

# The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

August 2022

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I have been in the habit of thinking, “Nothing happens in August.” That may be because there is very little in August on what we know as “The Liturgical Calendar.” [The day commemorating “Mary, the Mother of Our Lord” is a rather recent addition; the only long-standing commemoration day is that of “St. Bartholomew, Apostle.”] Certainly, those of you who celebrate birthdays or anniversaries in August would question my thinking about what happens in August.

A quick web search showed me that every day in August has some kind of honor attached to it. To be sure, many of these are designations from commercial concerns (National Mustard Day, National Waffle Day, both on August 5), some are from interest groups (August 7 - National Kidsday; August 13 - International Left-handers Day), and some are just silly notions being promoted by who knows who (August 31 - Love Litigating Lawyers Day comes to mind). We also learn that August is National Win With Civility Month (we could use several months on that!), as well as Family Fun Month (just one month?). And let’s not omit from our agendas National Simplify Your Life Week, August 4-10 (sounds like a good idea).

Yet the fact remains that August has no true national holidays like Independence Day or Thanksgiving Day. There are no three-day weekends in August (of course, you could devise one of those on your own, but I’ll bet your employer won’t pay you for the time off). Unless Monday is your usual day off, in August you will be at work.

We may be inclined to think, “Well and good! I can use a little down time. I’m glad nothing much happens in August; I won’t have to make any special preparations.” Such all-or-nothing thinking usually is not helpful. Instead, our thinking should tend toward, “I have less to do this month. That will leave more time for planning for the important things coming up.” That is an excellent way to think (how so? It agrees with how I think, of course!) So here’s what I propose.

On **Sunday, August 21** (also known as National Senior Citizen’s Day and National Spumoni Day) I am asking you to stay after church and spend a few hours planning for the future of our congregation — short-term and long-term. What can we do together to attract new members? What will revitalize our worship and fellowship? What areas of service should we pursue? What are we leaving undone that we need to do? What are we doing now that we should put to an end?

This will not be a Congregational Meeting. We will not vote; we will discuss and, hopefully, come up with a few workable ideas and a plan for action. Food and drink will be available (who knows, maybe even some spumoni); for that reason, a sign-up sheet will be in the narthex so we can anticipate attendance. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall (unless it’s really hot that day; then the nave is air conditioned).

I invite you to join us. Please don’t leave this to others; you are a vital part of this ministry. We need your input. Come join us on August 21 and together plan our future. We will, of course, begin in prayer — I ask you to begin that now.

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## Our Worship This Month

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### August 7 — Pentecost IX

Sermon: *“A Promise, A Power, A Presence”*

Texts: Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; 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 14 — Pentecost X

Sermon: *“Is There Power in Prayer?”*

Texts: Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; 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 21 — Pentecost XI

Sermon: *“Be Careful! Be Very, Very Careful!”*

Texts: Ecclesiastes 1:2,12-14, 2:18-23; Psalm 49; Colossians 3:1-11;  
Luke 12:13-21

In the Parable of the Rich Fool, Jesus warns us to be very careful with how we view riches — monetary and otherwise.



### August 28 — Pentecost XII

Sermon: *“A Ready Faith”*

Texts: Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33; Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Abraham shows us; Hebrews teaches us; then Jesus encourages us to maintain a faith that is ready for action when God calls.



Join us on August 21 as we gather for an informal session to look ahead and begin to shape some ideas for the future of our congregation. We will meet after the service in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Food and drink will be provided, so please sign up on the narthex bulletin board to let us know you are coming and we will have enough food and drink for all. Please invest a few hours this month to help us envision and set direction.



## Confirmation Class



Pastor Just is looking to restart Confirmation Class on Sundays. He wants to hold class from 9:00 to 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This will mean that he will put off for the time being holding a Sunday morning Adult Bible Class. Confirmation Class is intended for those young people who are enrolled in at least the seventh grade for 2022; older teens are certainly welcome, as well. We will be using a curriculum from our church's Concordia Publishing House: Enduring Faith. Books have been ordered for four students, but we can order more if we have additional students. If you know a young person who should, be invited to join this class, please let Pastor Just know. Classes are scheduled to begin July 31.



**PASTORAL  
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Call Committee reported to Council in July that they have been provided with another list of names as prospective candidates for our joint calling with Christ Lutheran in Mantua. The Synod has inaugurated a new on-line system for such a call process, and our Circuit Visitor, Pastor Jonathan McCall (pastor at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Broadview Heights) has asked the two call committees to employ that process. The joint committee met on Monday, July 18th and are going to extend interview invitations to 5 of the candidates. As this process moves along, continue in prayer for our Call Committee: Gilbert Ayers, Robin Hoffman, Guy Jeanblanc, and Diane Pencin and the Call Committee at Christ Lutheran.



On the plus side, I am caught up with my burnt offerings for a good, long while.



... he just reminded them of all the times they complained about the hot days in August.



In case you didn't think we were serious: Join us on August 21 as we gather for an informal session to look ahead and begin to shape some ideas for the future of our congregation. We will meet after the service in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Food and drink will be provided, so please sign up on the narthex bulletin board to let us know you are coming and we will have enough food and drink for all. Please invest a few hours this month to help us envision and set direction.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Aggie Blankenship	Bill & Sharon Crile	Carol Earle	Corey Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins & foster children
Stephen Nicely	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Rory Wolff
Patty Abramovich	David Adkins	Alexa	Ally
Diane Altier	Barb	Chip Black	Nick Bohne
Peggy Bower family	Patty Bowman	Russ & Lana Carnes	Margaret Carr family
Leona Corban	Ted & Aliza Cowling	Victoria Crawford	Aida Donohue
Dan Erlandson	Daryl	George Foerster	Christine Frank
Ava Gillum	Mary Hardesty	Charles Hovanetz	Nancy Granville family
Debbie Hovanetz	Janice	Lance	Lexi
Steve Mamber	Frank Manijak	Joe Manijak	Mary
Bill Murphy	Amanda Nicely	Kathy Peters	Larry & Sally Powell
Peter Power	Debbie Rohaley	Leslie Slanina	Angela Smith
MaryLou Snider	John Szabo	Tim Tolodzieski	Deacon Robert Szalai
Tyler	Linda Valetta	Bennie Wegener	Whiteleather Dairy Farm
Darcy Wood	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 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

## SAD NEWS

Our deepest sympathies are with the Poston family. Steve passed away on July 25<sup>th</sup>. His services were held on July 30. Our prayers are with Carol and Heather during this difficult time. God's peace be with you all. Carol has moved so I will have the new address in next month's newsletter.

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

### Birthdays

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



Happy Anniversary to...

2-Tom & Jen Jones  
2-Kenny & Amanda Nicely

**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!**

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Group will not be meeting in August. The summer vacations are here. We hope to start up again in September. We are still studying the book "Grace" by Max Lucado and will be reading Chapter 5 and discussing the questions at the end of the book when we meet again. Any questions please see Joyce Torres or Marla Manijak.

## SERVICE PROJECTS

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. 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!

**Streetsboro Schools** are in session starting August 17. Please keep our kids safe.

**Portage County Fair** is Aug. 23-28. Hope to see you there!

**Church Council** will be meeting August 28th 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.

**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 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 June 2022

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	3129.34	30507.08	27315.92
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	3687.78	28895.07	29676.02
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>(558.44)</b>	<b>1612.01</b>	<b>(2360.10)</b>
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	47.00	472.84	5879.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	31.24	417.63	272.84
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>15.76</b>	<b>55.21</b>	<b>5606.16</b>
Average General Fund Income Per Week	<b>782.34</b>	<b>1173.35</b>	1050.61
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

## NEWS FROM OUR SISTER CONGREGATION

The following events will be taking place at Christ Lutheran in Mantua. It's a great opportunity to get to know our partner congregation. Think about volunteering for one of these events.

### Loaves and Fishes Community Meal

These free meals are served the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month in the Christ Lutheran Church downstairs Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help (you don't have to be a member to help), contact Diane Lottig at 330-274-2868 for what is needed.

### Fourth Annual FREE Community Corn and Brat Fest August 13, 2022 5-8 pm

We will once again host the community to a Free Corn and Brat Fest on August 13 from 5-8 pm. Donations of the following will be greatly appreciated to serve to our guests:

- Watermelons
- Baked goods that don't need utensils (think cookies, brownies, cupcakes)
- Onions, relish, butter, ketchup, mustard
- Bubble Wands (they come in a three pack at Walmart)
- Helpers during the Event (face painting, bounce house watchers, greeters, servers, parking lot attendants, kitchen help)
- Set up on Saturday morning (tents, tables, charis)

Please call Diane Lottig at 330-274-2868 to volunteer your services.

They are also collecting #2 pre-sharpened pencils for donations to the schools.

Hope you can help out with this event.

### The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Mantua Potato Festival Friday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 6-11pm Saturday Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> noon-11pm Sunday Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 1-6pm

Church Lutheran has a potato pancake booth during the festival that is a major fundraising event. The funds are used for building improvements. If you and your friends would like to help, please call Diane Lottig at 330-274-2868.

### Mantua Farmer's Market

July 9<sup>th</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup>  
Market days are each Saturday 9 am to 1 pm. Each space is \$5. Call Diane 330-274-2868 for more information.





Jesus laid his hands upon the children, and while blessing them said, "My heavenly Father and I love you."



**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 CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM**

**LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

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