

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

August 2021

FOOD!

Years ago I wrote a song for one of the Ohio District Youth Gatherings. It seems appropriate for this month of August.

*Oh, we stuff our mouths with Fritos
And we pig out on Doritos,
As we gobble up the Whoppers and BigMacs;
We keep poppin' Bubblicious
And assorted stir-fry dishes
But we're knowing that there's
something that we lack —*

Refrain:

*Food! We need food!
Hearty, satisfying, body-building, good!
Not the food of bread and meat,
Of the Spirit's fruit we'll eat —
Yes! the Bread of Life will be our daily food.
The whole menu's tantilizin'
Twinkies, Ho-ho's, and fruit pies in
All assorted flavors, not to mention shapes.
Instant oatmeal and Booberry*

*Artificial orange, cherry,
Soon there's to be wine that's
never touched a grape. (Refrain)*

*So for breakfast, lunch or dinner
You can always be a winner
If your table's laden with the very best —*

*Mrs. Paul's or Colonel Sanders,
Uncle Ben's, Arby's, or Planters;
Doesn't matter if it's nourishing —
it's fast! (Refrain)*

*Lord, forgive us for abusing
Our poor bodies and for using
All this cardboard, plastic, polysorbate food.
But much more we need Your favor
As we gather here to savor:
Let us taste You, Lord,
and see that You are good! (Refrain)*

What amazes me is how little has changed over the more than three decades since I wrote the song. Most of the same brands are there, and the same problem with nutrition plagues our nation, in fact, it has gotten worse. Obesity is epidemic, and with it the concomitant rise in the rate of diabetes escalates. Our use of food (if that's what some of this can be called) is really more like abuse.

So what has that to do with this month of August? For four of the five Sundays this month our focus in worship will be on the sixth chapter of John's Gospel. That chapter begins by relating the miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. The remainder of the chapter then reflects on the meaning of that feeding and how it relates to Christ as The Bread of Life. So food will be the major focus in our worship for most of this month.

Food is a topic to which most of us give attention. Many of us overeat. Some of us undereat, some because food no longer tastes as good as it once did, others because there is not enough money for food. Some actually do both overeat and undereat; it's called bulimia.

Some of us suffer from food allergies. Some of us just can't stand the smell or taste of certain

foods. Some of us won't eat certain foods that we were made to eat as children (my dad would not drink orange juice because, as a child, his mother had mixed cod liver oil into it). We understand food. But that doesn't mean that we use it rightly.

We understand Jesus as the Bread of Life — that is, we get the concept. We need to feed on Him if we are to have life to the full as He promised. We recognize in the Sacrament the gift of His Body and Blood; Jesus tells us: “. . . *my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.*” We get that. But do we make proper use of it?

We hear reports and read about studies that show how far most Americans are from a healthy diet, and yet we do not make changes in our eating habits that reflect what we learn. In much the same way we understand that Jesus is the only real source of nourishment for our faith, and yet we stay away from the very meal whereby He offers us Himself to eat and drink. How then can we be healthy spiritually?

My prayer is that each of you will commit to be in worship throughout August to learn more about the blessing the Bread of Life has to offer, to eat and drink deeply of His Body and Blood, and to gain the rich sustenance that He offers to you. Come and taste that the Lord is good — not just as an abstract idea, but as a deep-rooted reality of your ongoing spiritual life.

Our Worship This Month



August 1— Pentecost X

Sermon: “*All Kinds of Gifts*”

Texts: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Narratives abound about how God provided for His people through the ages. Such gifts are often taken for granted. We do so to our loss.

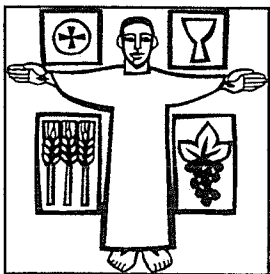


August 8 — Pentecost XI

Sermon: “*Power Food — Part I*”

Texts: 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

The narrative following the Feeding of 5,000 flows with the narratives of the Old Testament to affirm how God's gifts empower us.



August 15 — Pentecost XII

Sermon: “*Power Food — Part II*”

Texts: Proverbs 9:16; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Wisdom is a benefit of proper spiritual nourishment. We are invited to partake so that we may be filled with the Spirit's wisdom.



August 22 - Pentecost XIII

Sermon: *"Word Power"*

Texts: Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18; Psalm 14; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-59

The last of the Bread of Life narrative refocuses our attention on the source of our nourishment — God's Word.



August 29 - Pentecost XIV

Sermon: *"Be Observant, Not Obsessed"*

Texts: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9; Psalm 119; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Jesus chides the Pharisees for the way they misused the Law of God. We need to listen closely to Him, lest we, too, fail to honor it.

"Normal"

At its July 18 meeting, the Church Council once again discussed what steps to take, especially in our worship, so that we can return to "normal." Because of the uptick in the CoVid19 Delta variant (and now we are just hearing about the Lambda variant in India), the decision was made to make no changes just now.

You may recall in the June newsletter we announced: "We have already taken steps in that direction: We opened up the pews by removing any barriers (although we still encourage social distancing). We keep the signs on the doors addressing concern for each other by using masks (especially in consideration those who may not yet have been vaccinated). We no longer feel compelled to mark each person's temperature. Hand sanitizer is still available in the narthex (before, during, and after the pandemic, this is good idea)."

With the impending flu season, mask wearing is still an excellent idea, but not required. We will continue our communion distribution pattern (although there may be a few minor changes in our liturgy at that point). Our localized radio broadcast to the parking lot will continue, as will our worship shared on Facebook.

Council will continue to monitor the situation with CoVid19 and make adjustments as seems appropriate. If you have suggestions, please contact any Council member or Pastor Just.

*Thank
You!*

Our thanks to Rory Wolff for the many hours he has invested this month working with Spectrum (and at times against them) to get our new internet system installed and running, and for many hours getting our worship broadcasts shaped up. We do appreciate his efforts and accomplishments, as well as the help many others offered him.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile	Jim Doerfler	Carol Earle	Corey Hautmann
Linda Hautmann	Palagia Hlava	Stephanie Johnson	Lorene Kozar
Ken Nicely II	Kenny Nicely III	Kenny Nicely IV	Stephen Nicely
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Amy Rohaley	Becky Larkins & Holly
Alexa	Aaron	Roger Black	Patty Bowman
Carl	Lana Carnes	Anna Cooper	Bryan Corban
Leona Corban	Scott Corban	Tom Corban	Claire Coumos
Deb Defer	Mary Defer	Jamie Dunn	Sue Ellinwood
Dan Erlandson	George Foerster	Christine Frank	Ken Granville
Anita Hlava	Charles Hovavetz	Debbie Hovanetz	Janice
Jayne	John	Suzanne Latham	Laura, Greg & Avis
Lauren	Tyler Lutz	Dave Lauver	Lori
Frank Manijak	Mary	Samantha Nicely	Inge Osborne
Sandy Platten	Jodie Powers	Karen Power	Peter Power
Valonte Ragland	Latesha Ragland	Jessica Reker	Leo Rohaley
Leslie Slanina	Tim Tolodzieski	Kenneth Udovic	Linda Valetta and family
Jay Veletta	Bennie Wegener	Dan Wiley	Denny Wood
Carol Yurkschatt	Doris Zimmerman	COVID-19 patients	

Homeless served by LMM

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

Mrs. Audrey Holland	Carole & Heather Poston	Lorene Kozar
Willowwood Care Room 1001	3096 E. Pioneer	681 Sweetnut Ct
1186 Hancock Rd.	Aurora, OH 44202	Streetsboro, OH 44241
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582		

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

8-Denise Nicely
11-Steve Manijak
23-Marla Manijak
27-Lori Ludeman
30-Marcy Harrison
31-Tracy Fuldauer



AUGUST BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

Happy Anniversary to...
2-Tom & Jen Jones
2-Kenny & Amanda Nicely

SERVICE PROJECT

With the children out of school there is a need for food to feed them. Please bring in your food items or monetary donation during the month of August to be given to the Streetsboro Community Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Grace Rohaley who finally received her diploma July 30-31 with a Baccalaureate and graduation ceremony! Due to covid her graduation was not able to take place last year. We are so proud of you Grace and so happy for you!

Congratulations to Alayna Borovicka Nicely who received her 2nd MVP award and the MVP ball from her recent softball season. She is also an outstanding pitcher who played in the all-star game and led her team to a victory. Alayna is the daughter of Amanda and Kenny Nicely and the granddaughter of Joyce Torres. Proud of you Alayna!

Congratulations to Deb Wolff for receiving the Barbara Donaho extinguished leadership in learning award from Kent State College of Nursing. Way to go Deb!

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

Our July-September 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 Wednesdays or Thursdays from 8:00-4:00. Please call ahead to make sure he is there.

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of May, 2021

	CurrentMonth:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	4487.36	24016.58	22208.88
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4160.63	26093.70	25598.79
NET GAIN (LOSS)	326.73	(2077.12)	(3389.91)
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	92.00	5814.00	2058.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	44.57	239.85	281.60
NET GAIN (LOSS)	47.43	5574.15	1776.40
Average General Fund Income Per Week	897.47	1091.66	1009.49
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

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 PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE