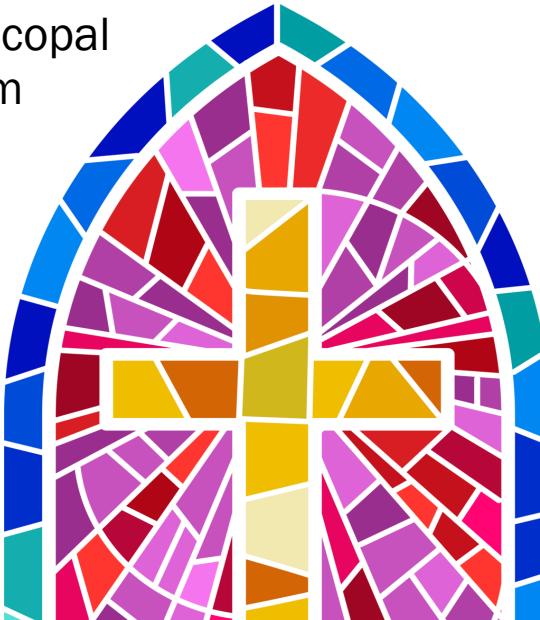


St. Thomas Church

Anglican – Episcopal
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.

April 13, 2025

Announcements

Weekday Eucharist
Wednesday — 8:30am



Office Hours are 10am— 2pm, clergy by appointment

Office – stthomaswi1916@gmail.com

Laura Rothe music@stthomaswi.com

Keeping Watch with Jesus

“Then he said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.’” -Matthew 26:38

The act of “keeping watch” with our Lord (in the form of His precious Body and Blood) is an ancient practice of the Church. A practice in which we’re afforded a participation with Christ’s Apostles, who are asked to keep watch with Him as He prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest and Passion. Following our Maundy Thursday service, the reserved Sacrament will be placed at the Altar of Repose in the Chapel, where you’ll have the opportunity to remain with Him and keep watch. This is a chance to further prepare our hearts for the agony of His Crucifixion and the celebration of His Resurrection.

A sign-up sheet for keeping watch will be in the parish hall. I encourage you to prayerfully consider filling one of the hour slots. If you feel more comfortable keeping watch with a loved one, by all means, ask them to keep watch with you. If you have no one else to ask, please ask me. And as always, if you have any questions about this practice, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

Your Servant in Christ, Fr. Andy

SENIOR LUNCH – Date Change

The Second Senior Lunch of 2025 will be the on Tuesday, May 6th. We will begin with Eucharist at 11:30am followed by fellowship and a delicious lunch. Reservations should be e-mailed to the church or called in to Ashley in the office (920-725-5601) by **Monday, April 28th**. It is really important for the planning committee to know how many folks to prepare for. You are encouraged to invite your neighbors, friends or relatives. The Committee is looking forward to our 2025 Luncheons which will take place every other month (June, August and October).



Ring Out Those Easter Bells!

We Ring bells to proclaim the Resurrection of Christ. Make sure to bring your bells to the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Services.



Easter Altar Flowers If you would like to contribute toward flowers, Lilies and other plants in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for something, please send us a check or give online and put Easter Flowers in the memo line. Please let us know who you would like remembered or your thanksgivings and we will publish them in the Easter Bulletins. The deadline is **Monday, April 14**.

HAPPY Holy Week



Holy Week Schedule

No Eucharist Monday or Tuesday
Stations of the Cross | Wednesday 4/16 6:30pm
Maundy Thursday with Foot Washing | 4/17 7pm
Keeping Watch Prayer Vigil | 4/17 9pm— 4/18 12pm
Good Friday | April 18 Eucharist 12pm and 7pm
Easter Vigil | April 19 8pm
Easter Day | April 20 Eucharist 8am &10am
Easter Egg Hunt | April 20 9:15am



Easter Egg Hunt



Attention all Children! Join us at St. Thomas Church for our 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt!
Sunday, April 20th at 9:15am. ** Plan to arrive a few minutes early so we can check in your child, give them their bag and instructions.** Because of unpredictable weather, our hunt will take place in the downstairs classrooms and hallways. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Please register your child in advance so we can prepare in advance. Bags will be provided to carry eggs/ prizes. **If you would like to donate: Prizes, Easter Décor, be a volunteer bunny, or if you have questions—please email jessicalzaborski@gmail.com**



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 or contact Bev Johnston (920)729-6320.

WORSHIP



YOUTH MINISTRY (WWW.STYG.COM)

Youth Group —all Sunday youth group events are for 6th-12th graders unless otherwise noted. **Upcoming Events:**

Film School is a way for **7th graders and up** to read from the scriptures, view films, and chat about how those things line up or . . . don't. We'll **at 9am**. You can see the list of films for 2024

online at www.styg.com/filmschool



D-Groups

— “Accept one another just as God has accepted you.” (Romans 15:7) D-Groups are open to all **7th – 12th** graders and their friends on **Wednesdays at St. Thomas 6:15 – 8:00pm** We play We hang out, We learn, We eat, During the summer We meet at people's houses. D-Groups are ALL about **Community, Scripture, Playing, Growing, and Jesus**. Here's what's coming up for D-Groups. www.styg.com/d-groups

Summer Camp Dates! www.episcowisco.camp

#EpiscoWisco Camp dates have been announced for 2025 so please make plans and set aside the time in your calendars. **Senior Camp** - completed **9th-12th** **June 15—21**



Middle Camp - completed **6th-8th** **June 22—27**

Junior Camp - completed **2nd-5th** **June 29—July 2**

Kinder Camp - ages **4-7** plus parent/adult **June 29—July 1**

Children's Sunday School



Children 3 years old through 6th grade. We meet Sunday mornings 9-9:50 in the downstairs classrooms from **September 22nd - May 11th**. We are continuing with the David C. Cook "Bible In Life" curriculum. Each week, across all age levels, Bible-in-Life students focus on these four areas: **1.** Connecting with each other and with God's Word, **2.** Studying God's Word together, **3.** Interacting with God's Word to find key themes and takeaways, **4.** Responding to God's Word by applying it to life. ****No Sunday school 4/20**** First Communion Classes will be offered on Sunday mornings during Lent.

St. Thomas Kid's Club

 For children in **K- 6th grades**. We meet **Wednesday's 6:30-8pm** in the parish hall.

September 11th - May 14th. ****No Kid's Club 3/5, 4/16**** We utilize the "Weaving God's Promises" curriculum. The "Mission" of Weaving God's Promises:

- To teach children and how God's promises of salvation are woven into our lives.
- Teach children the way of Christ, not only in the church but also in the world.
- Give children a solid grounding for future youth and high-school formation programs, which prepares them for Christian adulthood.
- To foster the spiritual formation and growth of our children in Christ's love and mercy and to teach the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Theological and Historical Information on our **Anglican/Episcopal** history and heritage is part of every session plan. Class sessions are structured around the Holy Eucharist as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. **Gathering:** Simple activities focusing the children on the lesson to come. **Telling the Sacred Story** (Liturgy of the Word): Telling the biblical story. **Prayer** (Prayers of the People): Giving thanks to God for God's presence with us. **Sharing** (Holy Communion): Fellowship and snacks with time for sharing that week's story. **Sending Forth:** Closing prayer sends the children back to their homes. Wednesday nights are always spirit filled with running games, crafts, snacks, music, theme nights, prizes and most importantly - fun!

The Nursery is open!

Our nursery is available for the little ones during the 8 & 10am services, as well as during Sunday school time. It is staffed by Mrs. Wanda Weiland. Wanda does a wonderful job caring for our youngest parishioners. There is also a private space for nursing moms with a changing table, bouncer, portable crib and access to the live feed of the church service. **We gratefully accept gently used toys, board books and games for the nursery that are suitable for small children (no small pieces or parts please).**

Volunteer opportunities are available for

Wednesday evenings as well as **Sunday** mornings. Share your time and talents and have lots of fun in the process! Even a once per month commitment is very helpful. If you have any questions about our children's programs or would like to volunteer please contact: jessicalzaborski@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE

Specialized Pastoral Counseling at St. Thomas – This counseling is specialized in that it will meet the need of anyone looking to be able to clear and optimize the way their mind works. It is fast and effective with many of life's problems including anxiety, depression, grief, low self-esteem, relationship issues, anger, resentment or self-destructive behaviors. In this approach the "renewing of the mind" is the pathway to healing. Call Fr. John Peterson for an appointment at 920-725-5601.

Smile

The simplest act of smiling for as little as twenty seconds can trigger positive emotions, jump starting joy and happiness. Smiling stimulates the release of neuropeptides that work toward fighting off stress and unleashes a feel-good cocktail of the neurotransmitters serotonin, dopamine and endorphins. Serotonin acts as a natural antidepressant, dopamine stimulates the reward centers of the brain, and endorphins are natural painkillers. Smiling also seems to reward the brains of those who see us smiling making them feel better, too. Smiling is contagious stimulating unconscious smiling in others, which in turn spreads the positive effects.

FELLOWSHIP

 **Ladies of St. Thomas** (All ages) You are invited to the St. Margarita Society gathering on **April 28th** at Solea's Mexican Grill, 1350 Gillingham Rd., Neenah beginning at 6 PM. 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.

Double Portion Donation Item of the Month is....Kleenex Boxes!

Please consider donating a non-perishable or a personal care item this month - leave it on the kitchen island on the pantry stairs, or the basket located in the back of church.



 **SCRIP PROGRAM** – *Proceeds benefit the Mission Scholarship Fund (sending missionaries and bringing our mission partners here).* We have on hand: Amazon, American Eagle, Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chipotle Mexican Grille, Festival Foods, IHOP, Kohl's, Kwik Trip, Meijer, Olive Garden, Panera Bread, Papa Murphy's, P.F. Changs, Pick n Save, Piggly Wiggly, Shell, Starbucks, Subway, Target, Walgreens and Wal-Mart/Sam's Club. Scrip cards can be purchased weekdays in the church office during normal office hours. In addition, **Scrip cards can also be ordered for over 500 of the country's biggest brands.** If you would like to order some scrip cards that we don't have on hand, please call the office at (920)725-5601 by Monday morning. They will be available to be picked up by Thursday of that week.

Book Club Announcement: Evicted by Matthew Desmond

Join us for a deep dive into *Evicted*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning exploration of poverty and housing insecurity in America. What to Expect, **Monthly Meetings**: We'll meet on the first Monday of each month starting **Monday, November 4th from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM in the Lounge** to discuss 2-3 chapters at a time, allowing for in-depth conversations. A virtual, on-line option may be available in the future depending on response. **Sign Up and Get Involved: Contact Deacon Lisa (lm_ueda@yahoo.com)** to: Reserve your spot Order a copy of *Evicted* Together, we can work towards understanding the challenges faced by many in our community. Recognizing that housing insecurity is a problem that affects us all, directly or indirectly, let's use this book club to learn more, foster empathy, and begin considering our response.

The Chosen/Bible Study

Our Chosen Group has branched out into a Bible Study.

We are using the One Year Chronological Bible by New Living Translation. Currently we are in the Old Testament. We are also using the Zondervan Handbook to The Bible. It is not necessary to purchase this handbook. Along with this we are watching an episode of *The Chosen* in Season 4 each week. We have assigned reading every week that we have a lively discussion along with the episode we watch. We have a very nice group of ladies and if anyone would like to join us you are always welcome. We have created a group chat message to keep everyone current with what we are doing. We meet every **Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 in the St. Thomas Lounge**. If you have any question, please contact me **Mary Kay Hietpas at 920-740-5737 or marykayhietpas@gmail.com**

Eagle Scout Project—Little Free Pantry-Hygiene Box

Hi everyone! My name is Allison Judd, and I am a 16 year old member of a female Scouts BSA troop (soon to be called Scouting America) in Neenah Wisconsin. Through my time in scouts, have strengthened my Christian values and have gained confidence in becoming a leader for those around me. Part of the Scouts BSA program is the opportunity to earn one's Eagle Scout rank, the highest and most notable award in the program. Completion of the requirements of this rank includes leading an **“Eagle Scout service project”** that serves long term benefit to the community, and my Eagle Scout project will be serving St. Thomas! I am leading the construction and installation of a **little free pantry stocked with hygiene items**. Along with the Double Portion food pantry offered here, this project will offer additional resources to those living in poverty by allowing them to take any hygiene items they need from the pantry with no strings attached. **For this project, I will need to raise \$450 and I am asking for your help collecting funds! Please consider donating, if you are able.** Donations do not have to be large, but all of them will contribute to making this project successful. If you would like to donate, donations can be made either online, which you can find on our website on the Give page, or by giving to St. Thomas either by cash or check. Please indicate it is for the hygiene box. I am looking forward to the execution of this project and the benefit it will bring to the community. Please know that this could not be done without your generosity and support. Thank you!



MISSION PARTNER PRAYER REQUESTS FOR APRIL 2025

BETSY HAKE – JERICHO MINISTRIES IN HONDURAS: www.jerichoministries.org

Praise God for:

- Isabella's knee surgery that went well

Prayer Requests:

- For protection of children from accidents.
- For construction of new bike path and funds to repair and remodel apartments where some of the older girls are living.
- For the two teams coming at Easter: that they will be blessed and be a blessing.
- For Betsy as she is on sabbatical in France while writing a book on evangelism.
Pray for divine appointments.
- For donations to come in for monthly expenses as we are behind again.
- For more devoted staff for Children's Home. Staff being mentally & physically attacked by enemy.

DOUBLE PORTION: www.doubleportionsoupkitchen.com

Praise God for:

- The generous donors of financial gifts, personal care items and pantry staples
- Faithful volunteer cooks, servers, set-up and clean up volunteers, pantry workers and administrative support

Prayer Requests:

- For God's abundant blessings on our Double Portion guests and volunteers

MOTHERS' MERCY HOME – DIOCESE OF MT KENYA SOUTH: www.mmhpp.org

Praise God for:

- Our children all fine and doing well
- The successful transition of our boys from childhood to adulthood
- For staff very much dedicated to their work

Prayer Requests:

- For positive results from the final exams taken by some of our students
- For improvements in the economy which is challenging for all Kenyans