

The Lamplighter

May 2026



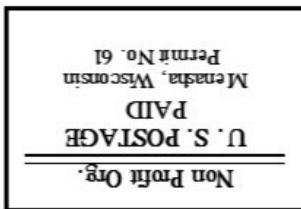
St. Thomas Church Anglican - Episcopal

226 Washington Street, Menasha, WI 54952

Tel: 920-725-5601. Fax: 920-725-5602. 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

They say a picture is worth a thousand words... But thanks to the generosity of "the Icon Syndicate"... apparently this one was worth a thousand dollars...and then some. Better still, they've generously gifted the icon back to the parish, for all of us to enjoy and employ in our prayers. All told, we raised \$2,982 to support our growing Choral Scholarship Ministry at our first annual Patronal Feast.

Well done, good and faithful servants!

Thank you for your faithful participation in what was a fun and fulfilling celebration. And a special thank you to those who cooked, those who donated items for auction, and those who bid on and purchased those offerings. I'm already looking forward to our second annual feast...

Blessings+

Your Servant in Christ,



- Fr. Andy



Associate/Youth

Ministers Musings Hello friends . . . grace and peace,

It doesn't happen often. In fact, I'm not sure it's EVER happened in my 30+ years of doing professional ministry. From April 17 – 30, I was away on various ministry trips and events for 10 of those days, and home for only 4 of them. Some of you may have noticed that I was absent from St. Thomas on back-to-back Sundays (April 19 & 26), while several of our students noticed that I was gone from D-Groups on April 29.

Where in the world was . . . Fr. Aran??

Well, due to the ridiculous amount of snow we got in that blizzard back in March, we were forced to reschedule our spring retreat called "Contagion" to another weekend. This caused a log-jam in my schedule and while I would never EVER do something like this on purpose, it simply wasn't avoidable.

First, I was out near Philadelphia to officiate the wedding of Thomas & Claire. Thomas was a central part of the youth ministry for many years, and several of you were likely blessed with his cello playing skills at Christmas Eve services. Thomas' extended family also has a long standing and loving relationship with St. Thomas and so it was my joy and honor to be a part of the "Kick-Off-Party" for their marriage.

After then being home for 3 days, I hopped into a van with a group of students and another adult (Genevieve) and we headed to Door County to FINALLY enjoy the annual spring weekend retreat with middle and high school students. We Had A Blast! We did some DEEP dives into the Proverbs & Wisdom sections of the scriptures, we cooked and ate food together, we relaxed, we made art, we drank coffee, we spent time on the waterfront, and we pressed hard into one another's lives as Jesus followers are invited to do.

With just 1 day at home following Contagion, I headed off to Green Lake Retreat Center for our Diocesan Clergy Conference. Episcopal Clergy from all over the state of Wisconsin came together for times of worship, fellowship, conversation, learning, rest, and rejuvenation. Our speaker, Dr. Kate Ott, challenged many of us with her thought provoking heart to reach out in new ways as a Church. Why do I share this with you all? Because ministry is never just about me. It impacts my family. It impacts all of you. When I'm away, my family isn't whole. And to a much lesser extent, St. Thomas isn't whole. But part of my job is to be present when and where I'm asked and needed, in so far as it's possible.

Looking ahead? I won't be gone for any extended amount of time until our Love Journey to Mexico in July. However, I have been asked to preach and celebrate at Youth Sunday at St. Anne's in DePere (the church I grew up at) on Sunday, May 17 so please do excuse my absence from St. Thomas and keep me in your prayers!

peace to you,
Fr. Aran






Sunday Youth Group Events
Games, events, fun 6th -12th graders
www.styg.com/youthgroup
5/3 Flower Planting 11:30am-1pm

EpiscoWisco Camp
www.episowisco.camp

FILM SCHOOL Film School - Last Day May 3
www.styg.com/filmschool

D GROUPS D-Groups - Last Day May 20
www.styg.com/d-groups

Mexico 2026 Love Journey July 18-25, 2026
6th graders up through young adults
www.styg.com/lovejourney

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



St. Thomas Kid's Club is for children in K- 6th grades. We meet **Wednesday** evenings in the parish hall at **6:30-8pm. September 17th- May 20th.** We utilize the "Weaving God's Promises" curriculum.



Children's Sunday School is for kids 3 years through 6th grade. We meet **Sunday mornings 9-9:50** in the down stairs classrooms from **September 21st - May 10th.**

Thank you to our Volunteers!

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped in our children's programs this year! From Kid's Club, Sunday School, the Christmas /Pageant and the Easter Egg Hunt. It takes so many folks coming together to make these things happen. We greatly appreciate you!

- Jessica Zaborsk





Episco Wisco Camp

Registration Ends Saturday June 6

Senior Camp—June 21-26 (grades 9-12)

Middler Camp—July 5-10(grades 6-8)

Junior Camp—June 28-Jul 2 (grades 2-5)

Kinder Camp—6/28- 30 (ages 4-7 w/ adult)



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, Decon Lisa, Martina or contact the church office. Thank you!

CONVERSATIONS ON SCRIPTURE

Each Sunday, at 9-9:50am we gather in the library (lounge) and online via zoom, to reflect together on the week’s Bible lessons, exploring not only the text itself but also the ways that gospel artwork, music, poetry, and other readings or videos can help us go deeper in our understanding of God’s Word and in our life together as people of faith. This year we are excited to add the practice of simple contemplative prayer, offering us a new way to listen, rest, and dwell in God’s presence as part of our shared journey. Everyone is welcome—your presence, your questions, and your perspective are all gifts to the conversation. Come as you are able, and join us in this joyful and prayerful exploration of scripture and community. Your facilitators for this class are Dr. Brad Lauderdale and Jill Beverlin.

For More Information Contact Jill Beverlin:

jilljbeverlin@gmail.com

Will Be On Summer Break After May 17th



Parish Picnic May 31st, 2025

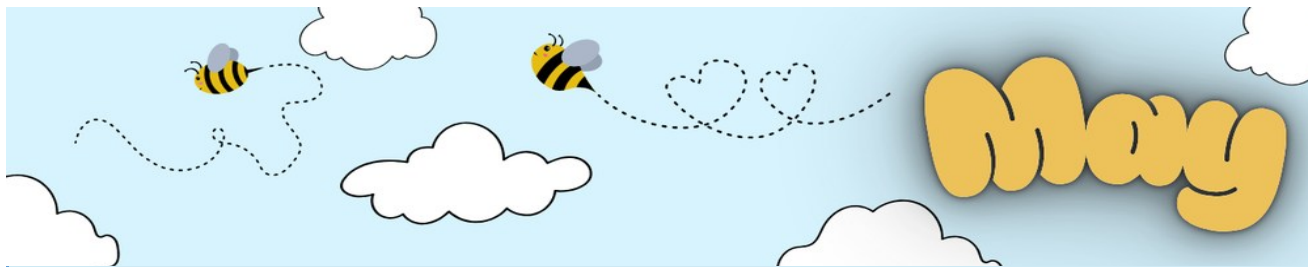
Mark your calendars! The 2025 Parish Picnic is coming soon. On **May 31st** we will be having our **10am Service with a lunch to follow**. Please bring a dish to pass and camp/lawn chairs to sit in. We will be having our 8am at St. Thomas.




Ladies of St. Thomas (All ages)

You are invited to the St. Margarita Society gathering on **May 25th** 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 the Solarium



SUN	MON	TUE	WED
<p>Rector's Discretionary Fund 3 5th Sunday of Easter 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9-9:50 Sun School / Film School 9-9:50 Conversations on Scripture 11:30am-1:30pm YG Flowers</p>	<p><i>Monica</i> 4 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 1pm-2:30pm DP Harbor House 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>	<p><i>Martyrs of the Reformation Era</i> 5 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:30pm-8pm BSA Troop #3 6:30pm Contemplation and Spiritual Direction @ St. Thomas</p>	<p><i>George of Lydda</i> 8:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Women's Ministry 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>
<p>6th Sunday of Easter 10 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9-9:50 Conversations on Scripture 9-9:50 Sunday School</p> 	<p><i>Johann Arndt & Jacob Boehme</i> 11 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:00pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>7am Men's Bible Study 12 8am-3pm Retired Clergy Meeting 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:30pm-8pm BSA Troop #3 6:30pm Contemplation and Spiritual Direction @ St. Patrick's</p>	<p><i>Frances Perkins</i> 8:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Women's Ministry 11:30am Double Portion 1pm-2:30pm DP Harbor House 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:15pm-8pm D-Deacons 6:30pm-8pm Kid's Church</p>
<p>7th Sunday of Easter 17 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9-9:50 Conversations on Scripture</p>	<p>9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 18 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>	<p><i>Dunstan</i> 19 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:30pm-8pm BSA Troop #3 6:30pm Contemplation and Spiritual Direction @ St. Thomas</p>	<p>8:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Women's Ministry 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 5:30pm- Spaghetti Dinner 6:15pm-8pm D-Deacons 6:30pm-8pm Kid's Church</p>
<p>Day of Pentecost Whitsunday 24 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><i>Bede the Venerable</i> 25 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6pm -St. Margarita's</p>	<p><i>Augustine</i> 26 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:30pm-8pm BSA Troop #3</p>	<p>8:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Women's Ministry 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>
<p>Trinity Sunday 31 8am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>Parish Picnic @ Smith Park 10am Holy Eucharist</p>			<p>Up 6/21-7/10 EpiscoW 6/10 Church Lunch 6/20 Senior Lunch</p>

2026

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		St Philip and St James, Apostles 1 8am Men's Bible Study	<i>Athanasius of Alexandria</i> 2
Charist 's Bible Study e Portion g Prayer (EP)	6 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)	7 <i>Julian of Norwich</i> 8am Men's Bible Study 4:30pm Contagion—3/15 12pm	8 <i>Gregory of Nazianzus</i> 9
Charist 's Bible Study e Portion -Stones Fox Valley g Prayer (EP) Groups ds Club	13 Ascension Day 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)	14 <i>Pachomius of Tabennisi</i> 8am Men's Bible Study	15 12pm-4pm Mexico Team Gathering #1 16
Charist 's Bible Study e Portion g Prayer (EP) Pretti Supper Groups ds Club	20 <i>Lydia of Thyatira</i> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)	21 <i>Helena of Constantinople</i> 8am Men's Bible Study	22 23
Charist 's Bible Study e Portion g Prayer (EP)	27 <i>Mechthild of Magdeburg</i> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)	28 8am Men's Bible Study <i>Parish Hall Reserved</i>	29 30 <i>Parish Hall Reserved</i>

Upcoming Events:
 Cisco Summer Camp

Organ Series

Chosen Bible Study Group

The Chosen/Bible Study Group meets weekly on **Thursday mornings 9:30-11am**. We start with morning prayer in the chapel with Fr. Andy and then we all go over to the lounge for our study.

We will be finishing with The Chosen Season 5. As we are anxiously waiting for Season 6 to be released. In the following weeks will be using The One Year Chronological Bible New Living Testament with reading assignments which, we have a lively group discussion. Hopefully, we will begin with the New Testament in March.

We have a very nice group of ladies and if anyone would like to join us you are always welcome. Don't feel like you are not prepared we are all friends and will get you up to speed. You will really enjoy the discussion as it brings you closer to Jesus.

We have created a group chat message to keep everyone current with what we are doing. We meet every Thursday morning from in the St. Thomas Lounge.

If you have any questions, please contact me Mary Kay Hietpas at 920-740-5737 or marykayhietpas@gmail.com



**JUNE 9th
SENIOR
LUNCH:**

We invite you to *Save the Date*, **June 9th**, for the first Summer Senior Lunch. As usual we will begin with Eucharist at 11:30AM and then meet in the Parish Hall for fellowship and lunch. Always feel free to invite family members or friends. To make it easier for the planning committee, we ask you to e-mail or call Ashley in the church office with reservations by June 1st. We look forward to being together once again.



DOUBLE PORTION SOUP KITCHEN AND PANTRY

Thanks to all the generous support we have received this Spring, our pantry had a steady stream of donations to keep the shelves stocked. Now, as we enter the month of May, we look forward to the U.S. Mail Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive in hopes that it supplies us with pantry items that will keep our shelves quite full through the summer months. That said, the food drive rarely provides any hygiene items, so donations of hygiene supplies like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, and toilet paper are always going to be needed.

We are grateful for the volunteer groups who have visited this spring and brought their positive energy to the lunch service, including volunteers from Plexus and students from St. Mary's Catholic Middle School.

We need new volunteers who are interested in helping on a regular basis, either monthly or weekly. We have opportunities for pantry volunteers, servers, and sous chefs (assistant chefs) to join our teams and help us offer a nutritious meal that our neighbors gratefully rely on three times per week. Please consider joining us and making your personal positive impact on our community.

God bless our guests, volunteers, sponsor churches, sponsor bakeries, and donors. Thank you so much for your continued support.

DOUBLE PORTION SOUP KITCHEN AND PANTRY

“Sous Chef Program” (*Sous Chef: the top assistant in a professional kitchen*)

Double Portion Soup Kitchen is launching a flexible Sous Chef Program for volunteers aged 17+. No cooking experience is needed—just the ability to stand for two hours, lift pots, and enjoy teamwork. Volunteers assist chefs Sally (Mon), Joe (Wed), or Dean (Thu) in preparing about 100 meals per 10am–1pm shift. Sign up once or as often as you’d like. Located at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Menasha. Contact doubleportionsoupkitchen@gmail.com



Morning Prayer—M, T, Th 9:30am

Evening Prayer—M, T, W, Th 4pm

Holy Eucharist—W 8:30am



Memorial Day Parade

Volunteers Needed! St. Thomas will continue its tradition of handing out free popcorn and water during the **Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day Parade May 25th**. Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, and to pass out the popcorn and water bottles. **Set up will start at 8:15am**. This is a terrific opportunity for us to further our Outreach Mission while having fun! If you’d like to volunteer, please contact the Church office.

CHRISTIAN WRITERS GROUP

If you enter the church building from the side door you may have noticed on the bulletin board that a 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 interested in upgrading your writing skills. For more information contact Jim Dickson at Jimdick777@aol.com or 920-725-8237.

MOTHERS' MERCY HOME

PARTNERSHIP — *No Update from April*

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Are you interested in the Holy Land?? Have you ever thought about a pilgrimage that would let you walk in the steps of Jesus? Fr. Ralph will be doing another pilgrimage to the Holy Land **Oct 20 – Nov 4, 2026**. Planning for the pilgrimage is continuing in hopes that the current fighting will subside before final travel decisions need to be made. If you are interested in joining or would like more information please contact Fr. Ralph or the St. Thomas Office.

A Message from your Wardens

St Thomas Faithful, Your Vestry is excited and enthused by **Laura's Music Ministry Leadership**. We are supportive of Laura and Fr Andy's idea of music scholarships for local college students to enhance our worship. We are offering scholarships to students. (I am sure you have noticed over the past few weeks, what a joy!) Your Vestry has set up a separate account to fund these scholarships. If you would like to contribute, please do so. Any size donation would help and show our support for our Music Ministry. Please mark any contribution: "Music Scholarship." Thank you for your prayerful consideration in growing our Ministry. Blessings, Brad Lauderdale, Gordon Stillings & Laura Rothe.



Scrumptious Spaghetti Supper!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Spaghetti Suppers, Wednesday, **May 20th at 5:30pm**. A delicious dinner and fellowship! We will be serving homemade red sauce over spaghetti, salad, and homemade parmesan bread. All prepared by our spaghetti dinner team. We would also love to have volunteers to toss the salad, set up, serve, and clean up. Together we make it better ☺ Please call Ashley in the office to sign up for this event or to be on the team.

Aging Joyfully-Weekly Discussion Group
A weekly discussion group on Aging Joyfully will begin **Sunday May 24 at 9am** in the Church Lounge.

It is hard to raise our IQ but the opposite is true for our JQ, our Joy Quotient. Every one of our words and acts are an opportunity to increase joy and bring joy to others.

If you have questions contact one of our wardens, Brad Lauderdale & Gordon Stillings, or facilitator Jim Dickson. The group will continue through the summer. Come on a "when you can basis".



Vestry Highlights- April 2026

Father Andy shared a beautiful reflection on Romans Chapter 12. A couple of main points that were made: We are called to live peaceably with everyone. "Overcome evil with good!" [Romans 12:21] And – what we believe is intended to impact how we ACT. We are invited by God to be part of reconciliation in the world.

Expenses are in line with the budget. However, our pledge income is running behind where we typically are for the year. We are prayerful this will even out over the next few months of giving.

Proposal for the formation of a Building and Grounds Standing Committee was approved. Dan Werbeckes will chair this committee and Gordon Stillings will be the Vestry contact person. St. Thomas Day was a wonderful success! Huge thanks to everyone who participated! We raised \$2946 for the music scholarship fund.

Plans for the youth mission trip to Mexico

are going very well! There are 15 youth and 5 adults registered for this life-transforming experience! Please pray for them.

The Worship team honored Lydia Berry this past month for her 10 years of service as an acolyte! She is now a full-time university student.

The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for May 11.

Treasurer's Report As of *April 2026*

Pledge Receipts	2026	2025
January	\$ 59,356	\$ 81,168
February	\$ 45,841	\$ 21,648
March	\$ 16,570	\$ 23,861
2026 YTD income	\$ 152,137	vs.
expense	\$ 179,255	= \$ -27,118

Everyday + Merton


Resurrecting the Spiritual Life

Tuesdays
6:30pm


May 5
at St. Patrick with Fr. Andrew

May 12
at St. Thomas with Fr. Tom

May 19
*at St. Thomas with both
Fr. Tom and Fr. Andrew*



Presented by
Fr. Tom Reynebeau &
Fr. Andrew Cruz Lillegard



“Just remaining quietly in the presence of God, listening to Him, being attentive to Him, requires a lot of courage and know-how.”
Thomas Merton

Lay Ministries for May**Eucharistic Ministers**

- May 3** Sandie Umland/ Dan Werbeckes
May 10 Carol Hert/ Bill Barry
May 17 Val Phillip
May 24 Dave Morton
May 31 Claire Kopczynski/ Anne Peterson

Lectors for 8:00am

- May 3** Larry Langohr
May 10 Jeff Hill
May 17 Tim Skowronski
May 24 Larry Langohr
May 31 Jeff Hill

Readers for 10:00am

- May 3** Karen Powers
May 10 John Phillip
May 17 Barbara Hampton
May 24 Wade Lindholm
May 31 Art Freiburg — *Parish Picnic*

Ushers (Greeters and Ushers)

- May 3** Scott and Genevieve Pell
May 10 Pete and Jessica Zaborski
May 17 Dan and Jeanna Werbeckes
May 24 Keith Umland and Jon Phillip
May 31 Dennis Hackbarth and Jon Phillip

Prayer Ministers

- May 3** Val Phillip/ Fr. John Peterson
May 10 Anne Peterson/ Fr. John Peterson
May 17 Kathy and Fr. John Peterson
May 24 Jill Beverlin/ Fr. John Peterson
May 31 Jill Beverlin/ Fr. John Peterson

Altar Guild

- May 3** Barb Barry, Peggy Langkau,
Nancy Dombeck
May 10 Joanne Siracusa, Sherry Morton,
Kathy Peterson
May 17 Jennie Land, Linda Smith,
Karen Powers, Beverly Johnston,
Sandie Umland
May 24 Laura Lindstrom, Shari Lloyd
Theresa Cruz Lillegard, Jazmine Sweet
May 31 Joanne Siracusa, Sherry Morton,
Kathy Peterson

Acolytes

- May 3** Julie Spanbauer and James Miles
May 10 No Acolyte on Schedule
May 17 Wade Lindholm and E& E Kopczynski
May 24 Shari Lloyd and Wade Lindholm
May 31 No Acolyte— *Parish Picnic*

Vestry Announcement Reading 8am/ 10am

- May 3** Martina Mims/ Gordon Stillings
May 10 Martina Mims/ Jill Beverlin
May 17 Martina Mims/ Jeanna Werbeckes
May 24 Martina Mims/ Not Assigned
May 31 Martina Mims/ Martina Mims

Preaching for May

- May 3** Fr. Andy Cruz Lillegard
May 10 Fr. Aran Walter
May 17 Fr. Andy Cruz Lillegard
May 24 Fr. Andy Cruz Lillegard
May 31 Fr. Andy Cruz Lillegard (*Parish Picnic*)