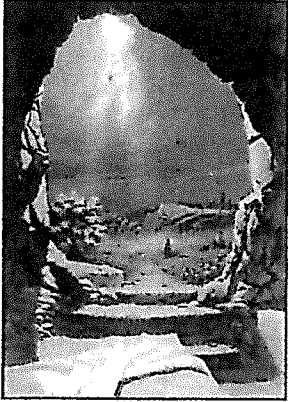


# The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

May 2022



We are in the Easter season. It used to be called the “post-Easter” season, but, instead of referring to the Fourth Sunday *after* Easter, we now refer to the Fourth Sunday *OF* Easter. The change of prepositions reflects a change in perspective.

This season recalls the forty days after Jesus’ resurrection when he made repeated appearances to his followers. Please note that I did not use the word “disciples” in that sentence. St. Paul told the church at Corinth that the Risen Christ *“appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me”* [1 Corinthians 15:5-8]. It was not just to the Twelve that Jesus showed Himself alive.

Those appearances demonstrate to us (as they did to the earliest followers) the reality of the resurrection. In instance after instance, Jesus showed His hands and side, ate food, was touched — all to show that he was not the figment of someone’s imagination, nor an apparition, nor the result of wishful thinking — He was alive! He IS alive!

In His resurrection appearances, Jesus did something of which we should take particular notice; more than once *“he opened their minds to understand the scriptures”* [Luke 24:45]. Our Lord did not reveal His victory over death just to “show off.” He wanted his followers to understand why he had come, why he had died, and why he had risen.

He wants that for us, as well.

Which is why this Easter Season is called the Easter Season. We now become the followers to whom Jesus shows himself alive. We witness him in the Word, we experience him present in his Body and Blood given us in bread and wine. In our fellowship with one another, we become aware of how close he is to each of us as we experience him in all of us.

He wants also to open the Scriptures to us so that we might understand who he is and what he is doing.

Some of us might be inclined to think that we already know enough, perhaps even more than we need to know about Jesus and his purposes. The disciples spent three years experiencing daily teaching and modeling; their training was far more extensive than anything we might have gone through. Yet He needed to open their minds and give them understanding. I can speak only for me; I suspect that I am just as thick-headed as they (maybe more).

So this Easter season becomes a time not just of slowing down the pace and taking it easy. Easter is not “over for another year.” Easter continues. Just as the earliest followers of Jesus experienced the joy of seeing him, walking with him, eating with him, learning from him, we also rejoice to be in his presence and come to a deeper and greater understanding of him and his mission.

The weeks that follow Easter are not just “after” — they are “of.” We are not on the backside of an event now over. We are in the middle of an event without ending. The celebration continues; the joy does not abate. Christ IS truly risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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## Our Worship This Month

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### May 1 — Easter III

Sermon: “*Willingness to Obey*”

Texts: Acts 9:1-22; Psalm 33; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Ananias is called by God to do something quite dangerous. He did it anyhow. Would you?



### May 8 — Easter IV

Sermon: “*The Power of the Resurrection*”

Texts: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

Peter is enabled to raise a little girl from death. Would you even try?



### May 15 — Easter V

Sermon: “*Moved by a Vision*”

Texts: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 145; Revelation 21:1-7; John 13:31-35

Peter is provided a vision that redirects his entire life and ministry. Seen anything lately?

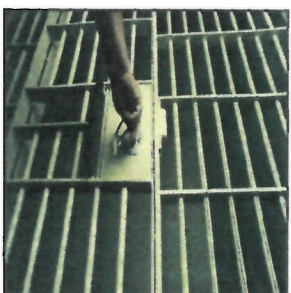


### May 22 — Easter VI

Sermon: “*A Simple Act of Hospitality*”

Texts: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22-22:5; John 14:23-29

Lydia opened her home to St. Paul and his companions, which opened the door to mission work throughout Greece. What invitation can you offer?



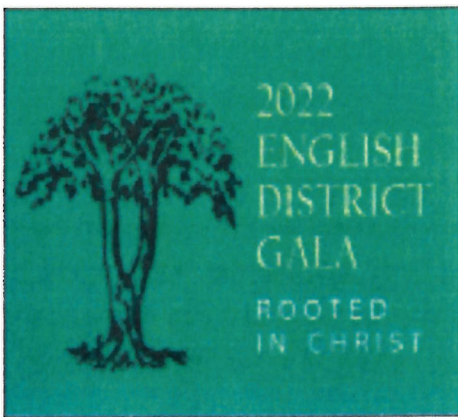
### May 29 — Easter VII

Sermon: “*...Nor Iron Bars a Cage*”

Texts: Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 133; Revelation 22:12-17,20; John 17:20-26

For the early disciples, not even imprisonment could halt the spread of the Gospel. What hinders your witness?





## ROOTED IN CHRIST

**An online gala of fun, fellowship, and gracious giving.**

You are invited to join the churches of the English District for a Virtual Gala on June 12, 2022. The gala is for the benefit of the District's Endowment Fund which supports congregations, church workers, and ministries in the district and around the world.

*Did you know that your district is known for missions?* The English District is made up of congregations across the USA and Canada. This allows the District to partner together for amazing mission opportunities. At the Virtual Gala, you will learn more about these missions in YOUR District, enjoy fellowship with others in the District, and consider becoming a partner in ministry. You will hear directly from some of those missions and from Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, former speaker of The Lutheran Hour and currently with The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. Join us online for ROOTED IN CHRIST, the 2022 English District Virtual Gala, on June 12. Register at <https://englishdistrict.org>. For updates, read *Servant to Servant* (the weekly newsletter available online at the very bottom of site above; click onto: "Sign up for our emails.").

For the gala event, there will be an silent auction online. If you can think of a gift or service that you can provide for that auction — tickets to some event, a craft item you can handmake, a work of art, for example — you are invited to contact Todd Brady, a member of Prince of Peace, Medina OH, or let Pastor Just know, and he'll get Todd to contact you.

Between the auction sales and donations, the goal the gala event is to raise \$50,000 to support District missions.

Of the many ministries supported by the English District, two warrant our attention. On Easter Sunday you received a newsletter from Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann about their work in Latin America. In this newsletter you will see copy of the latest report from Redeemer Crisis Center in Cleveland. Both these ministries are part of our congregation's engagement with witnessing beyond our church's four walls. Please keep them in prayer.



When there is a fifth Sunday in a month, we use the opportunity to receive a special offering to support a local ministry. On May 29, we will ask you to support Akron Pregnancy Services (APS), a ministry that offers accurate information, practical support, and the love of Christ to those in unplanned pregnancies. On May 14, we invite you to join Robin Hoffman as she participates in the Walk for Life. She will be walking her neighborhood (or maybe the church parking lot) and is seeking both sponsors and fellow-walkers who will find yet other sponsors. Talk to Robin about joining her (you'll know her by the APS T-shirt she'll be wearing).





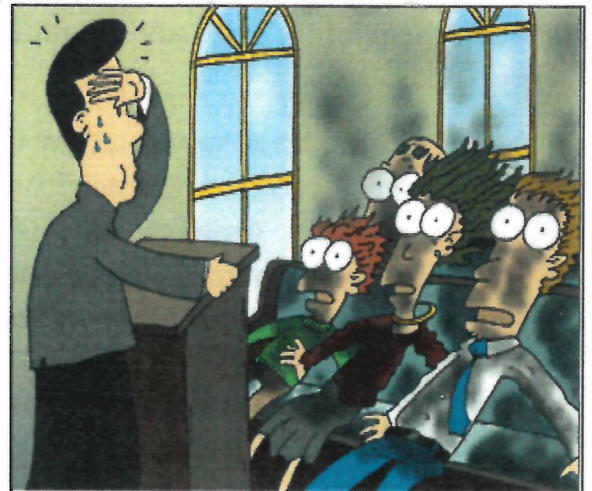
Our Call Committee reported to the Church Council on April 24 that they and the Call Committee at Christ, Mantua had narrowed down to four the number of potential pastors to be interviewed. They then learned that one of those pastors had recently accepted a Call, and was therefore no longer eligible for this Call; BUT, there was yet another name to consider, to that name was added to the list. This month, they will be in the process of setting up virtual interviews with all four candidates, which will give the Call Committees opportunity to ask more questions to each candidate, and give the candidates opportunity to ask questions back. So sometime in the near future (however that may be defined), we may need to hold a Special Congregation Meeting, when the Call Committee is ready to make a recommendation, to extend a Call. As this process moves along, continue in prayer for our Call Committee: Gilbert Ayers, Robin Hoffman, Guy Jeanblanc, and Diane Pensin.



On June 5, which is also Pentecost Sunday (so plan to wear red), St. Thomas will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation. Plans are still being made, so we will update you as we know the full story, but we urge you now to place that date on your calendar to join us in worship followed by a celebration event (which will likely involve something like a potluck dinner; watch for details). We will also welcome any volunteers who are willing to help with the planning, set-up, tear-down, etc. of our celebration event.



The English District will meet in Convention June 20 to 22 at Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Our Lay Delegate will be Robin Hoffman; Pastor Just will be our Pastoral Delegate (unless there is a new Pastor by



They all later agreed that it had indeed been one powerful prayer.

then). There is a request for Prayer Partners during the Convention, who will be in prayer before, during, and after the sessions for safe travel, the business of the English District, elections, activities, discussions, theological presentations, fellowship, and to celebrate the English District's ministries and missions. If you are willing to serve as a Prayer Partner, please go online to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f48aeac23a46-convention>.

At that site you will have many options for times when you can sign up to volunteer to be in prayer. Please consider offering yourself to this purpose.



# REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER

A COMMUNITY OF HOPE: serving, witnessing, celebrating  
IGLESIA CRISTIANA HISPANA LC-MS

2970 West 30th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44113-5003

216-631-6434  
redeemercrisiscenter.com

April 2022

HELLO EVERYONE!!!



## WE ARE STILL HERE, CARING and SERVING!

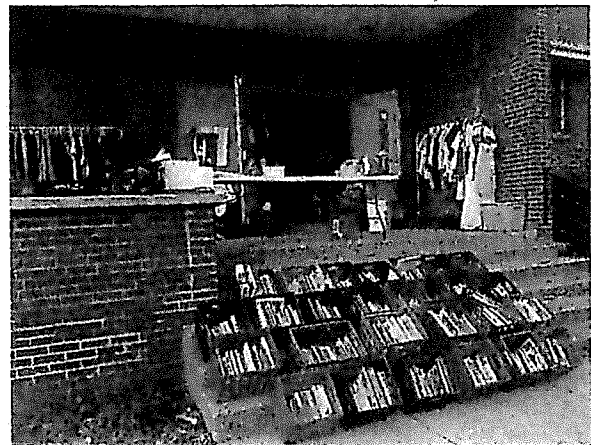


With the help of several dedicated volunteers, we have managed to revise our setting and format and still serve our families with food, toiletries, paper products and cleaning supplies!

For those who know the inside of our building, the multipurpose room near the kitchen has become a huge supply room of food bags and other items. People check in outside the back door and their supply bags are brought up the stairs and out to them at the door.

Several racks of clothing and miscellaneous items are displayed on the front church stairs where people, a few at a time, can select items that they need.

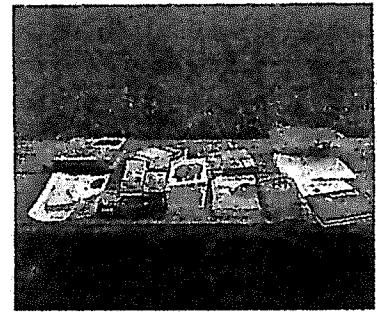
The old clothing room in combination with the old check-in room next door is used for extra storage and some office space. The back room on the other side of the gate has refrigerators and freezers holding meats and other frozen items. There continues to be a well-organized dry food packing room across the hall, but no household goods room.





Babies' Care and Fun with Books moved to the outdoors. Canopies and tables were spread throughout the backyard where presenters shared their information with those attending the sessions.

The children spend time listening, reading and interacting with an adult and books. They love listening to



(or reading out loud themselves) stories and doing related activities.

This new outdoor plan has worked well and makes connections with neighbors and passers-by and allows us to keep everyone safer. Adults move from table to table to gather information or needed items such as diapers, clothing or baby/small child items.

The gym upstairs has become a storage room for clothing and some small goods items. New, safe shelving has been installed to make it easier to locate and obtain other needed items. And, the main floor of the church on the same level as the gym area is used for storage of donated items and some meeting space.

We are hoping to offer an outdoors Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer one day a week on Thursdays during July under canopies in our back yard using some of the same display and activity formats as Babies' Care and Fun with Books which worked so well. **So, we have a need for adult and teen volunteers to help with VBS as well as to volunteer packing bags or hanging clothing or organizing items. Contact Diane if you, a youth or a group of youth are willing to help.**

We could also use your help with our main outdoor projects this spring and summer. First we will repair/replace the 20+ year fencing going around the back yard, add picnic tables to the area and install a new playground. We would welcome donations toward this project and volunteers to help with the work. **This would make a great Thrivent Action Team Grant Project.**

We will also be collecting **backpacks and school supplies** for distribution in **August**. We can use help obtaining materials and helping on distribution day. **This would be another great Thrivent Action Team Grant Project.** Contact Diane for information: 216-631-6434.

Each week, on **Monday afternoons** our food truck from the Cleveland Food Bank delivers several tons of food. We need helpers to take what is delivered down to our storage area. If anyone is interested in helping with this, **please contact Diane** at 1-216-631-6434.

We greatly appreciate your concern, time and donations that help us to better serve those in need in our neighborhood.

Redeemer is a Thrivent Choice recipient (ID #514974248) at [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Joyce Torres for placing 8<sup>th</sup> in the Bus Roadeo held in Streetsboro on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Joyce is now an alternate for the State Roadeo. This is not an easy thing to do. Congratulations Joyce!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Group has started up again. We will be meeting on Saturday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. We are reading the book "Grace" by Max Lucado and will be reading Chapter 2 and discussing the questions at the end of the book. If you have not received your book yet, please see Marla Manijak. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful Women's fellowship time. Any questions please see Joyce Torres or Marla Manijak.

## SERVICE PROJECTS

We have several projects going on. The first is to help those in Haiti with all their needs after the earthquakes and for the refugees from Ukraine. Monetary donations are being accepted with checks made out to the church. They will be given to the Lutheran Missions Ministry. \$285 has been sent to the ministry from your generous donations. Thank you for your support!

The second one is our Streetsboro Community Pantry. They are always in need of food and monetary donations. Please bring your items to the church any Sunday. Thank you for your generous giving heart!

**Church Council** will be meeting May 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please check our church website 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) Also Check out our Facebook page. You will find our worship services and bulletins each week on the page.

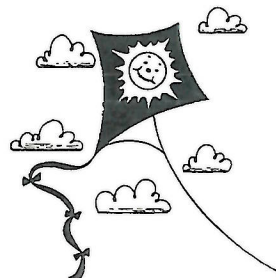
**Contact Person:** Please call Pastor Just at 216-789-6688 or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions. Pastor Just is in the office on Thursdays from 8:00-4:00. Please call ahead to make sure he is there.

## CHURCH PICNIC

As Pastor mentioned earlier we will be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, June 5 after the worship service. Council will provide the main dish.

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex to sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. We would like a count for this event. Please sign up how many will be attending from your family. Games and entertainment are being planned. One of our entertainers will be Amanda Hall. She is a wonderful

Christian singer! You may have heard her at Streetsboro Family Days. We would love to see you there. Rain or shine!!



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile	Jim Doerfler	Carol Earle	Corey Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins & Holly
Ken Nicely Jr family	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Rory Wolff
David Adkins	Alexa	Chip Black	Nicholas Bohne
Peggy Bower	Patty Bowman	Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes
Leona Corban	Dan Erlandson	George Foerster	Christine Frank
Ava Gillum	Nancy Granville	Mary Hardesty	Kaylee Hlad
Anita Hlava	Evan Hlava	Karl Hlava	Patty & Kenny Hansen
Charles Hovanetz	Debbie Hovanetz	Janice	Suzanne Latham
Lexi	Holly Lyon	Frank Manijak	Amanda Nicely
Larry & Sally Powell	Jodie Powers	Peter Power	Leo Rohaley
Ven Schweitzer	Sharon	Leslie Slanina	Angela Smith
MaryLou Snider	John Szabo	Deacon Robert Szalai	Tim Tolodzieski
Linda Valetta	Bennie Wegener	Donny Wood	Carol Yurkschatt
Ukraine refugees	COVID-19 patients	All Natural disaster victims	

**We would love to have updates on our prayer list. If you have good news about someone on this list please let the church know or call Marla at 330-472-3045. Thank you!**

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  
8460 Westport Dr. #225  
Mentor, Oh 44060

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers  
Our Military member—Troy Roman

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

#### Birthdays

6-Lorene Kozar  
14-Mike Phillips  
24-Deb Earle



### MAY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

#### Baptism Birthdays

1-Deb Wolff  
13-Nicole Johnson  
14-Ian Phillips  
19-Tim Nicely  
23-Jen Jones

Happy Anniversary to...  
1 Steve & Marla Manijak  
12 Steve & Sherry Crile  
18 Del & Donna Groff  
Guy and Judith Jeanblanc

**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!**



# CHURCH FINANCES

Please continue to remember your church each month. Our expenses are still here and we could use your help in keeping up with these expenses. Thank you! You can send your offering to P.O. Box 2247.

## TREASURERS REPORT - Month of March 2022

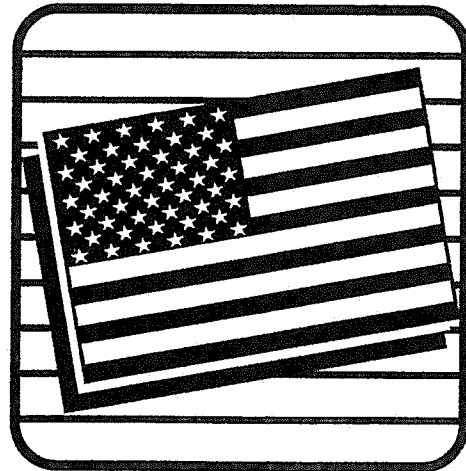
	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	3018.00	17954.36	15367.04
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4471.02	13433.70	13564.07
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>(1453.02)</b>	<b>4520.66</b>	<b>1802.97</b>
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	92.00	247.50	5660.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	31.80	292.16	153.66
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>60.20</b>	<b>(44.66)</b>	<b>5506.34</b>
Average General Fund Income Per Week	<b>754.50</b>	<b>1381.10</b>	1182.08
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1229.52</u>		

**Special Funds Include:**

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



**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S DAY**



**Remember Our Country's  
Heroes on MEMORIAL DAY**

**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**

**BIBLE STUDY 9:00 A.M.**

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

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

**LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

**OR PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE (Mask is optional)**