

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is a Christian faith congregation that is accepting of differences, engaged in community life, and supportive of everyone on their journey.



Everyone's faith journey is different, and the community at St. Thomas seeks to support everyone wherever they are in their journey. We love meeting new people and welcoming them into fellowship. One of our favorite activities is sharing food and fellowship together after services. We call it "coffee hour" but you often don't need lunch by the time coffee hour is finished. Our Sunday services are led by our very active worship team, made up of our worship committee and our altar guild. They work together to create services that are consistent with the liturgy and reflect the changes throughout the church year while celebrating our God and our community. We enjoy music and members of the congregation often perform as a part of our services.

We ran a thrift store for the community for many years, and since that closed during the Covid pandemic, we are searching for new ways to serve our community. St. Thomas hosts Alcoholics Anonymous, AL-Anon, and Gamblers Anonymous meetings, as well as martial arts classes, and are continuously seeking more ways our facilities can benefit the We love to share our hospitality with everyone.

St. Thomas was established in 1843, and while we have a long history, we are flexible and open to new things and activities. In 1946 our sanctuary burned down, and we moved to our present location. We began by moving a building about 40 miles from Macon Michigan to Trenton Michigan so we could worship together as quickly as possible. In 1967, a much larger sanctuary was added to hold our growing congregation.

Currently, two services are held on Sundays, as well as a bible study group that meets on Wednesdays.

The St. Thomas Community

St. Thomas is a wonderfully loving and caring congregation. There are many different facets of the congregation that rise to meet the variety of challenges that present themselves. We maintain an open heart that accepts differing opinions and perspectives while being open to all. We work to make everyone who comes to our door feel welcome and included. We handle whatever comes our way with calm and compassion. Our members bring many different skills and strengths to our congregation, and share them with joy. We have electricians and writers and cooks and engineers and bankers and teachers and others. Together we offer our skills and abilities to the church and our community.

The Continuing Journey

A couple of years ago the boiler system piping in our main Sanctuary burst and flooded it. We have recently fully replaced the HVAC system, which was necessary for us to move forward. The long story of this repair was an example of our ability to work together to get things done! It is critical for us to make our services more attractive to younger generations and grow our congregation. Our congregation is small and we have a strong desire to grow. We are challenging ourselves to reach out to disadvantaged and marginalized communities in our area, including the LGBTQ+ community. This means we have to learn new ways of seeing others and ourselves, and we have to help members reach beyond their comfort zones. We have a beautiful facility, but parts of it are over 100 years old and maintaining this is a constant effort.



Our Next Rector

The rector at St. Thomas will need to be open-minded about new ideas and approaches to people and tradition as we grapple with the challenges of adapting our church to thrive in the 21st century. We are looking for someone with enthusiasm and energy for engaging with the community outside the church as much as with the parish congregation.

As we grow our connections with marginalized communities, we are looking for a rector who has compassion for all those who need help and refuge, and who makes people feel comfortable coming to them with whatever questions or concerns they may have.

Much of our congregation is retired, and pastoral care is an important component of our rector's responsibilities. The connections between the rector and members who may not be able to get to services is strongly valued. In addition, we have begun bringing in younger families, and we need a rector who is flexible and able to pivot from the needs of older members to working with our younger members to revitalize and grow the congregation in size and diversity.



The Southeast Michigan Region

St. Thomas sits about a 25 minute drive from downtown Detroit in the city of Trenton. Trenton sits along the Detroit River, just across from Amherstburg, Ontario, Canada. Trenton is a quiet community of mixed blue and white collar families with strong schools and a great recreation department. Within a 30 minute drive, there are world class art and history museums including the Detroit Institute Of Arts and the The Henry Ford Greenfield Village historical complex. Detroit is one of the premier sports cities in America, with professional baseball, football, hockey, basketball, and soccer teams. Easy access to the Great Lakes and numerous other state parks makes outdoor recreation fun in all seasons.



Interested clergy should send the following documents to The Rev. Canon Susie Shaefer, Canon for Transitions & Formation for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan by email: sshaefer@edomi.org or mail to **4800 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48201**. It is very helpful (though not required) if all three documents can be sent as attachments to a single email.

- 1 A letter addressed to the Search Committee in which the candidate (a) offers a self-introduction and (b) describes why they feel drawn into discernment around this particular position. The specific form, length, and content of the letter is at the candidate's discretion.
- 2 A current resume
- 3 A pdf of the candidate's current Office of Transition Ministries Portfolio including answers to all of the narrative questions.

