

## SAINT THOMAS TIDINGS



**December 2021**

### **Prayers of The People**

Pray for anyone who suffers from any kind of grief, trouble or illness especially **Alex, Fr. John, Bill, Dawn, Sheri, Nick, Elanor, Tina, Nancy, Kaz, Michael, Janna, Krystal, Nana Jo, Lily, Robyn, Gad, Cindy, Chris, Tyler S., Gilbert, Bob, Diane, KQ, Marty and Sharron: Deliver them from their distress.** Pray for those serving in our armed forces especially, **Fr. Tony, Mitchell, Emily, Steven, Chelsey. the 200<sup>th</sup> Red Horse Squadron and the 393<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Air Force Bomb Squadron. Protect, guide and comfort them and bring them home safely when their work is done.**

### **A Message From Pastor Beverly**

You may wonder why we have switched from purple to blue paraments, vestments and candles for Advent. Since Advent is a season of hope and anticipation, blue is now a more appropriate color. Blue is also the color associated with Mary, the mother of Christ.

Advent and Lent are both times of prayer and meditation, but Advent differs from Lent because Lent focuses on forgiveness and repentance while Advent is about expectation and joy. Purple is the color of sorrow and suffering, a color of mourning.

The candles on the Advent wreath symbolize hope, love, joy and peace. We light the first two blue candles to give us hope and love for the coming of the Messiah. The third candle, pink or rose, represents the joy at Christ anticipated birth. The final blue candle represents the peace Christ will bring into the world.

We light the center white candle, called the Christ Candle, on Christmas Eve to remind us of the light Christ will bring into the world.

### **Announcements**

#### **Poinsettias for the sanctuary**

Order forms for poinsettias are included in this packet. Please submit your orders to the office by Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

#### **December Community Meal**

Many thanks to everyone, who helped with our Thanksgiving meal. With your support, we were able to provide 200 free meals to members of the community. Our next meal will take place on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> and our menu will be ham and cheesy potatoes.

#### **Food on the Table: Second annual Operation Cookie Drop**

If you like to bake cookies, this ministry is for you. Last year, St. Thomas gave out 26, one dozen cookie plates to members of the community through the free community food table along with a hand-signed Christmas card. We would like to do this again. Our initial goal will be 10 plates of cookies. Please bring cookies to the office if you would like to help out or contact Sue for more information. Thank you.

#### **Knitting Ministry**

This group will meet on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. Contact the office for more information.

#### **Ladies December Activity: Nativity Festival, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Toledo**

We will be departing from St. Thomas at 11 AM on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. We will visit the festival have lunch afterwards, returning to Port Clinton around 5 PM. Please call the office by Monday, December 13th if you plan to attend so that Sue can make a reservation.

#### **Many thanks for our piano!!**

We hope you have all been enjoying the wonderful music Carson, our organist has been playing on the new piano. All of this beautiful music would be impossible without the generous support of David and Debby Barnes, Larry and Marie Janes, who donated the money to purchase the piano and Mike Mabee, who had the piano moved into the sanctuary. Many thanks to you for you have given us the gift of music.

### ***The Perfect Christmas Gift: 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbooks***

These cookbooks are produced locally and we will ship to your loved ones in an 8.5X11 inch manilla envelope with a personal message at no cost. We have a limited supply left. Purchase your cookbooks today for \$10 before they are all gone.

### ***Virtual Advent Bible Study***

Throughout the season of Advent, Pastor Beverly will livestream a Bible study at 12 Noon each of the four Wednesdays in Advent (December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>). We will examine the Gospel of Luke and how the author uses his storytelling ability to help us picture Jesus' life in our minds. Please tune in or watch later on YouTube. It will also be available through the church's Facebook page and website.

### ***Vestry Meeting Summary***

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Here is a summary of the minutes taken at the most recent vestry meeting on November 17, 2021.

#### **Treasure's Report:**

Contributions are up, but below budget expectations. This is related to capital improvements concerning the bell project. Due to a decision to sell select stock, realized gains reach above budget expectations. Investments continue to grow due to favorable market conditions.

#### **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Beverly has been attending meetings with NCMAC and the ministerial association and visiting a parishioner in the hospital during surgery. She also hosted a Lion's Club meeting in Guild Hall. The Catawba Island Garden Club also met here this month.

She explained that Christmas Eve Service will be held at 6:00 PM with Carson playing Christmas music for 30 minutes prior to that.

#### **Food Pantry Report**

There is still funding to support Operation Food on the Table.

#### **Old Business:**

The Bell Tower is nearly completed and paid for.

#### **New Business:**

There will be no church service, Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, the day after Christmas. Christmas bell ornaments will be given to each family in honor of the Church's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pastor Beverly and Sue will work on a directory and a brochure for the church in early 2022.

### **December Birthdays**



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Bill Becker & Rene Stine – 7<sup>th</sup>

Robbie Florina – 9<sup>th</sup>

Tyler Rodrigue-Hejhal – 18<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Bob Butcher – 23<sup>rd</sup>

John Bolte – 24<sup>th</sup>

Look with favor we pray on your servants as they begin another year. Strengthen their trust in your goodness, all the days of their lives.

### ***Recipe of the month: Better Green Bean Casserole***

Ingredients:

-3 cans French cut green beans, drained

-1 small can of French-fried onions

-8 oz of cheddar cheese, divided

-1 small container of sour cream

-1 ½ Tbsp butter, melted

-1 ½ Tbsp flour

-1 Tbsp sugar

-salt and pepper to taste

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. 2. Melt butter in sauce pan. Add flour and stir for about one minute to form a roux. 3. Add green beans, sour cream, sugar, 2/3 (6 oz) of the cheese, 2/3 of the onions, salt and pepper and mix well. 4. Pour into greased casserole dish. Bake for 30 minutes. 5. Remove from oven. Top with remaining cheeses and onions. 6. Bake an additional 8-10 minutes until the onions are brown crisp and the cheese is bubbling. 7. Remove from oven and serve hot. *Contributor: Debby Barnes*

### **Holy Days: December 2021**

December marks the beginning of the church calendar. The *Book of Common Prayer* (p.15-18) describes a variety of holy days celebrated throughout the year. These days include principal feasts, holy days, major and lesser feasts, fasts, and days of special devotion. They are intended to help Christians remember and learn about saints and other notable people throughout the history of the church.

There are many holy days celebrated in the month of December, the most notable of which is Christmas day also known as *The Nativity of our Lord*. Christmas is celebrated by 2 billion people in nearly 160 countries throughout the world. Billions of people gather together to commemorate the birth of Jesus.

Other holy days in the month of December include The feast of St. Stephen, (December 26<sup>th</sup>), who was stoned to death in Jerusalem by Saul of Tarsus for challenging Jewish authorities (Acts 7). Also, the feast of St. John, the Evangelist is celebrated on December 27<sup>th</sup>. The final gospel book is attributed to this John. Finally, we remember the holy innocents on December 28<sup>th</sup>, baby boys ordered killed by Herod, King of Judea in an attempt to prevent one of them from taking his throne (Matthew 2).

The *Book of Common Prayer* (p. 17) also describes days of optional observance. One such day for the member of this church would be the feast of our namesake, St. Thomas celebrated on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Thomas was one of the original twelve disciples of Jesus, the one who could not believe until he touched Jesus' side and was thought to have carried the gospel as far as India.

### **Christmas Movie Trivia**

(Answers listed below).

1. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
2. The movie *Miracle on 34th Street* is based on a real-life department store. What is it?
3. In the movie, *Home Alone*, where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
4. In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, what was the first name of Scrooge?
5. What is Ralphie's little brother's name in the movie *A Christmas Story*?
6. In the movie *Elf*, what was the first rule of The Code of Elves?
7. What's the name of the main villain in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*?
8. What was the highest-grossing Christmas movie of all time?
9. Who does Tim Allen play in *The Santa Clause*?
10. In the movie *A Christmas Story*, what was the name of the neighbors whose dog ate the Christmas turkey?
11. What is the name of George Bailey's guardian angel in *It's A Wonderful Life*?
12. In the movie *Elf*, how does Buddy get to the North Pole?
13. In the movie, *A Christmas Story*, what did the Parker family have for Christmas dinner?
14. What happens to the department store at the beginning of *Die Hard*?
15. In the 1964 movie *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, what was the name of Rudolph's elf friend?

Answers: 1)Four, Jacob Marley, Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. 2) Macy's 3) Paris 4) Ebenezer 5) Randy 6) Treat every day like Christmas 7) Oogie Boogie 8) Home Alone 9) Scott Calvin 10) The Bumpases 11) Clarence Oddbody 12) He hid in Santa's sack  
13) Peking Duck 14) It blows up 15) Hermey

#### **Sunday Service with Eucharist**

10 AM in the church or on Facebook (SaintThomasPC) or YouTube (Saint Thomas PCOH Livestream)

#### **Contact Information**

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