St. Thomas News

PREACHING, TEACHING AND REACHING
THROUGH THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

OCTOBER 2026

I think back to a time when I was golfing down in Gaylord with a friend of mine who was visiting. And also joining us that day were his two sons.

It wasn't the best day for golf. The temperature was in the upper 40's and for the first of the two rounds, it rained … wet, cold, and windy. As I said, it wasn't the best day for golf … *but* we were golfing! J

About halfway through the first round, my friend's younger son became frustrated – it had been building – and continued to build. Understandable, as the playing conditions weren't the greatest. And his shots were not going the way he wanted. The frustration grew … until the last two holes when he made a couple great shots and proceeded to stare us down, like the entire round had been that way.

Well, it didn't last. After the last two holes of our first round, he stood confidently at the first tee on our second round. But we weren't three or four holes into our second round when he emphatically stated (for the fifth or sixth time … at least), "I'm done with this! I'm done!" and this time he meant it. He sat in the cart, and that's where he stayed for much of the round. I remember his father saying at one point, "I didn't pay all that money for you to just sit in the cart!" Didn't move him at all. He stayed put. That is, until those final two holes which he remembered to be *good*. Out of the cart he came, missed his tee-shot, and said once again, "I'm done!"

So many things are going through my mind with this …

How many times do we say … or think … those very words? I'm done. That isn't to say that there aren't those times – or circumstances – when the best thing we can do for our own health and well-being is simply to walk away. But how about when it's simply a frustration, or things are just not going the way we want them to, or think they should? In our day to day jobs and dealings with people, we all come across those times and need to make a decision one way or the other.

But then having said that, I think it's different when it comes to our spiritual life. As I think about the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation), it's easy to see that as an *end* or a *completion* of that time of learning. But the reality is that we are never done. Through gathering in worship … through personal or family devotions … through participation in Bible Studies, we are constantly on a path or journey of learning, being enlightened or touched by the gift of God's presence. We are never done.

In fact, sometimes I wonder if we have the right to say – or even think that … that we are somehow done.

I remember my friend saying to his son, "I didn't pay all that … for you to just sit in the cart!" And that's nothing, in comparison to what Jesus has paid. And when Jesus paid that price with his life, it wasn't just giving us an 'opportunity.' It was giving us life … and a purpose to that life. It was giving us a challenge to do something with it, both for God and for God's people. It's a privilege. It's a joy. It's a blessing. And God is right there with us!

Thanks be to God! + *Pastor Dave*

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

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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 our first orders from school personnel for the 2026/2027 school season 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.

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REFORMATION SUNDAY: OCT 25TH

Reformation Sunday commemorates the Protestant Reformation, initiated by Martin Luther on October 31, 1517. This day serves as a reminder of the importance of scripture and faith in Jesus Christ, emphasizing the need for continual renewal within the church. It celebrates the courageous actions of reformers who challenged the religious authority of their time, advocating for a faith based on grace and mercy rather than works.

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 ed unit.

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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!

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MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

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"

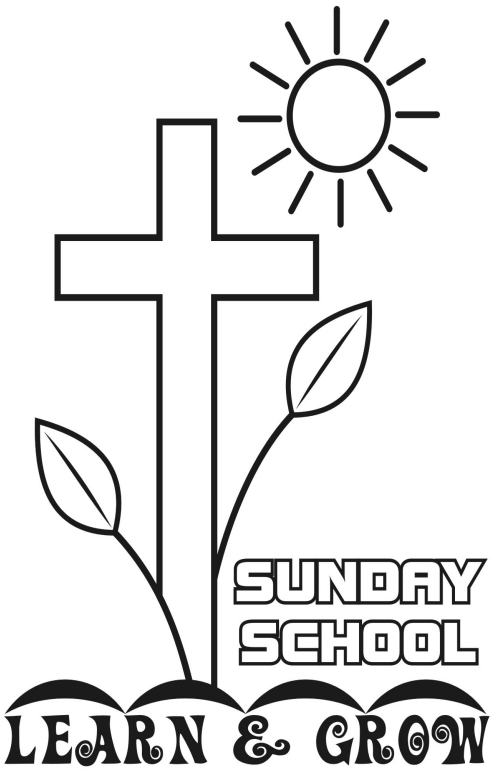
SUNDAY LESSONS

OCT 4 Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

OCT 11 Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

OCT 18 Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

OCT 25 Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46



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 schedule.

OCTOBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

PROJECTOR/livestream

	8AM projector	10:30 AM projector	8AM cameras/livestream
OCT 4	Angie	Bill	Mike
OCT 11	Elizabeth	Kyle	Marie
OCT 18	Ann	Kari	Marie
OCT 25	Marie	Adele	Ann

GREETERS

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
OCT 4	Kathy	Helen
OCT 11	Jerry & Pat	Jerry O
OCT 18	Ed & Nadene	Dorothy
OCT 25	Sandy P	Marialana

READERS/ASSISTANTS

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
OCT 4	Ann	Karen V
OCT 11	Sue C; Ann/assist	Barb K; Kevin/assist

ACOLYTE

OCT 4	Andy M	John III

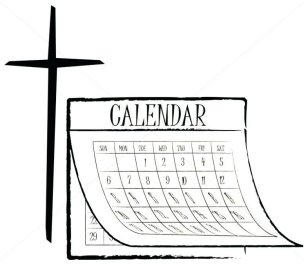
USHER

OCTO 4	Roger C

ALTAR GUILD

Cheryl/Communion

Marie
Paraments, Flowers



BUNCH FOR LUNCH

October 13th 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

October 12th at 7:00 pm in the church library

Hostess: Monique Study: Chapter 10

All ladies are invited to gather for Bible study and fellowship each month

QUILT BEE

Tuesday, October 20th 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 in October to provide comfort to those in need around the world.

ALTAR FLOWERS + Given to the Glory of God +

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) or you can order a single arrangement for the flower stand.
3. **Call the church office** or write on the back of your green card wording for bulletin

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NOISY OFFERING: OCTOBER 18th

The Sunday School would like to thank all who share their spare change with the Noisy Offerings on the 3rd 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!

THANKS TO ALL WHO SHARED THEIR LOOSE CHANGE!

Because of your generosity in the last Sunday school season, $2455.00 worth of livestock and tools will be purchased to help our neighbors:

7 chicks; 4 roosters; 1 family farm; 2 goats; 1 cow; 4 piglets; 2 fish farms; 2 honeybee colonies; 1 honeybee colony & vegetable garden; 1 water filter; 2 sets of seeds and tools

TO GOD BE THE GLORY! MAY HE BLESS THESE FOLKS AS HE HAS BLESSED US. AMEN!

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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 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.

***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*

145th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION POTLUCK SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 11th when we will have a POTLUCK to celebrate the 145th anniversary of St. Thomas congregation.

SPECIAL GUEST:

Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas, a daughter of the congregation, will be our guest. Bishop Julie is also marking 30 years in the ministry this year!

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH:

October is also "Pastor Appreciation Month", a wonderful opportunity to tell our pastors and families THANK YOU for their service to God's church!

MENU:

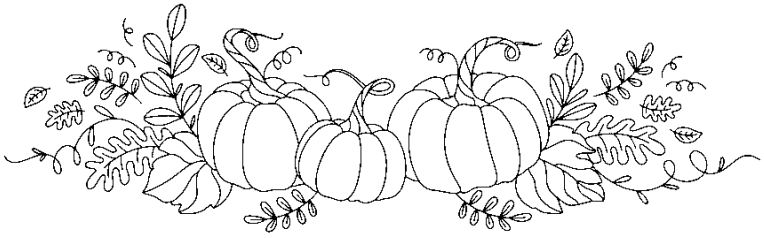
Ham, rolls and beverages will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a dish to pass.

HISTORICAL PRESENTATION: DEVOTION ~ COURAGE ~ FAITH

We are working on a slideshow celebrating the history of St. Thomas with lots of cool vintage pictures, interesting facts, and stories of the devotion, courage and faith of the saints who came before us to build the foundations for the saints of the future.

WE HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND THE CELEBRATION!
OCTOBER 11TH FOLLOWING THE 10:30 AM SERVICE *(round about 11:30 am)*

God has surely blessed us +



OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 *9:00 am Feeding America Team	3
4 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion 9:15 Sun Sch & Catechism	5 10am-1pm Pantry Open	6	7 *10am LWR Packing *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	8	9 9:00 am Feeding America Team	10
11 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion 9:15 Sun Sch & Catechism ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK	12 10am-1pm Pantry Open *7pm Friendship Circle/library	13 *Noon Bunch for Lunch at Mulligans *Parish Ed Team Mtg	14 *8:30 am Men's Bible Study *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	15	16 9:00 am Feeding America Team	17
18 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion 9:15 Sun Sch & Catechism *Noisy Offering*	19 10am-1pm Pantry Open	20 *10 am Quilt Bee *3:30 pm Church Council Mtg	21 *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	22 6:30 pm Evangelism/ Stewardship Team Meeting	23 9:00 am Feeding America Team	24
25 8:00 am & 10:30 am Holy Communion 9:15 Sun Sch & Catechism REFORMATION SUNDAY Confirmation	26 10am-1pm Pantry Open	27	28 *8:30 am Men's Bible Study *6:30pm AlAnon Parish Ed Unit	29	30 9:00 am Feeding America Team	31

ALL SAINTS: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

We will recognize the saints who have passed on since last November and the new saints who have been baptized.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KIT COLLECTION

PACKING DAY: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH AT 10:00 AM

Meet in the church basement to assemble health & school kits and pack quilts

KIT SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED:

dark towels * bath-size bars of soap * toothbrushes * wide-tooth combs * metal nail clippers

A drop off basket is located in the narthex or donations can be brought to church office mid-week

Thanks to your generous response, we have reached our goal for school supplies!

Thanks to all who have supported this annual tradition of global outreach over the years.