Vision Statement:

It is the continuing vision of the parishioners of St. Thomas Church to establish our church as a community center for diverse activities and programs for children, youth, and adults of all ages—a village church that is a hospitable haven providing comfort, peace, succor, and spiritual inspiration to all. We seek to be a worshipping community that calls all members into deeper levels of communion with Christ and each other and inspires them to go forth to seek and serve Christ in the world.

St. Thomas Core Values:

Core values are the “Why” of St. Thomas. They are the foundation of both the parish’s missional identity and vision. In response to the Listening Process in 2017, the Vestry adopted the following as the parish’s Core Values:

† Worship that calls all into deeper communion with God
† Welcome, inclusion and ongoing care of one another
† Community engagement and service
† Ministry to equip young people for lives of value, faith and meaning
† A culture of generosity
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Why This Community?

St. Thomas church sits on the border of Ketchum and Sun Valley and is located in Blaine County. The Wood River Valley (made up of Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey and Bellevue) is unique in that it enjoys many of the cultural opportunities found in larger communities, yet at the same time, serves as a gateway to a tremendous number of diverse outdoor opportunities. Just 84 miles to the north lies the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area which has the largest contiguous wilderness in the lower 48. The view from iconic Bald Mountain provides a spectacular view, reminiscent of Europe, with multiple mountain ranges in a virtually 360-degree panorama and the villages nestled in the valleys. Going 5 minutes in any direction will lead you to beautiful hiking and mountain biking trails, golf courses, alpine lakes, tennis courts and extraordinary fly-fishing streams, cross country skiing, alpine skiing and showshoeing, to name just a few of our recreational possibilities.

Sun Valley was recently named by Ski Magazine readers as the No. 2 resort in the west. Sun Valley is special not solely because of the ski portion of the resort, however. This community is home to a world renowned free summer symphony, a new state of the art performing arts center, a nationally known annual Writer’s Conference, a Trailing of the Sheep Festival, a community-supported library, art galleries, top notch restaurants, wonderful concerts and more.
This is a very generous yet diverse community with residents originally hailing from all over the country. Sophistication and a sense of doing right looms large here. There is a full complement of non-profits who support everything from the arts and culture to taking care of those less fortunate.

**Our Community by the Numbers**

**Blaine County:**
- Land area: **2,643.59 sq. miles**
- Population per sq. mile: **8.1**
- Population estimate in 2018: **22,601**
- Percent white: **74.5%**
- Percent Hispanic/Latino: **22.5%**

**Wood River Valley:**
- Elementary Schools: **8** *(5 public, 3 private)*
- Middle Schools: **5** *(2 public, 3 private)*
- High Schools: **4** *(2 public, 2 private)*
- Churches: **17** *(Denominations include Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Jewish, Lutheran, Baptist among others)*

**Tourism:**
- [www.sunvalley.com](http://www.sunvalley.com)
- [www.visitsunvalley.com](http://www.visitsunvalley.com)

**Education:**
- [www.blaineschools.org](http://www.blaineschools.org)
- [www.communityschool.org](http://www.communityschool.org)
- [www.comlib.org](http://www.comlib.org)
- [www.csi.edu](http://www.csi.edu)

**News:**
- [www.mtexpress.com](http://www.mtexpress.com)
- [www.woodriverweekly.com](http://www.woodriverweekly.com)

**Recreation:**
- [www.bcrd.org](http://www.bcrd.org)

**Arts:**
- [www.symusicfestival.org](http://www.symusicfestival.org)
- [www.svmoa.org](http://www.svmoa.org)
- [www.svwc.com](http://www.svwc.com)
Why This Church?

St. Thomas church is a welcoming community where there is dedicated, long serving staff, deep lay leadership and a strong culture of volunteerism. St. Thomas has many outreach ministries and works to fulfill its vision statement to be a “village” church.

St. Thomas considers itself a village church through its offerings of diverse services, sharing of its physical plant with community groups, outreach, intergenerational meshing and recognition by parishioners of newcomers. In addition to the standard ministries of most churches, St. Thomas is very unique with its theater outreach ministry which is a beloved part of the broader community.

Beyond these qualities, St. Thomas church is home to one of the most beautiful views of God’s creation that can be found in a church. The “pew with a view” is most assuredly an attraction for newcomers and our regular parishioners alike.
“Pew with a View”

The view from the sanctuary, as well as from the Labyrinth or from the lower patio, is undeniably awe-inspiring. The church is bordered to the south by Trail Creek and to the west by Bald Mountain rising more than 3,000 feet into the skyline. From bluebird days of intense color in every season to fog-filled veils of mystery, and everything in between, the view from the sanctuary is breathtaking. As one worships and listens, they often watch clouds playing, birds flying, paragliders soaring, and skiers schussing. During evening services, the alpenglow is a beautiful backdrop with planets shimmering and the moon dropping behind the ridge.

**Historical moments of interest:**

From 1973 - Christmastime 1974, The Sam Hazard School, now the Sun Valley Community School, held classes in the basement of St. Thomas.

In March 1974, a part of the “Bing Crosby Christmas Special” television show was filmed at St. Thomas.
Staff and Volunteers

**STAFF:**

- Rector *(currently filled by interim priest)*
- Associate Rector
- Parish Administrator
- Director of Music and Choir
- Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries
  + St. Thomas Playhouse Education and Production Director
- Children’s Sunday School Coordinator
- St. Thomas Playhouse Managing Director
  + St. Thomas Church Electronic Media Coordinator

**VOLUNTEERS:**

The majority of St. Thomas ministries are made up of volunteer coordinators and members. This includes the Green Team, Altar Guild, Columbarium Committee, Flower Guild, Garden Group, Hospitality Committee, Adult Education, Paper Angels *(who sit in the office to answer phones, prepare mailings, collate bulletins, direct walk-ins, and help staff with other office tasks)* and many more.
Ministries

The current ongoing ministries at St. Thomas are as follows:

• **WORSHIP:** Worship Leaders, Worship Volunteers, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Music

• **MUSIC:** Adult Choir, RSCM Children’s Choir *(Royal School of Church Music)*, Evensong Choir and Bell Choir

• **FAMILY MINISTRY:** Fellowship, Children’s Ministry and Formation *(Godly Play, Building Faith Brick by Brick, Weaving God’s Promises and Grand Days of Summer)*, Youth Ministry and Fellowship *(Middle School Youth Group, High School Youth Group and Teen Confirmation Class)*

• **ST. THOMAS PLAYHOUSE:** Playhouse Committee *(see more pp. 14-15)*

• **PASTORAL CARE:** Pastoral Care Committee, Stephen Ministry, Eucharistic Visitors, Shawl Committee

• **ADULT EDUCATION:** Adult Forum, Rector’s Bible Study, Liturgy Bible Study, Education for Ministry *(EFM)*

• **BUILDING AND OPERATIONS:** Paper Angels, Stewardship, Columbarium Committee, Investments and Finance

• **LAY MINISTRIES:** Green Team, Haiti Relief Team *(HaRT)*, Book Club, Garden Group, Art Committee, Community Labyrinth

*We have thriving ministries because of committed lay people, and the imprints of rectors who empowered lay people for leadership.*
Services

St. Thomas offers Holy Eucharist services on Sundays and on major Christian holidays. Additionally offered are a creative array of other services during the week and throughout the year. St. Thomas enjoys a more casual (non-high church) style of worship.

- **Sunday services** (Alternating Rite I and Rite II—spoken at 8:00 & Rite II with choir at 9:30)
- **Taize** (Wednesdays in winter at 5:30 p.m.)
- **Evensong** (Once a month, Sundays April through December at 5:30 p.m.)
- **Sacred Space** (Sundays January through March at 5:30 p.m.)
- **Lessons and Carols** (also known as Advent Poetry, usually the first Sunday of December)
- **TGIF2 Family Services**
Intergenerational Meshing

As with most communities, the adults love and enjoy watching the children grow, and the children admire and adore learning from the adults. Seeing a four-year-old lifted up to the ceiling tiles by an adult is not a strange sight in the Parish Hall. When the children return from Sunday School and Youth Group, there are many smiles on the faces of the adults who watch them navigate their way to their parents or family members. With the break from Sunday School during summertime, the Sunday School coordinator institutes the Grand Days of Summer, in which older members (“Grands”) sign up to teach a lesson to or share a skill or a joy with the children; passing on their treasured gifts and talents during this intergenerational Sunday School. The lessons have included astronomy, hiking, flower planting, how to write thank-you notes, and many more.

“Let us continue to be curious about the church, our place in it, and its place in the world. Let us continue to seek common ground with people of other faiths, and of no faith… May we be open to new, unimagined ways of worshipping, and of doing ministry and mission.”
History

The structure that would become the first St. Thomas Episcopal Church was built in 1883 and founded as a part of the Diocese of Idaho in 1891. That building was irreparably damaged by snow during the winter of 1952, and later that year, the current property was purchased. Ground was broken in 1959, and the new, current church was consecrated in December 1961. The original church bell, with casting date 1884, was brought from the old church to the present property, and the tower was built to house it in 1964.

During the 1960s-70s, the church continued to grow. Classes in church history, healing, and meditation were conducted, and liturgical dancing was introduced. In 1985, St. Thomas had become self-sufficient and hired its first rector, Charles Burger. The first rectory was acquired in 1986 for The Rev. Burger. In the late 1980s, increased growth led to the addition of the second Sunday service and the construction of an administrative space and conference room. The St. Thomas Endowment Fund was established to provide a secure future for special programs, maintenance of current and future buildings, and outreach ministries.

In 1998, The Rev. Burger retired, and our second rector, Brian Baker, was called. The Rev. Baker oversaw construction to enlarge the sanctuary; add the choir loft; and to build the offices, classrooms, kitchen, narthex, sacristy, lower courtyard, upper patio, and new entry, which included moving the bell tower. In 2001, members of St. Thomas, the Wood River Jewish Community, and others collaborated to build the labyrinth that graces the upper patio of the church with a design identical to the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France. Also in 2001, the current rectory was purchased after the sale of the first.

In 2002, St. Thomas Church shared its first theatrical production with the Wood River Valley community. The sold-out performances, engaging the talents of 125 local artists and volunteers, captured the excitement of a group within St. Thomas who wanted to continue to reach out and share messages with the community through live theater. This inspiration led to the formation of St. Thomas Playhouse, and the subsequent years have seen its growth into year-round theater productions as well as theater camps for local youth.

In 2007, The Rev. Ken Brannon was called to become our third rector. His tenure saw the continued growth of the congregation and Playhouse, further expansion of interfaith service relationships with other local congregations, and reenvisioning of youth ministry. The variety and number of services offered during the week increased to include Taize, the healing service, and apres-ski services. Regular trainings were created for acolytes, lectors, eucharistic ministers, and the sexual abuse prevention training was established. Our congregation connected with the Haiti Micah Project (following the 2010 Haiti earthquake) whereby parishioners underwrite meals, lodging, books, and uniforms for children at an orphanage school in Mirebalais, Haiti (directed by The Rev. Joseph Constant). In 2018, the Stephen Ministry program was added. In 2019, Kathleen Bean joined St. Thomas, first as a deacon, and in July she was ordained in the church and hired as our first Associate Rector.
Village Church

In addition to the various church-based services, programs, ministries, outreach, classes, rehearsals and meetings that happen in this vibrant place, many local groups use the church facility as a meeting place and a space for community. These community groups include:

One of the ministries of which St. Thomas is very proud is its theater outreach, known as St. Thomas Playhouse. In 2019, this church outreach was voted the Number 1 non-profit of the year by the Ketchum/Hailey Chamber of Commerce. It’s mission statement is as follows:

“St. Thomas Playhouse is a community theater organization founded on the belief that the performing arts can serve the higher purpose of educating people and transforming lives while providing entertainment. St. Thomas Playhouse is dedicated to enriching the spiritual lives of participants and audience members by presenting plays, musicals, readings and summer camp programs that celebrate the human experience, build relationships and explore theological and real-life themes. Theater arts education for children and youth is a fundamental component of our mission. In presenting these theatrical works and programs, St. Thomas Playhouse seeks to open doors and create lasting bonds with our growing and changing community.”

While the Playhouse is a ministry of St. Thomas Church, it seeks to raise as many funds as possible to support the work it does. Camps (Company B day camp and Summer Performing Arts Conservatory Camp, a sleep away camp known as SPACC), a February Fundraiser (the Girlfriend Luncheon), ticket sales and an annual solicitation letter are among the methods employed to help support its outreach ministry.
St. Thomas Playhouse excludes no one. When someone auditions for a production, they are automatically considered a part of the cast. Additionally, when it comes to camps, if tuition is a burden for a family, the H. Edward Bilkey Memorial Scholarship Fund is there to help provide scholarship money to those in need. Finally, there is a Sarah Adicoff Memorial Fund that fully underwrites one camper at the Summer Performing Arts Conservatory Camp (SPACC).

For more: [www.stthomasplayhouse.org](http://www.stthomasplayhouse.org)

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**H. EDWARD BILKEY Memorial Scholarship Fund**

4 camp programs each year  
Scholarship is raised by a paddle up at the Girlfriend Lunch each February and throughout the year.

**2018**
- 48 Awards  
- Total Awarded: $16,250  
- 30% campers receive financial assistance

**2019**
- 59 Awards  
- Total Awarded: $19,500  
- 35% campers receive financial assistance

---

**THE RIPPLE EFFECT**

**ST. THOMAS PLAYHOUSE PROGRAMS**

- Build Community  
- Provide a Safe Space to be Creative  
- Instill Confidence  
- Teach Discipline & Organization  
- Nurture New Artists  
- Young actors work with seasoned professionals  
- Meet New People  
- Practice Empathy

**2019 AUDIENCE**

- Children’s Tour: **3,000**  
- Summer Theatre Project: **650**  
- Camp Shows: **1,500**  
- Family Mainstage: **1,000**

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**From top left:** Oliver, Sister Act, Fiddler on the Roof, SPACC, Addams Family the Musical, The Birthday Feast (Children’s Touring Show), and Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, Jr.
From The Rt. Rev. Brian J. Thom, Bishop of the Diocese of Idaho:

This Diocese “represents the fellowship and ministries of over 4500 Episcopalians at home in the Diocese of Idaho.

Our Diocese comprises Idaho south of the Salmon River and a small, beautiful piece of Wyoming. Of the twenty-seven congregations that we worship in, some are large, some are small, and most share a more casual approach to our Episcopal style of worship. All of them welcome newcomers - whether seekers or believers. We pray together and ask God for understanding. And, while we take strength from our historic liturgy, we look to the future with hearts and minds open wide.

Parishes in this Diocese of Idaho are faith communities that generate life. The beauty of the Episcopal Church and this Diocese is that we meet you where you are, and together, we are transformed by the love of Christ.”

To learn more about the Diocese of Idaho, follow this link: www.episcopalidaho.org
Parishioner Input

Based on a survey conducted by the St. Thomas Search Committee in the fall of 2019, the following 5 qualities were identified as being priorities for this congregation:

**Top 5 Qualities Sought In The Next Rector**

1. **Strong, engaging preacher**
2. **Embraces and supports our many ministries**
3. **Educates and develops our congregation**
4. **Effective administrator**
5. **Inclusive and inviting of others in decision-making**

In order to include the wider congregation in establishing goals and criteria in the search for a new rector, the search committee held several “listening sessions” with parishioners both at the church and at private homes at various locations in the valley. An online survey was also used. The listening sessions and survey both used an open-ended format intended to elicit a range of viewpoints and to actively engage the parishioners. The following qualities arose as being most important to St. Thomas Church when searching for the future rector:

1. A strong and engaging preacher, who provokes spiritual introspection, relates scripture with current events for relevance though without judgment and uses a blend of traditional and contemporary styles

2. A leader who embraces and supports the many ministries, participates in community activities, engages with the youth, and fosters a sense of community

3. A trusted guide who educates and develops the congregation, encourages parishioners to take part in leadership, and strikes a balance between engaging older parishioners and appealing to younger families

4. An effective administrator who knows when to delegate or manage and who collaborates with staff, vestry and the Associate Rector

5. A priest who is inclusive and inviting of others in decision-making, accepts people where they are, encourages diversity, and has an ecumenical spirit

**We hope for a priest who...**

1. Has a sense of humor
2. Is a good listener – to staff and parishioners
3. Loves and has passion for their work and ministry
4. Is warm and centered
5. Is approachable
Primary Expectations and Compensation

- Canonical and typical duties expected of rectors in the Episcopal Church.
- Spiritual oversight, leadership and involvement in all aspects of parish life.
- Personal and demonstrated spiritual devotion.
- Pragmatic ability to connect the traditional faith to a relevant and contemporary life, and to help others do the same.
- Work with Vestry to set and implement a reasonable mission, vision and related (tangible) goals.
- Build and implement an effective new member ministry to help grow the parishioner base of St. Thomas.

Compensation will be in accordance with Diocesan Standards and will be determined commensurate with experience.
The Rectory

St. Thomas owns a stand alone single family home located in the beautiful Elkhorn residential community of Sun Valley less than ten minutes from the church and downtown Ketchum.

In anticipation of welcoming a new rector the parish has undertaken a total renovation of the home which was originally built in the late 1970s. The fully renovated home will feature 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms and open spaces conducive for modern living arrangements. The $750,000 project includes the demolition and replacement of all internal elements including appliances, flooring, sheetrock, plumbing, cabinets, heating and electrical systems. The renovation also includes installing all new windows and exterior siding.

The renovated home will have a two car garage, an open concept kitchen/dining room/living room, a separate den and a large dedicated laundry room. We expect the renovated home will be 30% more energy efficient meeting our Parish’s commitment to be environmentally responsible.

The renovation is well underway and we anticipate that all work will be completed by July 2020. The renovation is being funded by a recently launched capital campaign which has been enthusiastically embraced by our congregation.
## St. Thomas Church
### Operating Budget

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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2019 Actuals</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
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<td><strong>Assessable Income</strong></td>
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<td>Plate Offerings</td>
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<td>Pledge Offerings</td>
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<td>Unpledge Grants</td>
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<td>Transferred from Funds</td>
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<td>Anonymous Grant</td>
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<td>TOTAL Assessable Income</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL Non-Assessable Income</strong></td>
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<td>Clergy Expense</td>
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<td>Staff Compensation</td>
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<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<td>Church Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Misc. Expenses</td>
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<td>Rectory Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Ministry Outside the Congregation</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>795,504</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCOME/LOSS</strong></td>
<td>-1,053</td>
<td>135</td>
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Statistics

ST. THOMAS BY THE NUMBERS From 2019 Parochial Report:

Total Active Baptized Members: 545
Total Communicants in Good Standing: 280
Average Sunday Attendance: 169
Total Church School Students Enrolled: 80
Total Sunday & Saturday Evening Eucharists: 115
Total Weekday Eucharists: 46
Total Private Eucharists: 75
Daily Offices Held on Sunday: 13
Daily Offices Held on Weekdays: 13
Marriages conducted in 2018: 8
Burials conducted in 2018: 7

Staff Members: 7 (Including rector)
Number of Physical Plants: 2 (Church and Rectory)
Square Footage of Church: 5,321
Square Footage of Rectory: 3,100
Distance from Rectory to Church: Appx.4 miles
Number people involved in music ministries: 69
(Sunday choir, Evensong choir, bell choir and children’s choir)
In 2017, St. Thomas Church undertook a strategic planning process, including parish-wide listening sessions, resulting in identifying the following Five Core Values:

1. Worship that calls all into deeper communion with God
2. Welcome, inclusion, and ongoing care of one another
3. Community engagement and service
4. Ministry to equip young people for lives of value, faith, and meaning
5. A culture of generosity

**FIVE CORE VALUES** - specific teams were created and can be joined, and follow-up goals are established yearly. The vestry also adopted a strategic-filter criteria to be used for ongoing goal-setting and decision-making in areas including mission strategy, budget allocation, building usage, and program evaluation.

1. **Worship:** Parishioners were interviewed to gain their stories of ways in which they have experienced God in worship. Speaking one’s story aloud to another has special powers to enlighten, heal, strengthen and empower, and teach – both oneself and others. This feedback was used to further modify service offerings and intention.

2. **Welcome, Inclusion and Care:** We sought to strengthen pastoral care through the training of Eucharistic Visitors and Stephen Ministry volunteers and by educating the parish about these ministries.

3. **Community Engagement and Service:** A goal to identify potential new partnerships with local community organizations as a means of expanding outreach. One outcome example was a new engagement with the nonprofit Hunger Coalition to increase charitable food donations throughout the year and, in particular, our creation of the January “Souper Bowl Sunday” event, a friendly annual competition which has drawn in six other local churches to donate food.

4. **Ministry to equip young people:** A renewed effort was made to increase support for and involvement with children and youth ministries and maintain consistent attendance by youth in all age groups, as well as their families. This led to the reorganization of our elementary, middle, and high school youth programs. A Director of Children’s Ministry Coordinator was hired.

5. **Culture of Generosity:** In an effort to further ensure future financial sustainability of the church, steps were taken to revitalize our program of planned giving and to encourage participation in what will become the St. Thomas Legacy Society.

“This church is my second home.
My home away from home.
My family. We laugh and love and worship together.”
St. Thomas Strategic Filter

1. Does what is being proposed align with our 5 core values?
2. Is it redundant? If so, is partnership possible?
3. Is it sustainable?
   - Financials
   - Volunteers
   - Audience
   - Shared engagement
   - Physical plant
4. Is it consistent with our understanding of Jesus Christ?
5. Can it be implemented?
6. Does it engender enthusiasm?
7. Is it a priority within our annual goals?
Prayer For Transition

Gracious and loving God, we come to you for guidance and strength as the Search Committee conducts its work in the search for a new rector for St. Thomas Church.

Help us to discern your desire for your people and to call a shepherd who can guide us in your path. Help us to be open to the movement of your Spirit as we call a rector who will show us the wonders and excitement of more fully becoming your disciples. Help us call a rector who will walk the difficult roads with us and lead us closer to the Kingdom that you desire for us.

Keep us committed to one another in the task, give us strength and perseverance to listen to the people of this church, to your guidance, and to each other, and help us remember to delight in one another even as we move through this most serious of responsibilities.

We ask all of this in the name of your Son, our loving Savior and ever-present Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Amen.
Search Committee

Heather Black, Chair
Sabrina Roblin, Chaplain
Tom Archie, Tom Benson, Gretchen Boe,
David Caldwell, LeeAnne Linderman, Sylvia Miller,
Sara Pettit, Ann Scales, Sandor Szombathy

St. Thomas Vestry

The vestry is the governing body of St. Thomas church. In conjunction with the Rector, these parishioners are responsible for guiding the church in the fulfillment of its Christian purpose through its Vision Statement.

Rebecca Waycott, Senior Warden
Brad Musbach, Junior Warden
Tom Benson, Treasurer
Laurie Ahern, Allison Burpee, Art Dahl, Sasha Heinz,
Lisa Leach, Helen Morgus, Tim Price

Interim Rector: Rob Gieselmann
Clerk: Judi Fuller, Parish Administrator