



Hebrews describes the Word of God as a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). A two-edged sword is a sword with a cutting edge on both sides of the blade. Such swords were used offensively in military conflict. Similarly, in the Book of Revelation, the Word of God which comes from Jesus' mouth is portrayed symbolically as a sword (Revelation 19:15). One can use a sword offensively (to attack) or defensively (to protect). God has given us His Word to use both ways. We have many enemies who would seek to separate us from our ultimate good: eternal communion with God. They would do anything to keep us from seeing eternal life. They would have us doubt that Jesus has saved us from sin and death. They would have us question that God has more in store for us beyond this life in a renewed heavens and earth. They would have us focus all our attention, hope, and sense of fulfillment on this world.

Who are these enemies? They are none other than our sinful flesh, the world around us, and the devil. Notice that it begins within. We are our worst enemy. We carry around in our flesh the sinful corruption of doubt that would have us reject God's Word, disobey His commandments, and regard His promises as no more than pie in the sky. The world can also be our enemy when it draws us away from Christ Jesus with its culturally determined human opinions, momentary and fleeting riches, and the evils surrounding us. The devil and those other angels who rebelled against God would also have us trust in something other than God by telling us lies, tempting us to sin, and subjecting us to hardships. How do we defend ourselves from such enemies when surrounded from within and without?

The Scriptures tell us: The Word of God. The Word of God is a defensive weapon because, through God's Law, it warns us about the plans of our sinful flesh to lead us astray, with the promise of salvation it emboldens us to endure the hardships of this world, and with the truth of God, it opposes the lies of the Devil. Similarly, the Word of God is offensive because it strengthens the new life we have with Christ Jesus through the forgiveness of sins, it arms us with true purpose by telling us how God views us versus what this world wants us to be, and it gives us the true promises of God to throw verbally at the Devil when he comes our way. May the Word of God – written in Scripture, proclaimed by the Church, and visible in the water of your Baptism and the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper – strengthen and preserve you until life everlasting. As a Christian, you're surrounded by enemies within and without. Too bad for them. Remain in God's Word. Amen.

Pastor

FACEBOOK

Facebook live feed of our Sunday Service has been interrupted. We have lost our ability to live stream our service on Sunday mornings due to constraints from our social media provider. To be able to live stream going forward, we need at least 100 followers on our Facebook page which is St Thomas Lutheran Church.

Everybody can help here by talking to friends and family about following us on Facebook at St Thomas Lutheran Church. It's very simple you just need to go to your Facebook page find Saint Thomas and follow us! Once we obtain over a hundred followers will be able to live stream again. We are actively looking for other solutions as well.

BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS 6:00 P.M.

Statement of Faith

At a recent meeting after our bible study a group of members discussed a statement of faith and this is what they all agreed on.

Scriptural – We believe and proclaim that the writings of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God without error in their entirety delivered through His prophets and apostles and therefore the only rule and norm for the Christian faith (*sola Scriptura*).

In summary: The Old and New Testaments are entirely the Word of God and thus the authority for the Christian faith.

Evangelical – We believe and proclaim that forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation have been obtained for us by the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus apart from any works of our own (*solus Christus*). This good news (Gospel) is the central message of Scripture and the Christian faith.

In summary: The central message of Scripture is the promise of salvation in Christ Jesus, the Gospel.

Confessional – We believe and proclaim that the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian creeds are faithful confessions of the Christian faith in accordance with the Scriptures and that Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* (1529) is likewise a faithful confession of the Christian faith in accordance with the Scriptures. These writings confess with the Christian Church throughout all time that there is one God who is three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Holy Trinity); that Christ Jesus, the Son made man, is fully God and fully human; and that salvation is wrought solely by God's love for us apart from any works of our own (*sola gratia*).

In summary: The Ecumenical Creeds and Martin Luther's Small Catechism faithfully teach the Christian faith in accordance with Scripture.

Sacramental – We believe and proclaim that salvation as accomplished by Christ comes from outside of ourselves as a gift of God. This gift is delivered by the Holy Spirit in its entirety through the proclamation of the Gospel, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper and received through faith in Christ Jesus (*sola fide*).

In summary: The Gospel delivers God's free gift of salvation for all people and is received through faith.

Liturgical – We believe and proclaim that Christians are the family of God in Christ Jesus (the Christian Church) and therefore should gather together regularly to receive the gifts of God for nourishment of faith and to support one another throughout their Christian life with prayer, acts of mercy, and fellowship (*solī Deo gloria*).

In summary: The Christian life is lived in faith toward God, love toward neighbor, and community with the Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Sept. 4 we will be having a joint church group meeting at Christ Lutheran at 7:00 p.m. More information will be in the August newsletter

On Sept 29th we will be having our Annual Meeting after the worship service. We have moved up the date so that we can coincide with Christ Lutheran on working on the budget. Please plan on being there. More information will be in the August newsletter.



CONFIRMANDS

Congratulations to Nicole Manijak and Gabe Manijak on finishing their confirmand studies and were confirmed on Sunday, June 30. We are very proud of them and welcome them into our church family. Congratulations Nicole and Gabe!

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ANNIVERSARY

Join us after the worship service on July 7 in the fellowship hall as we celebrate Pastor Blake's 1st anniversary of his ordination. We will also be remembering Pastor Just's 51st anniversary. See you there!

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MINI-MEN'S RETREAT

Pastor is summoning all the men of both congregations to discuss possible ideas for a mini-men's retreat. If you are interested in helping him plan this event (such as what we'll do), please meet him at Christ Lutheran on July 10th at 7:00 p.m. after that week's Christian Education Night.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NIGHT

Join us for Christian Education Night at Christ and St. Thomas beginning July 10th! Invite friends, family, and coworkers as we dive into the main articles of the Christian faith from a scriptural perspective. Ever wonder: Why do we confess the Old and New Testaments to be the Words of God in their entirety? Where is the Holy Trinity taught in Scripture? How many days did it take God to create the universe? These and other questions will be addressed. You can either join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran or Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Lutheran. *Fides quaerens intellectum* (faith seeks understanding)!

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SANCTUARY PAINTING



The sanctuary will be getting a facelift sometime in July. Del will let us know soon when that will be. We will need help moving things after the service to prepare the painting job.

We will also be doing an update on the shield with our new St. Thomas seal.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Trudy Ayers	Palagia Hlava	Pastor Just	Lorene Kozar
Becky Larkins	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Deb Wolff
Patty Abramovich	Diane Altier	Andrea	Isabella Andrews
Tammy Beach	Beth	Ray Bishop	Heather Burton
Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes	Charles	Charly Crawford
David Colvin	Deacon	Evelyn French	Dennis Fuldauer
Ryan Goodrich	Kenny Hanson	Mary Hardesty	Daniel Gump and wife
Jill	Laura	Logan	McGowan family
Amanda Nicely	Denise Nicely	Richard	Will Robert
Pastor Bob Tauscher	Bennie Wegener		

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

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

Healthy pregnancies for family and friends

Our military veterans All Natural disaster victims

Gaza & Israel victims Ukraine refugees

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

4-David Kanengeiser
10-Steve Crile
11-Bill Crile
12-Diane Reynolds
13-Keith Larkins
20-Bob Earle
23-Sharon Crile



JULY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

2-Diane Lee
20-Jodi Earle
21-Pete Malherek

Happy Anniversary to...
21-Bob & Carole Earle
30-Rory & Deb Wolff

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!

BIBLE STUDIES

Join us throughout the summer on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Lutheran as we study the lectionary readings from the previous Sunday and on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas as we dive into the main articles of the Christian faith from a scriptural perspective.

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Church Council will be meeting Thursday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. 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, Gilbert Ayers and Stephanie 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.

OUR SERVICE PROJECTS

We remember all those who are facing a crisis in their lives. Lutheran Missions Ministry is our main organization that we donate to. Mark on your envelopes "Lutheran Mission Ministry".

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.

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!

Deb Wolff is collecting bottle caps for Ohio Eastern Star Home. They will be using them to make park benches. Thank you!

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

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of May 2024

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	6435.31	50025.49	27377.74
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	5354.11	29921.71	25689.61
NET GAIN (LOSS)	1081.20	20103.78	1688.13
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	265.00	2522.00	425.84
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	390.08	191.59
NET GAIN (LOSS)	265.00	2131.92	234.25
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1608.83	2382.17	1303.70
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1306.73</u>		

Special Funds Include:

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



**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.

PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE

**LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE—PLEASE FOLLOW US
SO WE CAN BE LIVE AGAIN**

OR IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM