

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

May 2021

In this month of May we travel from Easter to Pentecost. We have been in the post-Easter season, in which we have heard repeated stories of our Lord's resurrection appearances to His followers. All of them serve to demonstrate that the resurrection was not the figment of anyone's imagination, but a reality — Jesus could be seen, touched, heard ... He ate, spoke, and drank with them ... the marks of His crucifixion were always visible. There could be no question in the minds of the disciples: this was Jesus who was crucified and He had truly risen.

These narratives serve a second purpose, as well. In each of these accounts, Jesus is preparing the disciples to go on without Him. They did not quite understand what that meant (as we often come to understanding only through hindsight). The Ascension was coming, which meant Jesus was going back to His Father. Had Jesus not shown Himself so often, the disciples might well have concluded that this resurrection business was a dream. But Jesus prepared them to understand that His departure was all part of God's plan, and that they had a coming role in that plan.

That role involved the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Even though the disciples had experienced many wonders in the three years they traveled with Jesus, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was going to be a wholly new adventure. In every one of His appearances, Jesus is positioning them to be ready for that Spirit.

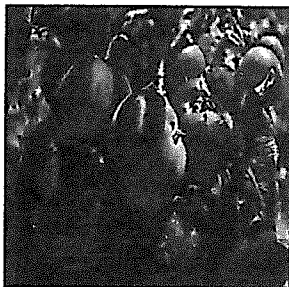
That is what the post-Easter season is for us, also. We are being positioned for Pentecost. What the Holy Spirit does in the life of the Church is so unique and so powerful that we must be readied to receive what God has to give. Often we are not ready, for we do not expect the radical change that the Spirit brings to our personal and corporate lives. We may not even want the change, for it will mean a profound difference in the way we live.

This is what the outpouring of the Holy Spirit means for us — life. We have the new life that Christ won for us in His death and resurrection because the Holy Spirit pours that life into us. We cannot seek it out; we cannot manufacture it; we cannot make this life ours. It is a gift, pure and simple. Because it is a gift, the only way we get it is when the Giver chooses to give it and in the manner the Giver chooses to give it. What we celebrate on the Day of Pentecost is that the Giver has chosen to give us this wondrous gift of life. We often may wish, though, that the manner used with the first disciples would be the manner used with us.

There are several symbols that are used to represent the Holy Spirit, most notably the dove and flames. Both of these come from the Bible: the dove appeared at Jesus' Baptism; the flames at Pentecost. The dove comes quietly, hovering, almost unobtrusively. The flames are accompanied with thunder, wind, noise, commotion. In our circles, most of us have had "dove experiences" with the Holy Spirit. We may long for "flame experiences." But there is yet another image, one not evoked by the Scriptures, but by technology. In a Baptismal hymn, we sing: "*The Spirit's fission shakes the Church of God.*" Our experience of the Holy Spirit goes to the very foundation of who we are and what we must be. In Baptism, God the Giver provides for us a powerful transformation, the "basic building blocks" of our being are recreated.

The changes are not always overt, spectacular, or flashy — like flames. The changes are not necessarily gentle, mild, or cooing — like a dove. The changes are always substantial, life-altering, and dynamic — like nuclear fission. We travel this month from Easter to Pentecost. But we go way beyond that — into the transformed life Jesus won for us. Through the Holy Spirit, we now live for Him.

Our Worship This Month



May 2 — Easter V

Sermon: *“What Does It Mean to Bear Fruit?”*

Texts: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 150; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Jesus teaches us how to draw from Him, the True Vine, what we need to bear fruit.

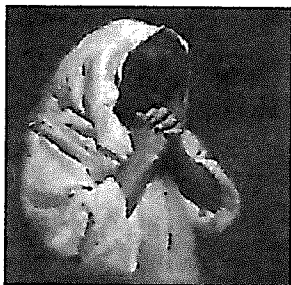


May 9 — Easter VI

Sermon: *“Friends are Not Made, They’re Born”*

Texts: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Jesus gave His new command, by which His followers show their friendship to Him. How do we? We are born to it.



May 16 — Easter VII

Sermon: *“The Lord’s Prayer (for Us)”*

Texts: Acts 1:15-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

We focus not the words we were taught, and often pray, but on the prayer Jesus prayed for us.

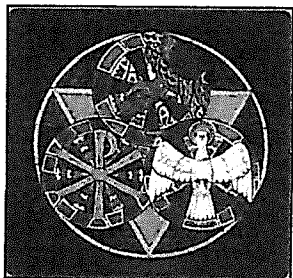


May 23 — The Day of Pentecost

Sermon: *“When the Advocate Comes...”*

Texts: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Jesus told His followers what to expect from the Spirit — they were still surprised. We should be so dazzled.

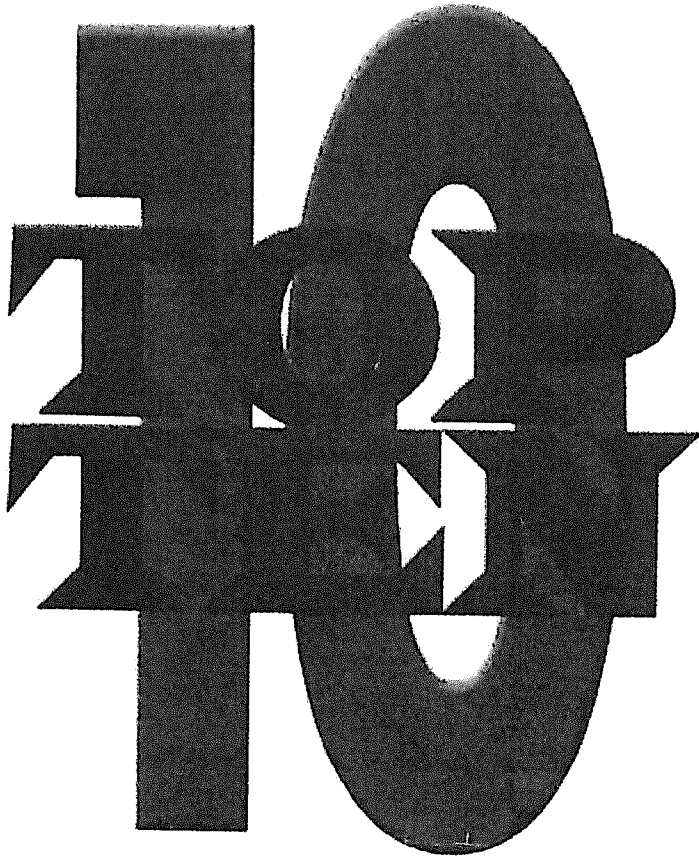


May 30 — The Holy Trinity

Sermon: *“Can You Explain It?”*

Texts: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

We confess a doctrine we cannot explain (which is kind of the point!)



Top 10 Reasons to Support the English District Virtual Gala.

- 10. No long waiting to be seated.**
- 9. No menu mix-ups.**
- 8. Watch parties where you pick the guests.**
- 7. Ease in participation.**
- 6. Opportunity for an attitude of gratitude by living out your thankfulness.**
- 5. Partner in God's Gospel for now and into the future.**
- 4. Express appreciation by supporting those willing to do mission work.**
- 3. Be actively a part of God's Strong Word through your gifts.**
- 2. You do not have to dress up.**
- 1. Your love for the Gospel and seeing people turn towards their Savior Jesus Christ.**

Have you registered for Thy Strong Word Virtual Gala scheduled for Sunday June 13 at 7:30 PM? This is an English District-wide event to celebrate and support the various missions and ministries of the District. There is no cost except your time and energy to explore and rejoice in what God is doing across the District. To register go to the website: www.englishdistrict.org.

On March 11, the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, issued a five-page letter with the title "A Word on the Equality Act." Dr. Harrison expressed his concerns about the ramifications of this proposed legislation. While members are free to agree or disagree with his comments, the comments should be read. A few copies of the letter are to be found in the narthex, or you can read it online at: reporter.lcms.org/2021/lcms-presidents-statement-on-the-equality-act.

MAY'S SERVICE PROJECT

Church council voted to use the month of May to help out the Akron Pregnancy Center. They are in need of bottles, diapers, wipes, formula, layettes and other baby items, baby clothes up to 5T, maternity clothes and anything else you can think of. This is a very worthy cause and really needs help. Robin will drop off the items at the beginning of June. Please bring your item during the month of May. Thank you for your generosity.

If you haven't checked out our church website yet, please do and let Del Groff know how you like it or if there is something you would like to see added. The website is www.stthomasstreetsboro.com

New Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex.

Our April-June Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door or ask Steve for one and he will bring it to your car.

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.

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of Mar. 2021

	CurrentMonth:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	4348.68	15367.04	13170.07
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4100.13	13655.07	13563.51
NET GAIN (LOSS)	248.55	1711.97	(393.44)
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	108.00	5660.00	1487.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	43.48	153.66	180.99
NET GAIN (LOSS)	64.52	5506.34	1306.01
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1087.17	1182.08	1013.08
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1201.83</u>		

Special Funds Include:

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

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR MAY!!

1-Hawaiian Lei Day and May Day	16-Armed Forces Day
4-Star Wars Day	18-Victoria Day (Canada)
5-Cinco de May and Teacher Appreciation Day	22-Maritime Day and Road Trip Day
6-Nurses Day	23-Lucky Penny Day and Taffy Day
10-Mother's Day	24-Tiara Day
11-Eat What You Want Day	28-Hamburger Day
15-Pizza Party Day	31-Memorial Day

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Crile	Jim Doerfler	Carol Earle	Deb Earle
Cory Hautmann	Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Nicole Johnson
Lorene Kozar	Joanna Nicely	Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely III
Kenny Nicely IV	Stephen Nicely	Carol Poston	Heather Poston
Diane Seman	Wolff Family	Becky Larkins & Holly	
Alice Artman	Rick Artman	Roger Black	Barbara's Daughter
Avis Blowers	Patty Bowman	John Butterbaugh	Carl
Chuck	Anna Cooper	Leona Corban	Scott Corban
Tom Corban	Laura Dean	Jamie Dunn	Bill Earle
Billy Earle Jr.	Earle family	Sue Ellinwood	George Foerster
Christine Frank	Bridget Gehri	Ken Granville	Anita Hlava
Kopcak family	Debbie Hovanetz	Janice	John
Sherry Johnson	Kathi	Knapp family	Brad Kozar
Suzanne Latham	Lauren	Kristina Lonardo	Tyler Lutz
Dave Lauver	Lori	Anne Mack	Frank Manijak
Nadine Nicely	Samantha Nicely	Inge Osborne	Sandy & Ron Platten
Karen Power	Peter Power	Valonte Ragland	Latesha Ragland
John Rutherford	Leslie Slanina	Tim Tolodzieski	Kenneth Udovic
Denny Wood	Zack	COVID-19 patients	The National Guard
Family Units being attacked by Satan		All Marriages to stay strong in Christ	
Safety for all our school and college students			

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

Mrs. Audrey Holland
4552 Aspen Lake Road
Apartment 102
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582

Carole & Heather Poston
3096 E. Pioneer
Aurora, OH 44202

Recently had surgery
Lorene Kozar
681 Sweetnut Ct
Streetsboro, OH 44241

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann and Joanna Nicely
Our Military member—Troy Roman

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
Guy and Judith Jeanblanc

**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 THE CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US INSIDE