 31** Elizabeth

**10:30 AM projector**  
Adele  
Kari  
Barb  
Kyle  
Bill

**8AM  
cameras/livestream**  
Marie  
Mike  
Ann  
Marie  
Marie

**GREETERS**

**8:00 AM**  
**MAY 3** Chad & Susan  
**MAY 10** Chad & Susan  
**MAY 17** Carol  
**MAY 24** Ed & Nadene  
**MAY 31** Karen

**10:30 AM**  
Bill & Joan  
Rhonda  
Nancy  
Helen  
Dorothy

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Cheryl/Communion  
  
Marie  
Paraments, Flowers

**READERS/ASSISTANTS**

**8:00 AM**  
**MAY 3** Sue  
**MAY 10** Julie  
**MAY 17** Kathy  
**MAY 24** Ann  
**MAY 31** Mike

**10:30 AM**  
Kevin  
Barb  
Bill  
Pat  
Jerry

**TEAM MEETINGS**



**Worship & Music**  
Tues, May 5<sup>TH</sup> at 3:30pm

**Parish Education**  
Tues, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

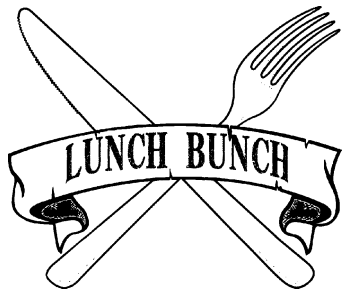
**Evangelism/Stewardship**  
Thurs, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm

**MAY 2026**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
3 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion *9:15-10:15 Sunday school	4 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open	5 *3:30pm Worship & MusicTeam Mtg	6 *5:30pm Handbell Choir *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	7	8 *9:00 am Feeding America Team	9 11am Ladie's Tea in the church basement
10 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion *9:15-10:15 <i>Last Day of Sunday school</i> Graduate Recognition *Mothers Day	11 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open  *7pm Friendship Circle	12 *Noon Bunch for Lunch at Mulligans  *6pm Parish Ed Team Mtg	13 *8:30 am Men's Bible Study  *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	14	15 9:00 am Feeding America Team	16
17 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion  <b>*Noisy Offering</b>	18 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open  *5pm Adopt-A-Hwy	19 *10am Quilting Bee  *5:30 pm Church Council Mtg	20 *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	21 *6pm Evangelism Stewardship Team Mtg	22 9:00 am Feeding America Team	23
24 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion <b>*Day of Pentecost</b>	25 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open	26	27 *8:30am Men's Bible Study  *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	28	29 9:00 am Feeding America Team	30
31 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion <b>*Holy Trinity</b>						

**"All the days ordained for me were written in Your book  
before one of them came to be."**

**(Psalm 139:16b, NIV)**



**LADIES BUNCH FOR LUNCH**

Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at Noon  
at Mulligans Restaurant  
All ladies are welcome

~~~~~  
**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

**Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

Meet in the church library. Hostess: Helen LaHaie  
~~~~~



**LADIES!**

**Mark Your Calendars for  
Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

St. Thomas will host a "Ladies Tea"

This is also Mother's Day weekend - a wonderful way to celebrate with your mom, grandma, daughter or granddaughter(s). All ladies are welcome!

*Bring your favorite tea cup to sip from!*

*Please sign up in the Fellowship Room or call/email the church office at 231-627-3167 so that we can generate an estimate for attendance.*



**Day of Pentecost: Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**On this day we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples .  
*Red represents the fire of the Holy Spirit - be sure to wear red on the Day of Pentecost***

The life of the Spirit shows itself in certain “fruits”: Galatians 5:22-23.

Can you name the 12 traditional “fruits” of the Holy Spirit?

Check out Isaiah 11:1-2 to learn about the seven traditional gifts of the Spirit

**PENTECOST GERANIUMS**

Red geraniums will adorn the altar and chancel area on May 24<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Pentecost Sunday. If you would like to donate toward the cost of the plants, please use the gray/yellow stewardship envelopes in the pews (mark ‘holiday flowers’). The geraniums will be planted outside of the church.

**The Holy Trinity: May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**The first Sunday after Pentecost on which we celebrate the mystery  
of the Triune God.**

**Memorial Day May 24<sup>th</sup>**

*May God bless the memories of the men and women*

*who lost their earthly lives in service to our country throughout history.*

**Church offices will be closed this day.**

**Pantry open regular hours: 10am-Noon and 4:00-5:30 pm**

**✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ALTAR FLOWERS ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿**

- 1. Sign up on the wall chart at the back of the church to donate flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special date**
- 2. Call your florist to order flowers (florist must use our vase liners available in kitchen if flowers will be in gold vases)**
- 3. Call the church office or write on the back of your green card wording for bulletin**

**BUILDING FUND PROJECTS UPDATE**

Our fundraising for the sanctuary air conditioning and parking lot update is ongoing. The A/C was installed in the sanctuary last year at a cost of \$25,000 and as odd as it seems at the moment with all of the snow on the ground...we will be grateful in a few months when the heat of summer returns.



The parking lot project will cost \$44,000. We are still working with paving companies and the city re: drainage, etc.

*Thank you* to everyone for their generosity in giving. As of this writing we are just above 75% of our goal which is truly amazing! **God has surely blessed this effort, thank you for your continued giving.**

---

*“True stewardship is honoring God with all He’s entrusted to us.”*

---

**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. All you have to do is fill out a simple form available 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](http://www.stthomas-elca.org) and click on the “GIVE” tab at the top.

**GIVING VIA TEXT**

In your texting app on your phone, enter the following number 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. This text will also give you the option to make this gift recurring if you wish. Now that you are registered, the next time you give via text you will only have to enter your amount and send.

*\*\*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 MILLION PENNIES” OFFERING**

As we prepare to gather of our North/west Lower Michigan Synod Assembly, congregations across our synod are invited to take part in a special offering opportunity. “A Million Pennies Offering” is simple: We will have JUGS in the narthex to fill up with pennies. That’s it! The goal is to collect ONE *MEEELION* pennies! Together with our extended families in Christ ..... the churches we pray for every week and who pray for us.... our small gifts will add up in a big way. Pastor Dave will bring our offering to the Synod Assembly May 15th-16th to be combined with the other churches. This year, our gifts will go to help two organizations: Lutheran Disaster Response Ukraine and Samaritas New Americans.