

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

June 2020

Throughout our post-Easter reflections on the resurrection narratives, we have heard Jesus again and again refer to something that was coming. On Pentecost Sunday, we got to celebrate that predicted event. Throughout this month of June (and beyond) we reflect on the meaning of that event for our lives and the life of the Church.

The event is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which Jesus promised the Twelve and us would happen. He told them and us how wonderful it would be. He prayed for the Twelve to be filled, and He is praying for us to be filled even now.

We see what being filled with the Holy Spirit meant to the early Church: their lives were transformed. They were turned from frightened cowards to bold proclaimers of Christ. Thousands of people heard and responded to this message. Miracles were performed in Jesus' name. Sins were forgiven; lives made new and whole.

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit stirred an awakening in the disciples like nothing else ever had or could. It also changed the world. Inside of one generation, the message of Christ's victory over death and sin had spread across the Mediterranean Sea, as far west as England, as far east as India, north to the Black Sea, south across the continent of Africa.

It makes one contemplate: "Why did the Holy Spirit leave?" The wonders of those early years do not seem to occur with such regularity today. Thousands are not pouring into our church. Miracles seem in rather short supply. The power of disciples witnessing their faith has ebbed.

Yet . . . lives are still being changed. Sins are forgiven even now. The newness and wholeness that the Spirit brought then is still at work today. What accounts for the apparent dynamism of the past and the calmness of the present? Is it something we have done or failed to do? Has God stopped doing the things He did in the past?

It would be hard to say that God has changed, so it appears that something has changed in us and in the Church at large. Is it apathy? A lack of faith? Fear? Ignorance? All of the above? Do we care whether or not the Gospel is brought to all people? Are we unsure that God will do this today? Are we concerned that we might be the ones called to do it? Do we not understand how it works?

Many of us are unsure about the Holy Spirit. We relate to God as Father, because we have known fathers. The human Jesus is very accessible. But the Spirit is not so easily embraced. Consequently we shy away from talking about the Spirit, and close ourselves off from the working of the Spirit.

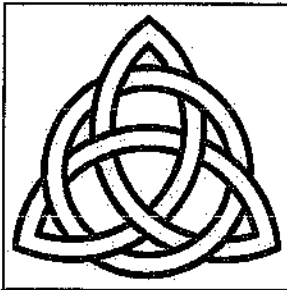
We fail to see that the Spirit has already done work in us: we believe. This is the Spirit's greatest gift. We have forgiveness and thus eternal life — also the work of the Spirit. We are shaped by the Sacraments — the Spirit at work. But we balk at being used powerfully by the Spirit to bring to others these wonderful experiences of grace.

As we gather around God's Word and Sacraments in the coming months, we need to use this time

to allow ourselves to be shaped by the Spirit's presence. We need to discover how the Spirit is gifting each of us for the work of ministry. We need to learn to rejoice in, and not draw back from, our calling to worship, to study, to witness, and to serve.

"When the Spirit of truth comes," Jesus promised the disciples, "he will guide you into all the truth . . ." (John 16:13) Thus we will know what is true about Jesus, about faith, about grace — and we will know what is true about ourselves. We are endowed by the Spirit to do great things in Jesus' Name. Let's rejoice in that. Let's get on with it!

Our Worship This Month



June 7 — The Holy Trinity

Sermon: *"Blessed"*

Texts: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

We hear a word of blessing Sunday after Sunday. We stop today to reflect upon what it truly means for us.



June 14 — Pentecost II

Sermon: *"A Wonderfully Hard Life"*

Texts: Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 78; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Jeremiah bewails his calling; Paul shows the stony path we walk; Jesus warns of opposition. Still in?



June 21 — Pentecost III

Sermon: *"A Prophet's Reward"*

Texts: Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 34; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

When you study the lives of the prophets, you begin to question what is their reward. It's ours, as well.



June 28 — Pentecost IV

Sermon: *"Humble Peagles, We"*

Texts: Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 89; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

A debate wages: what is our identity and our nature? Sinner? Or saint? Somehow the notion of humility has to come in.

When???

That's the question that lots of people have on their minds . . . "When are we going to get back to 'normal'?"

The quick answer is, "We don't yet know."

Yes, the Governor did say that it was okay (but then he had never said the churches could not, so that's not the critical issue). Yes, many businesses are opening up, but with what results and requiring what kinds of preparation?

Questions remain:

Do we need to wear masks? (We have some on hand, which suggests we think it's a good idea.)

Do we need to take special precautions? (We have ordered some special cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer, so we are making plans for just such precautions.)

Will we need to change our worship? (We may need to limit somewhat our singing, seating arrangements, manner of communion distribution; so some changes will come into play.)

All of that says that we ("we" here means the Church Council and Pastor) have been discussing the future, but it doesn't answer THE question: When?

All we can say for now (here meaning for at least the month of June) is that we will continue our parking lot worship and live streaming on Facebook. Notices in the bulletin, newsletter, and via phone calls will alert you to any changes.

WE CARE!

Your church family is here for you in this time of the Covid-19 virus. If you need someone to help you with groceries, doctor visits, etc. or just someone to talk to please call your church family. We are here for you! Would you like a hymnal so that you can sing along with facebook? I can make sure you get one. Marla can be reached at 330-472-3045 anytime. If I can't help you I will be able to find the person you need. We miss all of you and can't wait for the day we can worship together again in our church sanctuary.

Stay safe everyone! You are all in our prayers!

OUR GRADUATES

We are so proud of our college and high school graduates for 2020. Our high school graduate is Troy Roman. Our college graduates are Grace Rohaley, Julia Groff, Holly Groff and Jennifer Jones.

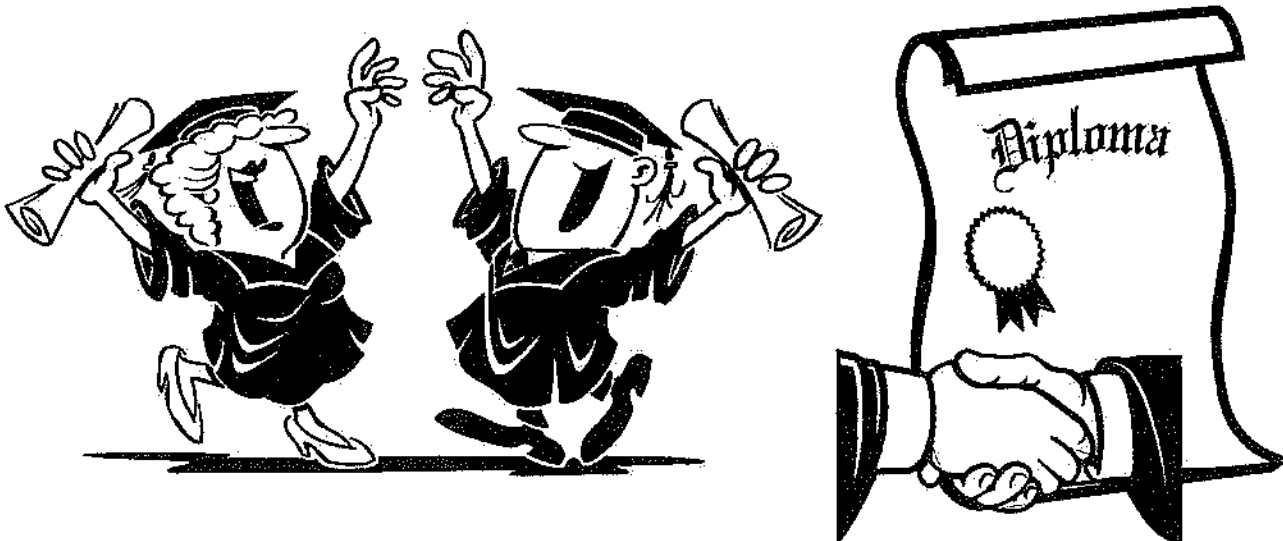
Troy is the son of Jodie Earle and the grandson of Joe and Deb Earle. Troy graduated from Streetsboro High School on May 26th or at least he would have if things would have been different. Troy participated and lettered in football, which had a great winning season, and in baseball, which unfortunately he missed out on this spring. He is currently keeping busy working at Lowe's and Pet Supply. He will be attending Bowling Green this fall. Congratulations Troy!

Grace is the daughter of Amy (and beloved father John) Rohaley. Grace graduated from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA on May 9 with a BS degree in Physics and a minor in French. While at Allegheny, Grace played bassoon and trombone in the Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Pep Band and "Gator Bones" (trombone ensemble). She was programming director at Allegheny's WARC radio station, a member of Alpha Phi Omega (a national service fraternity), Astronomy Club and Society of Physics Students. She will be attending graduate school at Kent State in their PhD Chemical Physics Interdisciplinary and Advanced Materials program. Congratulations Grace!

Julia is the daughter of Delbert and Donna Groff. Julia graduated from John Carroll University. She received a Bachelor degree in Business with a dual major in Supply Chain and Marketing. While at JCU she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and achieved Dean's list honors. She also was involved in volunteer work with several charities during her time at JCU. Congratulations Julia!

Holly is also the daughter of Delbert and Donna Groff. Holly graduated from Malone University in Canton with a dual Bachelor degree in Business Administration and Sports Management, minor in Coaching. She is a member of the Women's Basketball Team and achieved Dean's list honors. She was involved in Leadership in Spiritual Formation and volunteered in charitable groups throughout her term at Malone. She will be pursuing a Master's program with Malone. Congratulations Holly!

Jen is the daughter of Steve and Marla Manijak. Jen graduated from the Grand Canyon University of Arizona through their online schooling on May 2nd. Jen received her Bachelor in Science of Nursing degree. Jen was a member of Nu Upsilon Chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma theta Tau International (Sigma). Jen was also chosen to join the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Jen currently works at the Claire Surgical Center of the Northeast Ohio Eye Surgeons. Congratulations Jen!



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!

DIRECTORY

A new directory is in the works thanks to Diane Pencin. We are hoping to have it in your hands soon. If you have not filled out an information form please do so immediately. We need names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, birthdays, baptism birthday and anniversary dates.

See Diane Lee to make sure she has your information or call the church and leave your information.

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 April-June Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door.

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.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR

DAD!

HAPPY  FATHER'S DAY

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers	Trudy Ayers	Bill Crile	Deb Earle
Cory Hautmann	Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman
Pastor Just	Lorene Kozar	Joe Lenno	Joanna Nicely
Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely IV	Carol Poston	Heather Poston
Ron Stenglein	Joyce Torres	Rory Wolff	Michael Brooks
Jeremy Campbell	Carl	Joyce Cavanaugh	Scott Corban
Tom Corban	Toni Corban	Christine Combs	Dan Crile
Sue Ellinwood	Brian Fisher	Bridget Gehri	Karen Groves
Mr. Joe	Rocky Kinder	Brad Kozar	Suzanne Latham
Dave Lauver	Frank Manijak	Martino family	Nadine Nicely
Samantha Nicely	Art Robinson	Richard Rohaley	Diane Seman
Barbara Schreiber	Mary Small	Derrick Smith	Stephanie
Lynn Tettlemore	Tim Tolodzieski	Marilyn Trivisonno	Tara Vargo
Greg Zaebst	COVID-19 patients		

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 College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann and Joanna 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.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

17-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Stephen Nicely
25-Del Groff
27-Gilbert Ayers
29-Corey Hautmann
39-Diane Lee



JUNE BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

10-Deb Earle
18-Jim Doerfler
24-Logan Hagen
-Gavin Hagen
-Samantha Weber
-Vickie Weber
-Jillian Earle

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL HOLIDAYS!!

June 1—Say Something Nice Day
June 5-Donut Day---World Environment Day
June 6-D-Day
June 7-Cancer Survivors Day and
Chocolate Ice Cream Day
June 8-Best Friends Day
June 12-Flip Flop Day

June 14-Flag Day and Children's Day
June 17-Eat Your Vegetables Day
June 20-First Day of Summer Woo Hoo
June 21-Father's Day
June 23-Pink Flamingo Day
June 27-Sunglasses Day



Flag Day June 14

Thank you to all our first responders!;

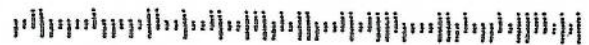
**St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 2247
9042 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241**

Change Service Requested

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THE PARISH VOICE NEWSLETTER

Office: 330-626-4945

Pastor Just office hours—Thursdays 8:00-4:00

Cell Phone (216) 789-6688 Email: doctorjust@gmail.com

Web Site: www.stthomasstreetsboro.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

HELD IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT