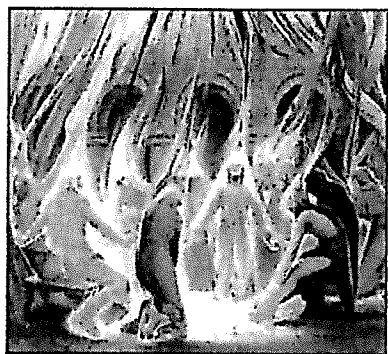


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

June 2022



“... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit ...”

I read those words in the Pentecost narrative, and I wonder: “What was that like?” I have had some “spiritual moments.” I have been with many people who are happy to tell me about how and where and why the Spirit has touched their lives. I have had some experiences where I have known the power and presence of the Spirit. But I have no concept of what it must be like to be “filled with the Holy Spirit”.

Taken literally, that phrase would tell us that there was nothing left in the disciples — everything human had been displaced by the Spirit; they were “filled.” Yet they continue to act as humans, react as humans, move as humans, speak as humans. So it cannot mean that this was like some scene out of a space movie where the aliens take over human bodies and personalities.

We comprehend that being filled with the Holy Spirit means that they were given a whopping, huge measure of spiritual grace unlike anything they had heretofore experienced. We probably also are convinced that such an outpouring is not in the cards for us. But why would we assume this? Because it has not happened to us ... yet.

That was true of the disciples in the Acts 2. They never had so much as an inkling of this power. They had been taught by Jesus about the Spirit. They had been promised that the Spirit was coming. In the post-resurrection narrative where the Risen Christ appears to them in the upper room, He breathed on them (the Greek could also be translated “He in-spirited them”) and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” In that instance, there was no manifestation of the Spirit.

So we are left to conclude that there is a difference between receiving the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Spirit. We proclaim that, in Baptism, we receive the Holy Spirit. So there you are — we don’t get to be filled (??).

Back up just a bit. The earliest disciples got both; why do we conclude that God could not do both in and for us? “He just won’t or wouldn’t,” is not a satisfying answer (although many of us choose to be content with it). So let’s go back to look at what happened back then to see if we can pull out anything instructive.

At the Ascension, Jesus gave specific instructions: “... stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). What did they do? They went back to the city (Jerusalem), Luke tells us, and “were constantly devoting themselves to prayer ...” (Acts 1:15). On the Day of Pentecost “they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1). What do we learn? First, they were obedient. Second, they were prayerful. Third, they were in community. In short, they were positioning themselves (or were being positioned) for what God was going to do.

They trusted the promise — “clothed with power from on high.” They had faith that something extraordinary was going to happen (that phrase does not lend itself to thinking the mundane was

about to unfold). They did not know what this all meant. They did not know when this would occur. They had no idea what it would mean for them. They simply gave themselves over to what Jesus told them to do, and got themselves ready.

So must we. Pray that God will awaken our congregation to want the “more” that the Spirit offers. Pray for yourself that you will be positioned to receive what the Spirit brings. Pray that there will be a great outpouring of Spirit-empowering energy and hope. Then join with the community in worship, study, and witness so that we are equipped to be used by the Spirit.

Our Worship This Month

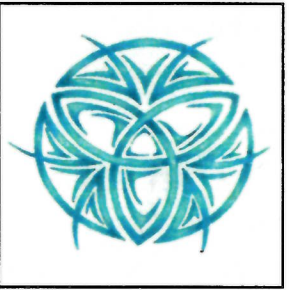


June 5 — The Day of Pentecost

Sermon: “*Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit*”

Texts: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

As we celebrate the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, we wonder what His power and presence can mean for our lives today.



June 12 — The Holy Trinity

Sermon: “*While We Own the Mystery*”

Texts: Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

The great mystery of the Trinity holds the key to understanding the nature and presence of God. We may not understand it; but we live into it.



June 19 — Pentecost II

Sermon: “*Who’s In? Who’s Out?*”

Texts: 1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43; Psalm 33; Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

God’s people constantly face the issue of how inclusive we must be. Jesus was indiscriminate in His ministry; does this tell us something?



June 26 — Pentecost III

Sermon: “*A Well-earned Reputation*”

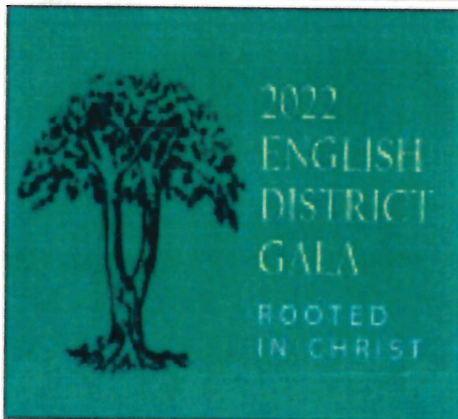
Texts: 1 Kings 17:17-24; Psalm 96; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

Those who speak and act for God are known by how those deeds and words hold true. How are we doing?



On June 5, we celebrate also the 60th Anniversary of our congregation. In our worship, we will give prayer and praise to God who has directed the course of ministry here. After church, we invite all to join us in the Fellowship Hall (or, weather permitting, the pavilion) for a luncheon: Church Council will provide the chicken; we ask members to bring along side dishes, salads, and/or desserts. There will be entertainment after lunch from singer, Amanda Hall.

Starting on Pentecost Sunday, we will return to the practice of gathering the offering during our worship service. The Peace will be shared after the Prayer for the Church, followed by the Offering, the Offertory, and the Offering Prayer. For those who continue to worship in their cars in the parking lot, an usher will be happy to gather your offering before the service.



ROOTED IN CHRIST

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

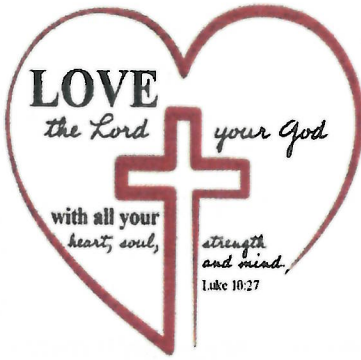
You are invited to join the churches of the English District for a Virtual Gala on June 12, 2022 at 7:30 PM. The gala is for the benefit of the District's Endowment Fund which supports congregations, church workers, and ministries in the district and around the world.

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. Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann continue their work in Latin America. We also have a direct connection to 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.



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. There is a request for Prayer Partners during the Convention, who will be in prayer at home 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.

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THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ALWAYS PICK UP THE CHECK ON FATHER'S DAY

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Its from our church... we've been called up for active duty."



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS

Graduating from Streetsboro High School on May 24th were Gavin Hagen, Jenna & Jacob Zimmerman and Noah Paskett.

Gavin is unsure at this time what his future endeavor might be. Thinking of a trade like hvac or becoming a police officer.

Jacob graduated Summa Cum Laude with a +4.0 GPA. He is going to Hiram College in the fall for Engineering/Accounting.

Jenna graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.85 GPA. She is going to Kent State for a teaching degree.

Noah is undecided about his future endeavors but is thinking maybe cooking school somewhere or a trade school.

Congratulations to all of these graduates! We are all so proud of you!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Group has started up again. We will be meeting on Saturday, June 11 at 10:00 a.m. We are reading the book "Grace" by Max Lucado and will be reading Chapter 3 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. 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 June 15th 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 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.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Aggie Blankenship	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	Diane Altier
Chip Black	Nicholas Bohne	Peggy Bower	Patty Bowman
Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes	Leona Corban	Victoria Crawford
Dan Erlandson	George Foerster	Christine Frank	Ava Gillum
Nancy Granville	Mary Hardesty	Anita Hlava	Evan Hlava
Karl Hlava	Charles Hovanetz	Debbie Hovanetz	Patty & Kenny Hansen
Janice	Lexi	Holly Lyon	Frank Manijak
Amanda Nicely	Larry	Larry & Sally Powell	Jodie Powers
Peter Power	Leo Rohaley	Ken Schweitzer	Sharon
Leslie Slanina	ngela 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	Carole & Heather Poston	Lorene Kozar
Willowood Care Room 1001	3096 E Pioneer	8460 Westport Dr. #225
1186 Hancock Rd.	Aurora, OH 44202	Mentor, Oh 44060
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582		

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

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



JUNE BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

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

Happy Anniversary to...
8-Tina & Russ Hagen
21-Rocky & Kim Kinder
29-Steve & Palagia Hlava

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 April 2022

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	4601.36	22555.72	19529.22
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	8183.31	21617.01	21933.07
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(3581.95)	938.71	(2403.85)
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	82.34	329.84	5722.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	46.01	338.17	195.28
NET GAIN (LOSS)	36.33	(8.33)	5526.72
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1150.34	1326.81	1148.78
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



June 19



Flag Day

June 14

**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

Web Site: 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)