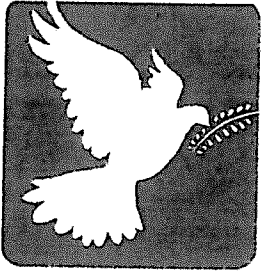


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

May 2023



Throughout our post-Easter reflections on the resurrection narratives, we are hearing Jesus again and again refer to something that was coming. This month of May, we get to celebrate that predicted event.

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 relative calmness of the present?

Is it something we have done or failed to do? Or 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 this month, 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



May 7 — Easter V

Sermon: *"Asking in the Name of Jesus"*

Texts: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Jesus teaches the disciples about prayer in His name. We have often confused what that means. We discover the power of praying through Jesus.

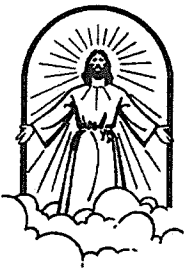


May 14 — Easter VI / Mother's Day

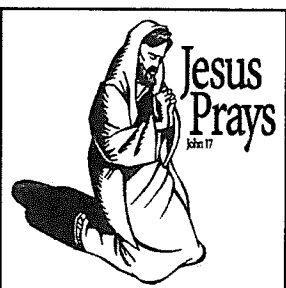
Sermon: *"Very Religious?"*

Texts: Acts 17:22-3; Psalm 66; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

St. Paul sees the people of Athens as "very religious." He goes to explain why that doesn't help them.



While we have not scheduled a special worship service, we should make note of the fact that May 18 is **The Feast of the Ascension**, the day that celebrates Christ's return to heaven. Sometimes referred to as "the forgotten feast day," this is an important event in the life of our Lord and of His Church. Jesus Himself said: *"... it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."* Give thanks to God that Jesus has ascended to the right hand of God and that the gift of the Holy Spirit is at work among us.



May 21 — Easter VII

Sermon: *"... and When You Cannot Pray for Yourself ..."*

Texts: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 47; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

When he was asked, Jesus taught the disciples to pray. Then he himself modeled that prayer, directly communicating with the Father.



May 28 — The Day of Pentecost

Sermon: "Spirit, Come?"

Texts: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

What are we asking for if we invite the Spirit to come to us? Are we ready for His arrival?

We rejoice that on April 25 we witnessed the Call Day Service at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne and heard the news that St. Thomas Lutheran Church and Christ Lutheran Church, Mantua were chosen to be blessed by the Call to serve our congregations extended to

Blake Martzowka



He is soon to be ordained, we suspect at Peace Lutheran in Saginaw, Michigan, where Blake grew up. He is also to be married on May 13 in Ft. Wayne to Ruth Mussman.

Pastor Just and Pastor Esala have discussed traveling to Ft. Wayne in the near future to meet with Blake and share about our two congregations.

Pastor Just will be attending the English District Professional Church Workers Conference on May 9, 10 & 11 at Fairlawn Lutheran Church. He will not be in the office that week, but you can always try to reach him on his cell phone [(216) 789-6688]; it will be silenced during sessions of the conference, but he will check for any messages at each break and return calls, if needed. He may also be called upon to remain after the conference to represent the District Ministerial Health Commission at the meeting of Circuit Visitors. He will be commuting daily to these sessions.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Kathy Braesher	Jim Doerfler	Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman
Lorene Kozar	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Becky Larkins & foster children
Ben Wolff	Patty Abramovich	Adalyn	Alexa
Ally	Diane Altier	Barb Basmagy	Paul Berry
Ray Bishop	Archer Bradshaw	Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes
Christine	John Cowling	Jonelle Crile	Evelyn French
Dennis Fuldauer	Daniel Gump	Mary Hardesty	Kim Hendrix
Heather Hendrix	Jaylah	Naomi Just	Linda Kuzniakowski
Lance	Laurance Jeanblanc	Leo	Christine Lowdin
Steve Mamber	Sam Mamber	Frank Manijak	Mike Menhart
Amanda Nicely	Delilah Nicely	Paul	Karen Powers
Barb, Dan, Carl, Linda, Pat	Larry & Sally Powell	Joan Rupp	Leslie Slanina
Mary Lou Snider	John Szabo	Deacon Robert Szalai	Tyler
Bennie Wegener	Darcy Wood	Donny Wood	Chris Zimmerman
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

Carole Poston 12790 Chamberlain Aurora, OH 44202	Lorene Kozar 8460 Westport Dr. #225 Mentor, Oh 44060
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Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jenna Zimmerman, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

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
26 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!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Abby Ayers on graduating Magna Cum Laude with an Honors Bachelor degree in Forensic Psychology, minoring in Human services and Leadership from Tiffin University on Saturday April 29. We are so proud of you Abby!

Congratulations to Joyce Torres who place 4th in the bus rodeo held in Streetsboro on April 22. She will be heading to Columbus on May 6 for state finals. Way to go Joyce!

THANK YOU!!

To everyone who helped out on Sunday, April 30 putting together our Care Packages for Lutheran Relief. And thank you all for your donations for this great project.

To everyone who helped with the Easter cleaning. Hopefully I remember everyone who was there.

Dusty Basmagy	Del Groff	Steve Hlava	Steve Manijak
Rory Wolff	Deb Wolff	Madeline Ayers	Elizabeth Ayers
Gilbert Ayers	Diane Lee	Joyce Torres	Marla Manijak
Robin Hoffman (one of our church mice)	Amy Rohaley for her beautiful music and a special thanks to Guy Jeanblanc for all his work on staining the windows		

Also thank you to our property guys Jim Doerfler, Steve Hlava and Del Groff for all their hard work keeping the grass cut.

And a big thank you to our Communications guys Rory Wolff, Gilbert Ayers and Del Groff for all their work keeping our Facebook and Radio station broadcasting our worship services.

I'm sure there are many more people in our congregation that could use a big thank you! If I missed you here is a big THANK YOU!!

Church Council will be meeting Sunday, May 21 after the worship service.

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.

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of March 2023

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	4294.42	22246.35	17954.36
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4448.51	13742.10	13478.70
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(154.09)	8504.25	4475.66
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	97.00	258.00	247.50
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	308.16	417.72	292.16
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(211.16)	(159.72)	(44.66)
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1073.61	1711.26	1381.10
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>442.31</u>		

Special Funds Include:

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

**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

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)