



St. Thomas News



PREACHING, TEACHING AND REACHING
THROUGH THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

October 2024

I don't post often on Facebook, but find that when I'm on vacation or traveling, I have more time to do so ... not to mention, more interesting things to post. We walk a lot. We visit new places. We appreciate the outdoors and the beauty of God's creation. What I find myself doing in these posts is concluding with the word, "Blessed!". That is indeed how I feel.

It almost always has nothing to do with possessions but rather recognizing the goodness of all that God places around us and the joy we find in being a part of it. As I write this, I think of a quote that I used as part of my Council devotion this past month. It is something that Thomas Merton - a priest and author (one whose writings often centered around spirituality) - once said. "In silence, God ceases to be an object and becomes an experience." There is indeed a blessing found in those words ... an experience. Blessed!

In Scripture, my mind turns to the Beatitudes. These are words of Jesus that we find in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, verses 1-12. In light of what I have just written, I went back and read it in a whole new way. "*Blessed are the poor in spirit ... Blessed are those who mourn ... Blessed are the meek ...*" It continues, but as I read them over - and I encourage you to pick up a Bible and read them through again - I now see the experience of God rather than the object of God. To experience God is perhaps taking the time to recognize God's presence around us daily ... to recognize all that God provides ... to recognize how truly *blessed* we are.

And yet the world often defines it so differently.

Another quote ... this one comes from Jackie French Koller, an author known for many of her picture books directed to children. She writes, "There are two ways to be rich: One is acquiring much, and the other is by desiring little."

How true that was of my recent trip back to Papua New Guinea, as well as my memory of growing up there. We visited congregations that had very little, at least in the way of money or possessions or those things we consider one must own to be rich; yet, they were so full of love, always looking for new ways and opportunities to reach out to others and share Christ. They didn't have much physically but were overflowing spiritually. There was a sense of joy that came to them so naturally. They, in so many ways, were blessed ... and they showed it.

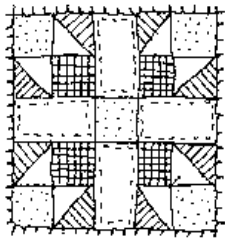
The apostle Paul writes in the opening of his letter to the Ephesians, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places ...*" Ephesians 1:3

We are busy at work. Our kids are busy in school. Life in the church picks up after the summer months, and we do tend to ask and need more of your time in helping the church to be the welcoming community that we want it to be. In the busyness in which we now find ourselves, be sure to experience God as we gather each Sunday morning. Take time to be blessed!

Blessed ... by God *and* this community that is the church.

+ *Pastor Dave*

MISSION QUILT GROUP



If you would like to sew quilt tops together 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.

We will meet on Tuesday, October 15th at 10:00 am in the lower level parish ed unit classrooms. All are welcome!

QUILT SUNDAY

Quilts that have been made throughout the past year will be on display in the sanctuary on Sunday, October 6th prior to packing on October 8th as we get ready to ship them to Lutheran World Relief who will distribute the quilts all over the world to folks in need.

**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.

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

TLC IS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

**This will be our 20th season of serving local students in need in the name of Christ.
To God be the glory!**

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” shopping
No drive-thru distribution in morning

Monday 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Outside drive-thru distribution
No inside shopping in afternoon

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 ed unit.

Cereal, meals that folks can heat up with a microwave (for those who live in hotel rooms), canned meals with pull tops, pasta & sauce, canned meats...these are just a few ideas...all donations are gratefully accepted.

PRAYER & PRAISE

Call the church office to request prayers or share news with the congregation via newsletter: 627-3167



**OCTOBER IS...
PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH**

A special time to recognize our pastor and family and ministry in your thoughts & prayers!

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

*Be at peace among yourselves.
I Thessalonians 5:12*



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

OCT 6 Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-6

OCT 13 Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

OCT 20 Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

OCT 27 Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

LADIES FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14TH AT 7:00 PM at CHAR HAAPAPURO'S

This year's study: *Stories for Your Soul: Ordinary People. Extraordinary God*, by pastor and author Max Lucado

Contact the church office 231 627-3167 if you have questions or are interested. All ladies are invited to attend.

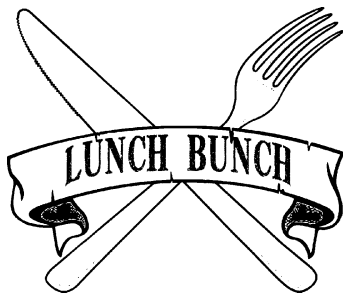


LADIES BUNCH FOR LUNCH

Our basement will still be out of commission in October so we are once again planning to meet for Christian fellowship and good food at Mulligan's Restaurant on:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT NOON

Please watch for a sign up sheet in the fellowship room!





SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:15am in the upper level Sunday school classrooms

Students age 3 through 5th grade and 6th grade helpers are invited to learn about and grow in God’s love!
(Upper grade catechism classes will resume with Pastor Dave at a later date - watch the Sunday News)

REFORMATION SUNDAY: OCTOBER 27TH

It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his 95 theses, or grievances against the Roman church, on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther strongly disputed their claim that freedom from God's punishment of sin could be purchased with money. His refusal to retract all of his writings at the demand of Pope Leo X in 1520 and the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms meeting in 1521 resulted in his excommunication by the pope and condemnation as an outlaw by the emperor.

Luther taught that salvation is a free gift of God and received only by grace through faith in Jesus as redeemer from sin, not from good works. His theology challenged the authority of the pope of the Roman Catholic Church by teaching that the Bible is the only source of divinely revealed knowledge and opposed sacerdotalism by considering all baptized Christians to be a holy priesthood.

His translation of the Bible into the language of the people (instead of Latin) made it more accessible, causing a tremendous impact on the church and on German culture. It fostered the development of a standard version of the German language, added several principles to the art of translation, and influenced the translation into English of the King James Bible. His hymns inspired the development of singing in churches. His marriage to Katharina von Bora set a model for the practice of clerical marriage, allowing Protestant priests to marry.

-christian-quotes.oChristian.com



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: November 3rd

On Sunday, November 3rd, we will remember those in the St. Thomas family who have passed since the last All Saints Sunday and celebrate our newly baptized saints.

Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday, November 10th between services at 9:30 am*

please note new time

All active, voting members are asked to attend to review and approve the budget for 2025
Budgets will be mailed to members prior to meeting for review

Lutheran World Relief Collection & Packing Day

We are collecting items for health and school kits until packing day on:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH. Join us at 9:00 am in the Fellowship (coffee hour) room!

Our kits and quilts are sent to folks in need all over the world. Items can be dropped off at the back of the church in the LWR basket on Sunday or in the church office throughout the week. Thanks to all who donate to help others! Questions? Please speak to Linda Wagner.

****Kits will be blessed with the quilts on Sunday, October 6th, prior to packing****

Following are the items we will collect until 9am on October 8th

Bath towels/dark color if possible
Nail Clippers
Wide tooth combs
Toothbrushes
Notebooks/70 count
Pencil Sharpeners
Ballpoint pens/no gel



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.



HANDBELL and VOCAL CHOIRS

Our handbell and singing choirs are a great way to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" and enhance the worship experience! No prior experience necessary. Handbell practice is every Wednesday at 5:30 pm in the church balcony. Our vocal choir generally shares a musical offering around holiday or special worship services. Vocal choir practice takes place every Tuesday at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary. If you have questions please speak with our organist, Cheryl, or Pastor Dave.

SUNDAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Serving is easy and spiritually rewarding - and no worries - training in all areas is available!

USHERS Sign up on the sheet on the table in the coffee Fellowship Room..

COFFEE HOUR SERVER call or speak to Helen

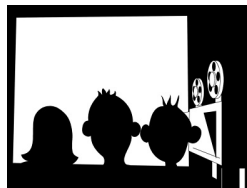
PROJECTOR AND/OR CAMERA OPERATORS

Speak with Holly if you are curious about this calling.

GREETERS before services are being scheduled - speak to Char if you'd like to serve.

8:00 AM
Oct 6 Marie
Oct 13 Samantha
Oct 20 Angie
Oct 27 Ann

10:30 AM
Isaac/Kyle
Barb
Bill
Kari



**PROJECTOR
SCHEDULE**

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OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 3:30 pm Worship & Music Team Mtg 4:30 pm Choir practice	2 5:30pm Handbell Choir	3	4 9:00 am Feeding America Team	5
6 8:00 am & 10:30 am Communion Service 9:15 am Sun School 8 th & 9 th gr confirmatio n mtg	7 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open	8 9am LWR Packing Noon Bunch for Lunch at Mulligan's 4 pm Pantry Board 4:30 pm Choir practice	9 8:30am Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Handbell Choir	10 6pm Evangelism Stewardship Team Mtg	11 9:00 am Feeding America Team	12
13 8:00 am & 10:30 am Communion Service 9:15 am Sun School 8 th & 9 th gr confirmatio n mtg	14 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open 7:00pm Friendship Circle at Char Haapapuro's	15 10am Quilt Bee 4:30 pm Choir practice 5:30 pm Council Mtg	16 5:30pm Handbell Choir	17	18 9:00 am Feeding America Team	19
20 8:00 am & 10:30 am Communion Service 9:15 am Sun School	21 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open	22 4:30 pm Choir practice	23 8:30am Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Handbell Choir	24	25 9:00 am Feeding America Team	26
27 8:00 am & 10:30 am Communion Service 9:15 am Sun School REFORMATION SUNDAY Confirmation	28 10am-Noon 4-5:30 pm Pantry Open	29 4:30 pm Choir practice	30 5:30pm Handbell Choir	31		