

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

August 2019

Summer Doldrums

August is the month for the summer doldrums. As I wrote that word — one I would use to describe a time of not quite welcomed inactivity, characterized by a kind of deadening silence — I wondered about the word's etymology. When I have that spirit of wonder, I do what lots of folks don't do: I look it up, in this case in my old Oxford English Dictionary. It comes from Old English, and actually defined a region near the equator where trade winds neutralized one another, leaving ships becalmed. It can be used to describe a person as a dullard, but in this plural, it usually means low spirits.

It may be that I associate August with inactivity because, when I was a child, my family always spent the last two weeks of August at a cabin in the Miles Standish Forest Reservation near Plymouth, Massachusetts. My dad's work did not allow him to get away at any other time, plus our vacation site was an environment devoid of ragweed, a major trigger for his asthma and usually spewing out pollen in late August. Those two weeks at the place we called "Camp" was a time of purposefully unproductive inaction. Our daily routine was: go swimming, get tired, take a nap, eat; then repeat.

It was not all inaction. My mom still prepared meals (not much rest for her!). We kids helped with dishes, sweeping the cabin, making our beds. Then we swam, canoed, fished, and went blueberry picking. We tossed horseshoes, built sand castles, played cards and board games on rainy days. For the most part, it was a quiet, restful time.

August is kind of a liturgical doldrums. There are no great festivals to observe. Attendance at church seems becalmed (the building can be hot, sort of like being at the equator). This can cause us to feel somewhat sluggish. We should rejoice in this as a time to do some recharging.

Such is the nature of vacations. We seek out relaxation, a change of scenery, a different routine. A few days, a week or two, a month or more seems to revive us. But we know that vacation time is limited and we will return to what we sometimes call "normal".

The difference between a vacation and the doldrums is intent. When we "vacate" we intentionally leave behind daily tasks, normal schedules, workloads, and deadlines.

If we enter the doldrums — figuratively or actually — something has gone wrong; we did not intend to hit this period of inactivity. When ships wound up in the doldrums at the equator, there were two courses of action to be taken: 1) climb into row boats and tow the ship to the flow of air or ocean currents, or 2) stay put for an unknown period of time. In the doldrums, the options are doing nothing (and you die) or investing great effort to change the situation.

Is St. Thomas in the doldrums, and are there just a lot of us on vacation? If it is simply that more of us are absent from each other because we have been pursuing needed "off" time, great! But if

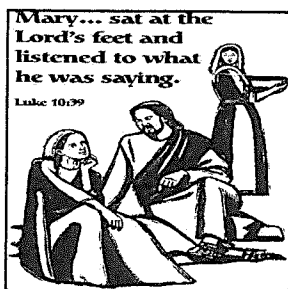
this is a time when many of us are feeling stuck, or tired from trying too hard, or just feel like giving up, then maybe we are in the doldrums. Throughout this month, in our Sunday readings, we hear our Lord teach us about some matters that are really central to living out the life He wants us to live. It is good for us each Sunday to get away from the daily routine and to sit close to Him as He guides us with His loving words.

We continue to read from the Gospel of Luke, and in these four Sundays we move through chapters 10 and 12, part of what is called "The Journey to Jerusalem." On this journey, Jesus prepared His disciples for what He knew awaited Him in Jerusalem, but also equipped them to carry on the work of ministry He began. He knew they would need such equipping. So do we.

Right now, that ministry may appear to be somewhat flat, uninspired, in the doldrums. So we can sit still and hope that something better will happen . . . that's unlikely. Or we can invest our time, energy, and all the resources with which God has endowed us to get things moving again.

When September rolls in, Sunday School and Bible Classes will resume, other activities will take shape. Use this doldrums month of August to charge up your spiritual batteries so you can invest yourself with great vigor!

Our Worship This Month

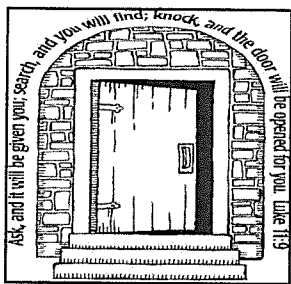


August 4 — Pentecost VIII

Sermon: "A Promise, A Power, A Presence"

Texts: Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 49; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

God gives a promise to Abraham and Sarah. Paul celebrates all that Christ has done. Jesus spends time with Mary and Martha. How do all these fit together?



August 11 — Pentecost IX

Sermon: "Is There Power in Prayer?"

Texts: Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 33; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13

Abraham offers up a plea for Sodom. Jesus teaches about prayer. What are we to do with this gift and command to pray? Why should we?



August 18 — Pentecost X

Sermon: "Values Priorities"

Texts: Ecclesiastes 1:2,12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 40; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Jesus and the author of Ecclesiastes address our relationship to "treasure." We need to be sure that our values line up with these.



August 25 — Pentecost XI

Sermon: *“Living by Faith”*

Texts: Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 71; Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-30

We find in Abram a model for faith, which Jesus uses to teach us how to live out such faith in our lives.

From Pastor Just

This is to update you all on the continuing saga that is my body.

On April 30, I had successful total knee replacement at Hillcrest Hospital and went home the next day.

On May 5, I wound up at Ahujah Medical Center with another AFib episode, went through cardioversion, seemed okay, but during the night had another AFib episode. So they kept me until May 10, finally hooking me up with a cardiac electrophysiologist.

On May 23, yet another AFib, then again on May 31.

On July 11, I was at UH Main Campus to go through a cardiac ablation. Following that procedure, I remained at UH while they tried to determine why my blood oxygen was low. They finally sent me home with oxygen and instructions to follow up with my primary care physician.

Two days later I wound up at UH Twinsburg Urgent Care Center and was diagnosed with a bladder infection (which turned out to be E-Coli).

On Friday I got in to see my Primary Care Physician. He had not been provided any input from the ablation crew, so he sent me to Ahujah ER with an order to scan my lungs for a possible pulmonary embolism. Scan indicated that an embolism was highly unlikely, but I was welcomed to an overnight stay for observation. Saturday I met with a pulmonologist, cardiologist, speech therapist, and respiratory therapist. I was referred back to my PCP, who needs to squire me through a pulmonary test or two to determine what is going on. I can maintain 96+ percent capacity while I'm on oxygen, but drop down to low 80 percent on room air.

They determined that the something going on with my diaphragm and my right lung plus something with my rib cage and my left lung. Is it all a result of more than four hours under anesthesia and ventilation for the ablation? Does that bode that it's temporary. Or is what's going on to be a chronic condition?

So more tests, more doctor appointments, more hospital(?), and more anxiety, frustration, and isolation.

WORK DAY

Church has scheduled a work day to clean the inside and outside of the church. It will be held on Saturday, August 3rd starting at 9:00 a.m. Please join us anytime you can during the day. Thank you in advance for your help! Any questions, please see Steve Hlava.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Plans are in the works for hosting a spaghetti dinner in October to just say THANKS for being part of our congregation. A fun fellowship evening is being planned. We're thinking the 5th or the 12th. Any conflicts you can think of? Please let Steve Hlava know. Thanks!

WOMEN'S GROUP

It's been a long time since we have met as a Women's group. It's time to get it going again. Anyone interested, please see Joyce Torres. She would love to get a prayer session going and whatever else you would like to see us do.

1 + 1 + 1 giving

We, along with other English District congregations, are raising money to help our missionaries spread the good news of Jesus. 1+1+1 means \$1 per member each Sunday. There is a plastic box in the narthex under the bulletins for you to place your \$1 each Sunday. Because of the break-in we are now emptying the box each Sunday. It will be posted each Sunday in the Offering List. Thank you for your donations!

Also being collected are can tabs for Thrivent and cancelled postage stamps for an organization in Kent. Thank you for your donations!

WEBSITE

If you haven't checked out our church website yet, please do and let Del Groff know how you like it or if there is something you would like to see added. The website is www.stthomasstreetsboro.com

Our July-September Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door.

Council will be meeting in August on the 18th at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. All members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. New ideas are always appreciated.

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Just at 216-789-6688 or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions. Pastor Just is in the office on Thursdays from 8:00-4:00.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers	Madeline Ayers	Trudy Ayers	Jeanette Doerfler
Deb Earle	Cory Hautmann	Linda Hautmann	Pastor Just
Lorene Kozar	Diane Lee	Joe Lenno	Ken Nicely II
Kenny Nicely IV	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Amy Rohaley
Ron Stenglein	Agnes Whinnie	Rory Wolff	Barb Alcorn
Roger Black	Michael Brooks	Warren Burgess	Franklin Conn
Scott Corban	Tom Corban	Christine Combs	Dan Crile
Chuck Defer	Billy Earle	Martin Goss	Hanna & Zane
Karen Groves	Mr. Joe	Steve Kolar	Brad Kozar
Sharon Kress	Suzanne Latham	Bob Mandau	Pastor Mark
Frank Manijak	Art Robinson	Deb Rosenlib	Mildred Slanina
Dylynn Szcaks	Tara Vargo	Jon Yenulonis	Sam, Denise & Delilah

Mr. Steve Gerhard
The Gardens of Western Reserve
9975 Greentree Parkway
Streetsboro, OH 44241-4328

Mrs. Audrey Holland
4552 Aspen Lake Road
Apartment 102
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582

Mrs. Eunice Haschak
Avenue at Macedonia
9730 Valley View Road
Macedonia, Ohio 44056

Our High School Graduates—Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann and Joanna Nicely
Our College Student—Grace Rohaley who is doing an internship in Florida
Our College Graduate—Stephen Nicely

If there is anyone you would like to add or delete from this list, please let Marla Manijak know. You can reach her at 330-626-5120 or fill out one of the cards in the pew and put in offering plate.

FLOWER AND CANDLE CHARTS

Please check the bulletin board to purchase Altar Flowers for \$25 or Vigil Candles for \$3.00. Please mark them in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special family member or friend.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

11-Steve Manijak
23-Marla Manijak
30 Marcy Harrison
27-Lori Ludeman
31-Tracy Fuldauer



AUGUST BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays