

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church – Streetsboro, Ohio

September 2023



A meditation based on Romans 12:3-8

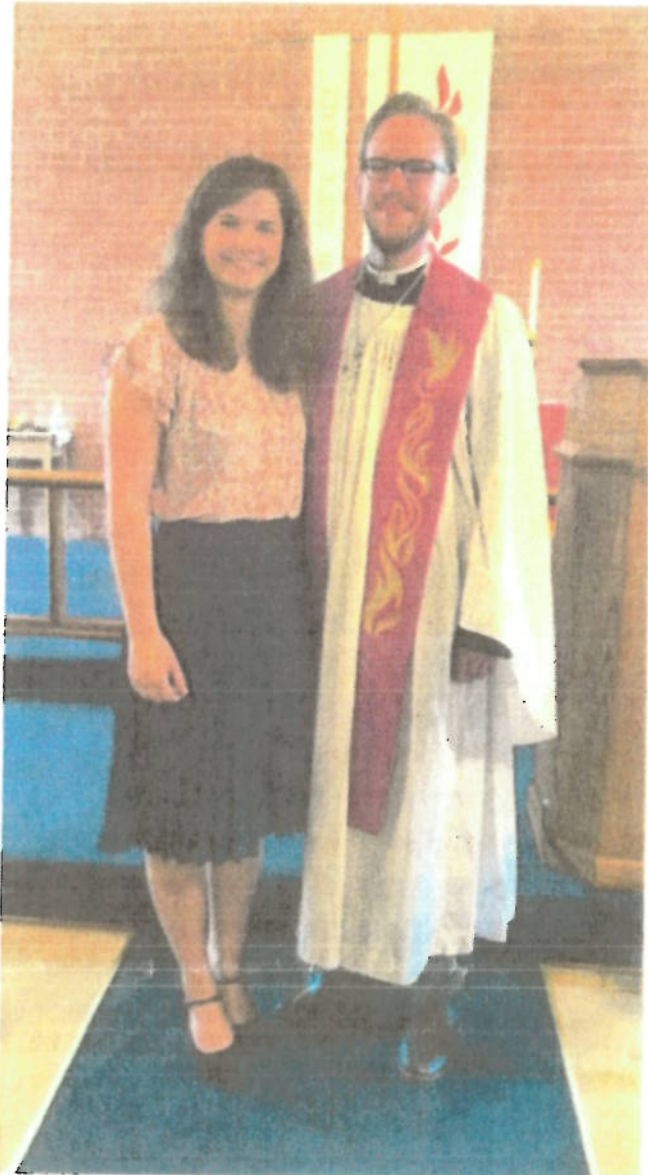
What did Jesus look like? What color was His hair? Was it long like it is in many of the Jesus movies, or was it short and curly? Did He have a beard? How tall was He? The Bible doesn't answer any of these questions. It isn't so concerned about Jesus' appearance. (At least when His appearance isn't revealing the Glory of God as it did in the Transfiguration.) Jesus, the divine Son of God

born a human, had a distinct human body just like the rest of us. Since Jesus remains truly man for all eternity, He still possesses His particular human body even in His glorious resurrection (Luke 24:39; John 20:20). Where the divine Son of God is, there is His human body. From the moment of His human conception, God the Son is inseparable from His human nature. This is one of the truths we confess when we say the Word became flesh.

But Paul shares with us another strange truth related to this one. We Christians are parts of Christ's body (Romans 12:4-5). How does this work? God has united us to His Son's body through Baptism. In Baptism, we put on Christ (Galatians 3:27). Through Baptism, we became members of His one body, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). So when you ask yourself, where can I see Jesus? Look at the face of your brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. They are Christ's body as well. Look in the mirror. There is Christ, united to you through baptism. You are now a member of His body. Hence, when you care for the bodily needs of your fellow Christian, you care for Christ Jesus, your Lord (Matthew 25:40). And one of the ways Christ Jesus cares for the world is through you, His member.

Our unity as the body of Christ also means that we gather together. For our relationship with Jesus is tied up with His Church. Christianity is not merely a me and Jesus thing. It is an us and Jesus thing. Sure, each individual is united to Christ, and He knows each and every one of us by name. And just as members of a body are distinct from each other in function and ability, so are we. We, however, are not alone in this world. Christ has given Himself to us, and with Himself, He has given us each other, His body. For where the Son of God is, there is His body also.

Pastor Blake Martzowka



Meet Pastor Blake and Ruth Martzowka

Born on March 25, 1994 in Saginaw, Michigan, Pastor Blake received his undergraduate degree at Concordia University-Ann Arbor, Michigan majoring in Biblical Languages. He continued his studies at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary located in Ft. Wayne, IN where he received his Master of Divinity Degree and Doctorate Degrees in June of 2023. He was ordained in the pastoral ministry on July 8, at St. Thomas and Christ Lutheran, Mantua.

He recently married Ruth P. Mussmann of Ft. Wayne, Indiana on May 13, 2023 at Shepherd of th City Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, IN. She is a registered nurse and studied at Perdue University in Indiana.

Pastor Blake and Ruth will live in Mantua with their two senior dogs, Georgie and Daisy.

Please join us at our worship services at 9:00 a.m. to meet them in person. And don't forget about our Bible Studies on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome Pastor Blake and Ruth!!

Pastor Blake's schedule

Monday—Day off

Tuesday—At Christ (9-3)

Wednesday—At Christ w/visitations for Christ (9-3)

Thursday—At St. Thomas (9-3)

Friday—At St. Thomas w/visitations for St. Thomas (9-3)

Saturday—Working from the parsonage (9-3)

Sunday—Working from parsonage after services (9-3)

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed into our church family on Sunday, August 27 David, Lynn, and Richard Kanengeiser through transfer of membership. It is wonderful to welcome this family into our family!



BIBLE STUDIES

Join us for Bible Studies at Christ Lutheran and St. Thomas starting September 5th.

Bible studies at Christ Lutheran, Mantua will be on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on the sermon text from the previous Sunday starting Sept. 5.

Bible studies at St. Thomas will be on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. beginning Sept 7. This study is called "Who is Jesus?" and will be over the personal claims that Jesus makes about Himself in the Gospels.

These studies are open to all members and guests from both churches. We hope you will be able to make one or both of these studies.

COFFEE CLUTCH

Have you ever been to a coffee clutch? Well now's your chance! Join us Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:30 for some coffee and to talk about anything you want. There have been some great conversations! All are welcome to join in! See you this Thursday.



MANTUA POTATO FESTIVAL



Christ Lutheran will be participating in the Mantua Potato Festival Sept. 8-10 with a booth selling potato pancakes. Volunteers are needed to help out with this great social outreach before, during and after the event. I did not have more information before this writing. See your bulletin or Facebook page for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for a way to help out during the service on Sundays. Volunteers are needed for Lectors, Ushers, Communion, Singers and refreshment hosts.

A sign up sheet is in the Narthex to sign up for Lectors. Another sheet is being added for Ushers, Communion helpers. If you would like to help out singing during communion or offering, see Marla. She would love to have more voices. Refreshments are being served in the Fellowship Hall once again. The Ayers/Torres families have volunteered to provide refreshments for the month of September. A sign up sheet will be available for Sundays in October. It is wonderful to be able to meet with our friends socially after the worship. Join us this Sunday.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Gilbert Ayers	Kathy Braesher	Leona Corban	Palagia Hlava
Lorene Kozar	Stephanie, Gabe & Nicole Johnson		Becky Larkins & Rowan
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Rory Wolff	Our school children
Patty Abramovich	Adalyn	Diane Altier	Ray Bishop
Archer Bradshaw	Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes	Billy Earle Jr.
Evelyn French	Dennis Fuldauer	Daniel Gump	Mary Hardesty
Naomi Just	Lance	Laurance Jeanblanc	Steve Mamber
Frank Manijak	Amanda Nicely	Larry & Sally Powell	Mary Lou Snider
Joe Svonavec	Don Thornton	Bennie Wegener	Renee White
Diane Wood Family	Berry Family	Ukraine refugees	COVID-19 patients

All Natural disaster victims especially those in Maui

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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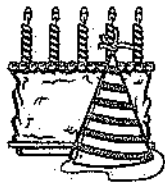
Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jenna Zimmerman, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

5-Cathy Fairchild
9-Gavin Hagen
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!

Our prayers are with the families in Maui, Hawaii on the devastating fires that destroyed the island. To help out these families you can make a donation by marking your envelope or check MAUI and we will make sure Lutheran Missions Ministry gets your donation. They are doing a great job helping these families.

Please remember the families of Streetsboro by donating to the Streetsboro Community Pantry with a monetary donation or food donation. You can do this through the church through your offering or placing food items in the basket in the Narthex.

Deb Wolff has pickles ready. Please bring back your empty jars and she will fill them up again. The pickles are delicious!!

Becky Larkins is collecting Paper towels and toilet paper rolls for craft projects. Also 2 litre plastic bottles. You may give them to Deb Wolff. Thank you!

The Parking Lot is going to be worked on this fall. We will let you know when that will happen so you are aware that you won't be allowed in the parking lot on those days. More details as they come.

We are planning on having a fall clean up day. We have 3 projects and a few other items we want to fix, repair on September 23rd, 2023 from 9 am to noon. If you would like a small project and cannot join us on Sept. 23 just let Del know and we can make the arrangements. You can sign up or email Del at dgroff1009@aol.com.

Church Council will be meeting Sunday, September 17 after the worship service. If there is something you would like the council to work on, please let one of the council members know. They are Steve Hlava, president, Del Groff, Guy Jeanblanc, Joyce Torres, Deb Wolff and Marla Manijak.

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Blake Martzowka at the church on Thursdays from 9-3 at 330-626-4945 or on his cell phone 989-372-5318 for emergencies or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions.

Finance Report

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of JULY 2023

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	5213.24	45489.39	35236.46
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	6071.10	36641.13	33539.10
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(857.86)	8848.26	1697.36
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	60.00	2164.00	585.84
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	245.18	464.92
NET GAIN (LOSS)	60.00	1918.82	120.92
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1292.31	1467.40	1136.66
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

Web Site: www.stthomasstreetsboro.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.

IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!!