

The Lamplighter

October 2026



St. Thomas Church

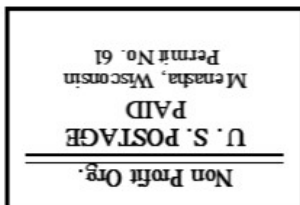
Anglican - Episcopal

226 Washington Street, Menasha, WI 54952

Tel: 920-725-5601 Email: stthomaswi1916@gmail.com Website: stthomaswi.com

Our Vision: We are a Jesus-centered, Spirit-filled community
of diverse followers working to transform the world.

Our Mission: To know Christ: To make Christ known: To serve others in
Christ's name.



Address Service Requested
Time Value

St. Thomas Church
226 Washington St.
Menasha, WI 54952

Rector's REFLECTIONS

As All Hallows Eve approaches I wanted to review the Service that is in The Book of Occasional Services, pages 106-108

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr. Andy




Service for All Hallows' Eve

This service may be used on the evening of October 31, known as All Hallows' Eve. Suitable festivities and entertainments may take place before or after this service, and a visit may be made to a cemetery or burial place. The rite begins with the Service of Light, page 109 of the Prayer Book, using the Prayer for Light appointed for Festivals of Saints.

After the Phos hilaron, two or more of the following lessons are read, each followed by a Psalm, Canticle, or hymn, and a Prayer.

The Witch of Endor - 1 Samuel 28:3-25

(It is appropriate that this lesson be read by a narrator, and by other readers for Saul, the witch, and Samuel.)
Psalm 130

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty and everliving God, you have made all things in your wisdom and established the boundaries of life and death: Grant that we may obey your voice in this world, and in the world to come may enjoy that rest and peace which you have appointed for your people; through Jesus Christ who is Resurrection and Life, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Vision of Eliphaz the Temanite - Job 4:12-21 - Psalm 13, or Psalm 108:1-6

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

You, O Lord, have made us from the dust of the earth and to dust our bodies shall return; yet you have also breathed your Spirit upon us and called us to new life in you: Have mercy upon us, now and at the hour of our death; through Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate. **Amen.**

The Valley of Dry Bones - Ezekiel 37:1-14 - Psalm 143:1-11

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, you have called your people to your service from age to age. Do not give us over to death, but raise us up to serve you, to praise you, and to glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The War in Heaven - Revelation 12:(1-6)7-12 - Psalm 103:17-22, or Canticle 1 (parts I & IV) or Canticle 12 (Invocation, Part III, Doxology)

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O most merciful and mighty God, your son Jesus Christ was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary to bring us salvation and to establish your kingdom on earth: Grant that Michael and all your angels may defend your people against Satan and every evil foe, and that at the last we may come to that heavenly country where your saints for ever sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A homily, sermon, or instruction may follow the Readings.

The service then concludes with the singing of Te Deum laudamus or some other song of praise, the Lord's Prayer, the Collect of All Saints' Day, and a blessing or dismissal.

Associate/Youth Ministers Musings

Hello friends . . . grace and peace,

The best part about getting together with other people is the part where it's awkward. Yes, you read that correctly. When you're in a group of people and you're hanging out, the best moments are the awkward ones. Why? Because when those moments happen, it gives us all an opportunity to focus, figure stuff out, and get stuff done. Think about it...

When those socially awkward things happen, you're presented with options: you can either run away from the situation, or you can stick around and apply yourself, focusing on how to work your way through the awkward times. Make no mistake, sometimes getting away from the situation is the right call if you need to be safe. But a lot of times, pressing into a solution gives us the chance to focus on one another in a selfless way.

Plus, when we stay and focus on ways to push through some awkwardness, we get to learn things about others, and ourselves. And when we learn about others, we're connecting with them... and connection with other people is what we're designed for. It's how God made us. A lot of times, some of the most dangerous humans and groups of people are the ones that go solitary and segregate themselves from others. When we mix together with a diverse group, we look more like the image of God.

Finally, in those moments when we get to be a part of what God is up to (and many of you have experienced this firsthand), the things we can accomplish together are unbelievable. We can help others who are suffering or grieving. We can build a home for an unhoused family. We can share God's Love with those in need. We can literally be the hands and feet of Jesus to a world that is drenched in God's presence. Here at the STYG (St Thomas Youth Group) there are so many chances to do these kinds of things. Sunday Youth Group does all kinds of projects in our local community.

Wednesday D-Groups are where we come together, have a blast, form community, and learn from each other. Film School is a chance to discuss the stories our culture tells. Our annual summer Love Journey gives us opportunities to put our faith into action.

Over at www.styg.com you can get more information about all of those things, plus, you can Sign Up For Stuff, or check out the Calendars, and even find out more about Who We Are. And through all of it, we'll help each other focus on where God's Spirit is leading, figure stuff out with God's help, and get stuff done for Jesus... no matter how awkward it gets!

peace to you,
Fr. Aran






Sunday Youth Group Events

Games, events, fun 6th -12th graders

www.styg.com/youthgroup

**FILM
SCHOOL**

Film School -

www.styg.com/filmschool

D GROUPS

D-Groups - 9/2! 615-8pm

www.styg.com/d-groups

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

NEW! CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
AT ST. THOMAS



We are so excited for the **launch** of our new children's ministry, **Heirs of the Kingdom**. The proof is in our whirl of joyful preparation with scheduling, lesson planning, physical work cleaning and arranging our classrooms, and dreaming about possibilities.

One of the things we're most eagerly anticipating is the connection between the children's ministry and the congregation. We're not going to spend all our time in the

basement, but be present in the life of the church. Are you excited about this also? If so, here are five things you can do right now:

1. Pray for this new ministry. If Jesus isn't involved, it won't flourish.
2. Our Wednesday evenings will begin with a meal together at 5:30. We'll be inviting parishioners to make a simple meal and join us. Dig out your most delicious recipes; we look forward to sharing food and fellowship.
3. Watch for our wish list coming soon, and help us launch this ministry by contributing supplies for lessons or classrooms.
4. Search your address book for any kids you know from kindergarten through sixth grade who need fun formation in faith, **Wednesday nights beginning Sept. 23, 5:30-7:30 pm.**
5. Get involved with the ministries here at St. Thomas. We are supposed to inherit the gift of the church from our parents, and we are charged with passing it on to our children. What kind of church will we pass on to them? How can we grow our ministries here at St. Thomas to be fuller and richer in Christ?

Your Servants in Christ Jesus,
Theresa and Genevieve



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Mornings at our new meeting time, **9:15am** meeting downstairs in our redesigned classroom!



TRUNK OR TREAT October 28th, 6pm-7:30

Want to be part of the fun? Sign up to help with our Trunk or Treat by decorating a car, donating candy, or lending a hand with setup. Or simply come and enjoy the evening with us! Whether you volunteer, donate, decorate, or just show up ready for some fun, all are welcome! **Sign Up Sheet located in office.**



St. Thomas Acolyte Opportunity

If you or one of your children have an interest in serving St. Thomas as an Acolyte, we would love to have you. As you know, Acolytes serve as an important part of the 10:00 service every Sunday. It is very rewarding and is a great way to serve God and our St. Thomas family. If you or a family member have an interest in serving in this ministry, please reach out to Wade, Deacon Lisa, Martina or contact the church office. Thank you!

“Where Faith Meets Life: St. Thomas Adult Sunday School” Conversations on Scripture, Film & Faith -- Christians have always gathered around stories: the stories of Scripture and the stories that help us make sense of human experience. This year, our Adult Sunday School ministry will offer two complementary opportunities for learning and reflection. Through Conversations on Scripture, we will engage the weekly lectionary texts, listening together for God’s promises, challenges, and invitations. Jill Beverlin and other class participants will take turns leading these sessions. At other times, we will explore selected films as modern parables, considering how themes of hope, reconciliation, courage, justice, love, and redemption echo the deeper story of God’s work in the world. Fr. Aran will be the primary leader of these sessions. Both experiences invite us into the same practice: paying attention. Whether we are reflecting on a Gospel text or a film scene, we seek to ask where God might be speaking, challenging, comforting, and calling us today. Join us as we gather to learn, reflect, and grow together in faith. Classes will begin **Sept. 20th; 9-9:45am in the Lounge**. A schedule will be shared with participants at that time. If you have questions, please contact Jill or Fr. Aran.



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday

OCTO

Upcoming Events!!

11/15, 11/13, 12/20, 1/4 Lambeau Field
11/11 Spaghetti Supper

Coffee Hour - Openings in October and November!!

Rector's Discretionary Fund 15th Sunday after Pentecost 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hour - Open	4 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4pm (EP)	5 <i>William Tyndale</i> 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am (MP) 4pm (EP)	6 <i>Birgitta</i> 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double 4pm (EP) 5:30pm-7:30pm Heirs of the King 6:15pm-8pm D-C
16th Sunday after Pentecost 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9am Aging Joyfulling Lambeau Field Coffee Hour - Open 🏈	Columbus Day 11 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4pm (EP)	12 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am (MP) 4pm (EP)	<i>Samel Isa</i> <i>Scheres</i> 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double 4pm (EP) 5:30-7:30pm Heir 5:30pm Spaghe 6:15pm-8pm D-C
17th Sunday after Pentecost 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9am Aging Joyfulling Lambeau Field Coffee Hour - Open 🏈	St. Luke 18 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4pm (EP)	19 <i>Cornelius</i> 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am (MP) 4pm (EP)	20 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double 4pm (EP) 5:30-7:30pm Heir 6:15pm-8pm D-C
18th Sunday after Pentecost 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9am Aging Joyfulling Coffee Hour - Open	25 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4pm (EP)	26 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am (MP) 11:30 Senior Lunch 4pm (EP) 	St. Simon & St J 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double 4pm (EP) 5:30-7:30pm Heir Trunk or Treat 6:15pm-8pm D-C



		<i>Thérèse of Lisieux,</i> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4pm (EP)	1	<i>Remigius of Rheims</i> 8am Men's Bible Study	2	<i>John Raleigh Mott</i>	3
Sweden	7	6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4pm (EP)	8	<i>Robert Grosseteste</i> 8am Men's Bible Study	9	<i>Vida Dutton Scudder</i>	10
Kingdom Groups							
St. Joseph chewsky	14	<i>Teresa of Avila</i> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4pm (EP)	15	Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley & Thomas Cranmer 8am Men's Bible Study	16	<i>Ignatius of Antioch</i>	17
Portion							
s of the Kingdom Hoti Supper! Groups							
	21	6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4pm (EP)	22	8am Men's Bible Study	23		24
Portion							
s of the Kingdom Groups							
ude	28	6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4pm (EP)	29	8am Men's Bible Study	30	Halloween Vigil of All Saints	31
Portion							
s of the Kingdom 5pm-7:30pm Groups		Lambeau Field					



Host Coffee Hour Openings!

Please help by occasionally hosting Coffee Hour after the **10AM** service. We will train you! Sign up is in the Parish Hall. If you have questions please call, Bev Johnston (920)729-6320.

THE CHOSEN

Chosen Bible Study Group

The Chosen/Bible Study Group will be starting again after our summer break! We will begin meeting on **Thursday, October 1st**. Most of us gather for morning prayer at **9:30** in the chapel. After prayer we go to the St. Thomas Lounge for our group meeting. We are going to start over with The Chosen Season 1 because we find some time, we catch things we didn't see when we first watched it. Then after the episode we will be watching the Biblical Round Table Discussion where the biblical/historical consultants discuss the episode we just viewed. We will be viewing and discussing a new episode each week. We are looking forward to starting again after our summer and new members are always welcome to join our group at any time. Mary Kay Hietpas at 920-740-5737 or marykayhietpas@gmail.com



Ladies of St. Thomas (All ages) You are invited to the St. Margarita Society gathering on **October 26th** at Solea's Mexican Grill, 1350 Gillingham Rd., Neenah beginning at **6PM**. It is an informal gathering with no agenda other than to spend time with each other in a relaxed and fun manner. Come for just a short while or stay as long as you like. No RSVP necessary. Invite a friend to come along. Wonderful time sharing a meal and fellowship with your friends of St. Thomas. ***Meeting in Solarium***

Attention Knitters!

Time for the knitters of the Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin to start their knitting for this fall. There are 5 projects to choose from this year. **Hospitality Center**, St. Lukes Racine - provides support for homeless and near homeless with connection, clothing and meals. **Healing House**, Madison Shelter for homeless families following medical care or hospitalization. **St. Aidans Hartford** - Little Pantry- in fall provides knit items for children pre-K to high school. **Just Dane** - has an array of programs for individuals and families involved in the criminal justice system. **Christmas at Sea** - Seaman's Institute - since 1896! Give your completed knitting (scarfs, hats, mittens) to your diocesan convention delegates to bring to convention-Oct. 2nd and 3rd. They will bring items to the knitting table and the deputies receiving the items will take them home.



FALL SENIOR LUNCH Oct 27th

Come enjoy an autumn afternoon with your St. Thomas friends (guests encouraged) on **Tuesday, October 27th**. As usual we will begin with Eucharist at **11:30AM** and then meet in the Parish Hall for fellowship and lunch. To make it easier for the planning committee, we ask you to e-mail or call Ashley in the church office with reservations by **Monday, October 12th**. Dessert will be an in season treat!



Morning Prayer—M, T, Th 9:30am

Evening Prayer—M, T, W, Th 4pm

Holy Eucharist—W 9:30am



DOUBLE PORTION SOUP KITCHEN AND PANTRY

As we enter the cooler, fall months of the year, Double Portion Soup Kitchen continues to welcome new guests to our lunch service every week. In addition to a freshly made meal, we are thankful to have a selection of bakery items to offer for guests to take home each week donated by our local Panera Bread. Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, fresh meals are prepared for Double Portion by several groups of cooks who generously share their time and talent, including our weekly volunteer cooks and sous chefs, our Home Cooks, and St. Patrick's Catholic Church. All this is possible thanks to the generous contributions from private donors and the dedicated support of our Double Portion partners: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Calvary Bible Church, and St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

While our pantry has benefited from some additional items collected during the tornado recovery, our shelves will soon be empty when it comes to certain high demand items: canned meats like chicken, ham and spam; hearty soups; beef stew; corned beef hash; crackers; ramen noodles; condiments like jam/jelly, mustard, ketchup, and salad dressings; and hygiene items like toilet paper, facial tissue, shampoo, body soap, toothpaste, and deodorant. Thank you to those who have kept us stocked over the summer months.

Please consider a donation this fall to help keep us stocked and able to serve this larger group of guests. Donations may be left at the kitchen island of St. Thomas kitchen marked for Double Portion Pantry.

We are also pleased to welcome a few new volunteers this fall and encourage anyone who is looking for a meaningful way to give to our community to join us. Volunteers may help weekly or monthly, depending on what fits their schedule best. Volunteers are especially needed for Mondays or Thursdays from 10am to 1pm. Please contact Melanie Miller at doubleportionsoupkitchen@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you so much for your continued support of this important local ministry. In the hands of our dedicated volunteers, your generosity and compassion spread joy in our community and bring a welcome respite to the lives of our neighbors.

CHRISTIAN WRITERS GROUP

Christian Writers group meets at St. Thomas on the first Monday of the month from 7-9 pm. The group of 16-18 members come for a variety of reasons. Some publish books that sold nationwide. Some of us self-publish, usually on Amazon, and find the monthly training in improving writing skills stimulating. Others come for training in writing family stories, newspaper articles, letters, or just for the fellowship. Members come from a variety of communities and the meetings have been held at St. Thomas for many years because of its central location. You are welcome to attend a meeting if you are improving your writing skills. For more information contact Jim Dickson at Jimdick777@aol.com or 920-725-8237.

NEW! EVANGELISM GROUP STARTED AT ST. THOMAS!

Most of us know that to be a Christian is to be an evangelist. By our everyday words and actions, we proclaim the Gospel, both by what we decide to do and say, or what we avoid saying or doing. Our every word and deed reflect our relationship with God... or lack thereof. How can we become effective evangelists, not as something we do, but as part of who we are in Christ? Please continue praying for the work of the Spirit among us, and come and join the conversation. Our next meeting will be **October 19, 7pm**. If you need more information, contact Theresa or Fr. Andy anytime. We hope to see you there! Your servant in Christ, Theresa

MOTHERS' MERCY HOME PARTNERSHIP —

Holidays Full of Ideas and Experiences

*Report by Kerstin Wientzek, Annette Olker,
Stephan Zaszchel and Undine Kaepfel*

Holidays at the Mothers' Mercy Home – that means above all: having time, trying things out, laughing together and discovering new things. During the August 2026 holidays, the Chica team also provided a varied program that focused on creativity, movement and a lot of curiosity.

Marble runs and boxes were made of cardboard, stories became pictures, tangram puzzles and games demanded brains and skill. The children were able to paint, cut, glue and experiment with very different materials. It was not about doing something “right” – but about developing one's own ideas and giving them shape.

Creative work was also done in the sewing workshop: new things were created from used materials, and for a school project, T-shirts were dyed in bright spiral patterns using the

tie-and-dye technique. Even simple cork coasters were given a completely new look with napkin technology. With imagination and little material, an astonishing amount can be designed.

Of course, exercise and shared experiences are also part of the holidays. Long walks, a trip to a small water park and support for school projects provided variety.

Finally, a very special highlight awaited 28 young people: Together they went to the **Museum of Illusions** in Nairobi. Suddenly, nothing was as it seemed. Optical illusions, amazing perspectives and rooms in which gravity seemed to be suspended made the young people marvel, laugh and try things out.

Message from your Wardens

Update on the Parking Lot Replacement and Capital Fund Drive

The St. Thomas Vestry, Finance Committee, and the newly formed Buildings and Grounds Committee have been working on projects to rebuild the parking lot, install air conditioning in the nave, restore stained glass windows, and repair deterioration in areas of the outside walls. The parking lot project has been delayed because the cities of Neenah and Menasha will probably proceed with a plan to convert the intersection in front of the church to a roundabout. This will change the intersection with Sanford St. and the driveway entrance to the front of the church. We do not want to rebuild the parking lot until we are clear about how these changes will affect our parking areas. In the meantime, the committees are working on planning for the other projects, developing more accurate cost estimates.

Parishioners have been contributing to the Capital Fund for these projects, and we greatly appreciate these early expressions of support. These contributions are being held in a separate fund for these specific projects.

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A more active phase of the Capital Fund Drive will begin when we have a more definite timeline for the parking lot and more specific funding needs for the other three projects.

In Christ's Name,

Brad Lauderdale, Sr. Warden & Gordon Stillings, Jr. Warden

Vestry Highlights— September 2026

Fr. Andy opened the meeting with the Collect for Education (#23, BCP p.261). Genevieve Pell and Theresa Cruz Lillegard presented the plans for Children's Ministries this fall. A special goal is to involve more adults, not limited to parents, in this ministry.

The Treasurers Reports for July and August were reviewed and accepted. Expenses are slightly over budget but pledge income is also slightly ahead of budget.

Topics Discussed

- A proposed change in the Church cleaning service arrangement was presented, discussed, and approved by the Vestry. The current cleaning service will be discontinued, and the same services will be provided by Theresa Cruz Lillegard. This will result in an improved level of service, especially for the special needs of a heavily used church building, and the cost to St. Thomas will be slightly reduced compared to the current arrangement.
- The Diocesan 2025 Financial Review of St. Thomas was presented and accepted. No problems were identified, but we will be incorporating some recommendations on how financial reports are presented at the annual meeting.
- St. Thomas is insured for costs from cybersecurity events. The option to increase the insurance coverage was discussed. More information will be gathered before a decision is made.

Ministry Team Reports

— Bill Barry and Jill Beverlin presented plans for resumption of adult study on Sundays at 9AM, which this year will include film school for adults on some Sundays, presented by Fr. Aran.

We closed the meeting in prayer. The next meeting is scheduled for **October 12.**

Submitted by Brad Lauderdale

Treasurer's Report As of *May 2026*

Pledge Receipts	2026	2025
January	\$ 59,356	\$ 81,168
February	\$ 45,841	\$ 21,648
March	\$ 16,570	\$ 23,861
April	\$ 58,030	\$ 34,163
May	\$ 35,670	\$ 17,524
June	\$ 36,114	\$ 55,525
July	\$ 29,165	\$ 25,882
August	\$ 69,150	\$ 40,390

2026 YTD income \$ 433,302 vs.
expense \$ 445,123 = \$ -11,821

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Lay Ministries for October

Eucharistic Ministers

- Oct 4 Sandie Umland/ Dan Werbeckes
 Oct 11 Carol Hert/ Bill Barry
 Oct 18 Val Phillip
 Oct 25 Dave Morton

Lectors for 8:00am

- Oct 4 Jeff Hill
 Oct 11 Tim Skowronski
 Oct 18 Larry Langohr
 Oct 25 Jeff Hill

Readers for 10:00am

- Oct 4 Gordon Stillings
 Oct 11 Genevieve Pell
 Oct 18 Dean & Janet Kaul
 Oct 25 Dave Morton

Ushers (Greeters and Ushers)

- Oct 4 Pete and Jessica Zaborski
 Oct 11 Dan and Jeanna Werbeckes
 Oct 18 Keith Umland and Jon Phillip
 Oct 25 Dennis Hackbarth and Jon Phillip

Prayer Ministers

- Oct 4 Val Phillip/ Fr. John Peterson
 Oct 11 Anne Peterson/ Fr. John Peterson
 Oct 18 Kathy and Fr. John Peterson
 Oct 25 Jill Beverlin/ Fr. John Peterson

Altar Guild

- Oct 4 Barb Barry, Peggy Langkau,
Nancy Dombeck
 Oct 11 Joanne Siracusa, Sherry Morton,
Kathy Peterson
 Oct 18 Jennie Land, Linda Smith, Karen Powers,
Beverly Johnston, Sandie Umland
 Oct 25 Laura Lindstrom, Shari Lloyd
Theresa and Jazmine Cruz Lillegard

Acolytes

- Oct 4 No Acolyte on Schedule
 Oct 11 Wade Lindholm and E/E Kopczynski
 Oct 18 Julie Spanbauer and Hazel Zaborski
 Oct 25 Shari Lloyd and Wade Lindholm

Vestry Announcement Reading 8am/ 10am

- Oct 4 Martina Mims/ Not Assigned
 Oct 11 Martina Mims/ Not Assigned
 Oct 18 Martina Mims/ Not Assigned
 Oct 25 Martina Mims/ Not Assigned

Preaching for October

- Oct 4 Fr. Aran Walter
 Oct 11 Fr. Andy Cruz Lillegard
 Oct 18 Fr. Andy Cruz Lillegard
 Oct 25 Fr. Andy Cruz Lillegard