

# The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

September 2021

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## **Read Psalm 139. Right now. Stop reading this, go get your Bible, and read Psalm 139.**

“God knows me,” the Psalmist celebrates — yes, celebrates!

If you think that God’s knowing you means that there is trouble brewing (for example, if you think that God is about to reject you because of what He knows of you) then you have developed a view of God that is more akin to what you were told about Santa Claus (“. . . *he’s making list, he’s checking it twice, he’s gonna find out who’s naughty and nice*”)

If you think that God knows you in order to judge (that is condemn) you, you have a very skewed view of what God is doing in the world.

If you think that God’s knowing you means that He is planning to manipulate you and treat you like a puppet, then you may not have a clear view of how God is working in the world.

If you think that God’s knowing you places you in some kind of risky place because, after all, you know you, and what you know about you would suggest that (as Groucho Marx once said) you wouldn’t join a club that would have you as a member.

The truth is that God does know you — and that’s a good thing!

*You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
You discern my thoughts from far away.*

God knows you — which means God knows your hurts, your worries, your feelings, your concerns, your joys, your successes, your victories, your sins, your failures, your lusts, your vices, your securities and insecurities — and loves you through it all.

God knows you — He knows where you’ve been, He knows what you’ve been through; He knows where you are, He knows what you are experiencing now; He knows where you are going, and knows what will happen to you along the way to that place and once you get to that place on your pilgrimage.

That should be a word of comfort to us . . . but often it is not. The problem is that we don’t know ourselves as God knows us. God knows our hearts, knows what we have hidden in the inner self, knows what we have successfully buried away even from our own prying eyes. He knows the strengths, the beauty, the gifts.

The real problem is that we do not know God with the same kind of intimacy. We do not take the time to bask in His presence, to understand what He has said to us through His Word and what He speaks into our hearts. We don’t keep our ears tuned to His voice. We fail to see how His hand touches our lives daily.

Knowing God is much more than knowing about God. It is much, much more than simply acknowledging that there is a God. Knowing God means drawing close to the light of His presence, taking time to pray and to sit in silence to listen for His voice. Knowing God means positioning yourself spiritually so that you might encounter God, and that He might fill you with His love.

God knows you — and he delights in you. He wants you to know Him and find delight in being with Him. We have many opportunities for you to grow in that knowledge of the Lord: Bible studies, Christ Care groups, worship. Come and be a part of the joy that comes when God's people find delight in being with Him, getting to know Him, and being formed into, the image of His Son, Jesus.

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## Our Worship This Month

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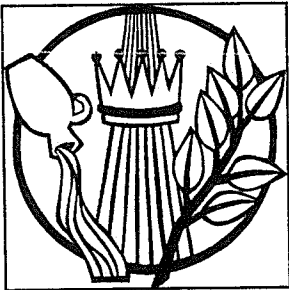


### September 5 — Pentecost XV

Sermon: *"What About Healing?"*

Texts: Isaiah 35:4-7; Psalm 146; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

Jesus amazes with two miraculous healings. Do we believe in such things today?



### September 12 — Pentecost XVI

Sermon: *"The Serious Business of Teaching and Learning"*

Texts: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

When the Twelve balk at Jesus' talk about His death, He begins to teach them. We need to listen to the Master's teaching — and learn from Him.



### September 19 — Pentecost XVII

Sermon: *"Define 'Great'"*

Texts: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

The Twelve debate over which is "the greatest." We need to hear Jesus' definition of "great" and strive to be that great.

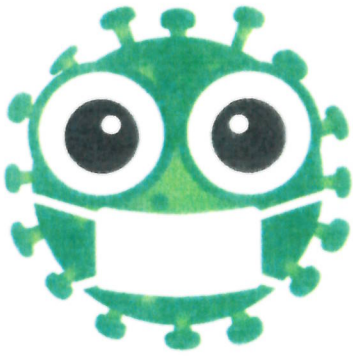


### September 26 — Pentecost XVIII

Sermon: *"Who Gets To?"*

Texts: Numbers 11:4-6 ff.; Psalm 19; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

There are no limits on who gets to minister in God's Kingdom. Titles, position, and degrees do not determine ministers or ministries; the Holy Spirit does.



With the Delta Variant wreaking havoc — every county but two in Ohio is now at the “High” level — the concept of getting back to “normal” is distant. Our front doors still show the signs stating:

“Out of love and concern for one another, we ask everyone to wear a mask as you enter the building.” Please note: WE “ask” not mandate [by the way, masks have been demonstrated to have a deterring effect on colds and flu, so not necessarily a bad idea]. We continue to broadcast our service on Facebook and on Radio Station 96.9 into the parking lot. Our communion distribution format will continue. In other words, nothing will change, but the intensity of our prayers that this pandemic will soon be ended.

# WANTED

## SUNDAY READERS

We need volunteers for Sunday morning to read the First and Second Lessons. Pastor Just wants to provide the readings for the month to every Reader and make a schedule for the remaining months for 2021. We ask you to sign up to be a Reader; Pastor will make the schedule; then, if your schedule conflicts, we ask you to switch places with another Reader.



Pastor Just has suggested that we begin an **Adult Bible Class** on Sunday mornings **BEFORE** our worship service. It has been a while since such a study time has been offered, so the thought is to begin with a topic that would run for six

to nine units [Pastor Just designs classes by units, not sessions; so a unit might last for more than a session or even two.] The timing will be (to begin): Bible Class, 9:00-9:45AM; Worship, 10:00AM (runs until what’s in the bulletins has taken place). First topic? A study based on a book by Robert Farrar Capon entitled The Third Peacock: The Problem of God and Evil, which raises the question of how can God allow evil into His perfect and good creation? Further, what is to be our reaction to this?

If you would, please sign the sheet in the narthex that will let Pastor Just know if there is interest in proceeding. He hopes to begin the class on September 12 in the Fellowship Hall.



“The last thing I remember, I was sitting in a staff meeting. Apparently, I died of boredom”

# SERVICE PROJECT

Our service project for the month of September is to help those in Haiti with all their needs. Monetary donations are being accepted through the month to be given to the Lutheran Missions Ministry. Thank you for your support!

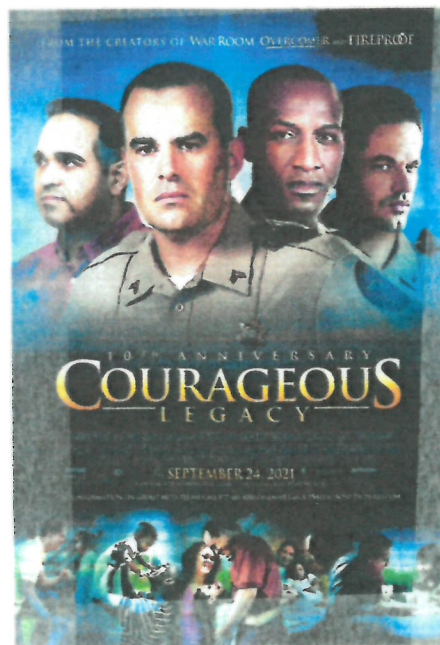
## MOVIE NIGHT

In the mood for a good movie! If you have seen *Courageous*, *Fire Proof*, *Facing the Giants*, *War Room*, *Overcomer* or any other movie created by Stephen and Alex Kindrick then you are going to enjoy their latest two movies coming out this month. And if you have never heard of these movies or these creators let Marla know. She has all of these movies plus more that she would be happy to lend to you.



The first movie coming out is "Show Me the Father" the week of September 10. This movie is a documentary featuring a variety of amazing true stories of unique father stories. Whether positive or painful, it's always personal and can deeply affect the core of our identity and direction of our lives. Providing a fresh perspective on the roles of fathers in today's society, *Show Me the Father* invites you to think differently about how you view your earthly father, and how you personally relate to God.

The second movie is "Courageous Legacy" which comes out the week of September 24. This movie is an updated version of *Courageous* 10 years later with a new ending. Filled with action-packed drama, it will once again have you laughing, crying, and cheering as you are challenged and inspired by everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children. Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous.



Hopefully they will be playing at our local theaters. If you would like to make this a group outing, please let Marla know. I will definitely be going to both of these movies.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile	Jim Doerfler	Carol Earle	Corey Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins & Holly
Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely III	Kenny Nicely IV	Stephen Nicely
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Amy Rohaley	Alexa
Aaron	Roger Black Family	Patty Bowman	Carl
Lana Carnes	Anna Cooper	Bryan Corban	Leona Corban
Scott Corban	Tom Corban	Sue Ellinwood	Dan Erlandson
George Foerster	Christine Frank	Ken Granville	Anita Hlava
Bob Hlava	Charles Hovavetz	Debbie Hovanetz	Jeff Hunter
Janice	Jayme	John	Suzanne Latham
Laura	Dave Lauver	Kevin Lesoveo	Lori
Frank Manijak	Joe Manijak	Samantha	Inge Osborne
Sandi Platten	Jodie Powers	Karen Power	Peter Power
Jessica Reker	Leo Rohaley	Kathi Rohrer	Leslie Slanina
Ruth Svidron	Tim Tolodzieski	Kenneth Udovic	Linda Valetta and family
Jay Veletta	Bennie Wegener	Dan Wiley	Denny Wood
Carol Yurkschatt	Doris Zimmerman	COVID-19 patients	Haiti Earthquake Victims
Homeless served by LMM	Afghanistan/Americans still in Afghanistan		Those in the path of Hurricane Ida

All natural disaster victims from fires, floods, earthquakes etc.

The Evelyn Helke family on the recent passing of Evelyn.

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

Mrs. Audrey Holland  
Willowood Care Room 1001  
1186 Hancock Rd.  
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582

Carole & Heather Poston  
3096 E. Pioneer  
Aurora, OH 44202

Lorene Kozar  
681 Sweetnut Ct  
Streetsboro, OH 44241

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

Our Military member—Troy Roman

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

#### Birthdays

5-Cathy Fairchild  
9-Gavin Hagen  
9-Jeannette Doerfler  
9-Jenna Zimmerman  
9-Jacob Zimmerman  
10-Noah Paskett  
10-Nick Phillips  
15-Amanda Nicely  
17-Steve Hlava  
19-Jillian Earle  
20-Jarid Phillips  
21-Patty Phillips  
27-Carole Earle  
29-Anibal Torres



### SEPTEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

#### Baptism Birthdays

4-Gabe Johnson  
16-Corey Hautmann

Happy Anniversary to...

6-Tom & Linda Beuck  
18-Gilbert & Trudy Ayers  
26-Bill & Sharon Crile

If anyone has been left off this list or any other list, please let Marla Manijak know so she can add you. I would love birthdays and anniversaries and baptism birthdays if you know when it is. Thanks!

## SEARCH COMMITTEE

Sorry you haven't heard from this committee later. They are still working on the vacancy. The first plan to work with other churches as a consortium fell through. They are now looking to work with the area churches in Aurora and Mantua as a shared pastor fellowship. We will keep you informed on how things are going. Hopefully we will have news for you soon.

**Church Council** will be meeting September 19 after the worship service. If there is anything you would like the Council to discuss please let one of these members know...Steve Hlava, Jim Doerfler, Deb Wolff, Joyce Torres, Diane Lee, Del Groff, Marla Manijak or Pastor Just

**If you are in need** of a Maytag dryer, please let Deb Wolff know.

**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](http://www.stthomasstreetsboro.com)

**Our July-September and October-December Portal of Prayers** devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door or ask Steve for one and he will bring it to your car.

**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 Wednesdays or Thursdays from 8:00-4:00. Please call ahead to make sure he is there.

### TREASURERS REPORT - Month of July, 2021

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	3389.00	30704.92	30120.03
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	3926.53	33602.55	36829.93
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>(537.53)</b>	<b>(2897.63)</b>	<b>(6709.90)</b>
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	71.00	5950.00	3386.92
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	33.89	306.73	366.07
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>37.11</b>	<b>5643.27</b>	<b>3020.85</b>
Average General Fund Income Per Week	<b>847.25</b>	<b>1023.50</b>	1004.00
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1201.83</u>		

#### Special Funds Include:

Special Building/Property, Pastor's Second Chance, Memorial Gifts, New Building, Lutheran Women's Group, 5th Sunday Benevolence

# Now We Remain

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Refrain: We hold the death of the Lord deep in our  
hearts. Liv - ing; now we re - main with  
Je - sus the Christ.

1. Once we were people afraid, lost in the night.  
Then by your cross we were saved.  
Dead became living, life from your giving. REFRAIN

2. Something which we have known,  
something we've touched, what we have seen with our eyes:  
this we have heard, life giving Word. REFRAIN

3. He chose to give of himself, became our bread.  
Broken that we might live. Love beyond love, pain for our pain. REFRAIN

4. We are the presence of God. This is our call.  
Now to become bread and wine: food for the hungry,  
life for the weary, for to live with the Lord, we must die with the Lord. REFRAIN

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

**Change Service Requested**

**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](mailto:doctorjust@gmail.com)**

**Web Site: [www.stthomasstreetsboro.com](http://www.stthomasstreetsboro.com)**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.**

**IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM**

**LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

**OR PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE**