

# The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church – Streetsboro, Ohio

May 2024



The ascension of Jesus into heaven is a comfort for the Christian. The same Lord who saw the plight of the sick, demon-possessed, outcasts, and sinners is the same Jesus who now rules over all things as God and man at the right hand of God the Father. The same Jesus who has promised life to those who believe in Him died for the forgiveness of humanity's sins, and rose to conquer death on behalf of all humanity is the one who directs all things towards its final goal: the restoration of all things (Acts 3:21). Seated in divine majesty, the risen and ascended Jesus watches over, sustains, and cares for all creation, even you.

God the Son is not some out-of-touch despot with more power and authority than He deserves. He is not the sort of leader who seeks positions of honor and authority so that He can benefit Himself and the people closest to Him. The Lord is not some public personality who performs acts of charity for good publicity and tax cuts. Rather, He is the Lord who came down from heaven and became man, so that He might bear the infirmities and diseases of this fallen world in His body (Matthew 8:17). The Creator of heaven and earth became a creature so that you may receive the adoption as children, the redemption of your body (Romans 8:19).

The Lord reigns to put death and all your enemies underfoot (1 Corinthians 15:25). He has been exalted above all powers and authorities that He may be present with all things (Ephesians 1:23). Now you do not see His lordship with your eyes. On the final day, His rule will become manifest to all eyes when death gives way to life, suffering to joy, injustice to justice, sin to righteousness, and shame to honor. In the meantime, you know that Christ Jesus is watching over us, that He hears the prayers of His people, and that He directs all things towards your salvation. Such waiting is not easy. So, with the Church of every age, we eagerly cry, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Pastor

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

Thank you so much for celebrating my birthday with me in March. Your kindness, hospitality, and willingness to serve remind me that St. Thomas Lutheran Church is not some voluntary organization. Rather, we are much more. We are truly (not metaphorically) the family of God in Christ Jesus, I consider myself truly blessed to be your brother and pastor.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Blake

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

**Why is the resurrection** of Jesus the foundation of the Christian faith? What can we know about the resurrection using the tools of the historian? Why is it good that the various accounts of the resurrection differ from each other? What can we know about the eternal life promised to us from Jesus' resurrection to life everlasting? Please join us at Christ Lutheran on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and St. Thomas on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. to discuss these and other questions in our Bible study "Resurrection: Confession and History."

## **National Day of Prayer**

**The National Day of Prayer** is May 2nd. We are having a joint worship service between Christ and St. Thomas at St. Thomas on Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. to commemorate it. The theme is "Praying in Jesus: Abba, Father."

## **Ohio District Summit0**

**Trying to lead** your church through a rapidly changing culture can feel overwhelming. That's why the Ohio District, in partnership with FiveTwo Network, is bring together churches of all sizes to pray together, learn from each other, and work together to map out practical "next-steps" plans for your congregation. Plans that help you make the necessary changes to thrive in your community for generations to come. You don't have to go it alone. You don't have to keep wondering how God wants you to use the resources he's given you. Register now for this collaborative working event and walk away feeling energized and encouraged to act on the plan you will create. You can still register leaders for the summit, which if from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on May 18 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Parma. If you are interested in representing Christ/St. Thomas at this conference, please speak to Pastor. Rides can be arranged.

## **Parsonage Improvements**

**The parsonage** is getting new air conditioning on May 4<sup>th</sup>. To help out with this project you can donate to this fund by marking your envelope or check A/C parsonage. To volunteer on that day please see Pastor.

## **Property Committee**

**The property committee** will be meeting May 19<sup>th</sup> after the worship service to discuss next steps on outside work that needs to be done.

## **Vacation Bible School**

**Christ Lutheran** will be hosting VBS June 24<sup>th</sup>-28 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a dinner at 5:00 p.m. each night. The theme is PETS. Volunteers are needed to help out with this program. See Pastor or Ruth to volunteer your services.

## **Men & Women retreats**

**Plans are in the works** to have a Men and a Women retreat sometime in the future. If you are interested in one of these retreats let one of the council members know.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Trudy Ayers	Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman	Pastor Just
Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins	Marla Manijak	Timothy Nicely
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Patty Abramovich	Adalyn
Diane Altier	Isabella Andrews	Beth	Betsy
Ray Bishop	Barb Basmagy	Archer Bradshaw	Heather Burton
Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes	Charly Crawford	David Colvin
Deacon	Evelyn French	Dennis Fuldauer	Daniel Gump
Mary Hardesty	Heather	Heather	Jill
Karen	Lance	Laura	Theresa Ludwigsen
Frank Manijak	Logan	McGowan family	Amanda Nicely
Deb Pppuska	Richard	Will Robert	Eleanor Sears
Heather Shuman	Steve	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

Victims in Windham tornado

Victims in Indian Lake and other areas from tornados

Healthy pregnancies for family and friends

Our military veterans All Natural disaster victims

Gaza & Israel victims Maui survivors

COVID-19 patients

**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

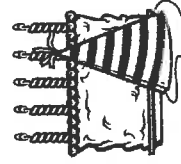
Lorene Kozar  
8460 Westport Dr. #225  
Mentor, Oh 44060

**Thank you** for all your prayers for Weston. He received 1 year probation and is finally home with his family. Your prayers were greatly appreciated!

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## MAY BIRTHDAYS

**Birthdays**  
4-Leona Corban  
6-Lorene Kozar  
14-Mike Phillips  
24-Deb Earle



## MAY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

### **Baptism Birthdays**

1-Deb Wolff  
13-Nicole Manijak  
14-Ian Phillips  
19-Tim Nicely  
23-Jen Jones

Happy Anniversary to...

1 Steve & Marla Manijak  
12 Steve & Sherry Crile  
13-Blake & Ruth Martzowka  
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!**

**Church Council** will be meeting Thursday, May 16 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

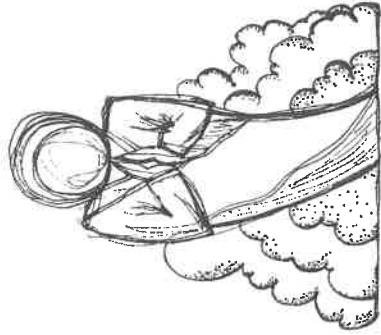
**We remember** all those who are facing a crisis in their lives. Lutheran Missions Ministry is our main organization that we donate to. They are doing a great job helping these families. Mark on your envelopes "Lutheran Mission Ministry".

**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.

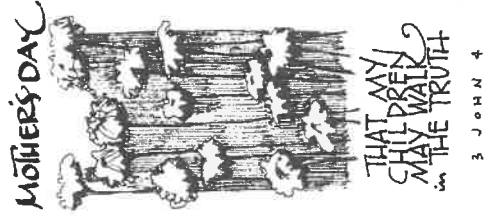
**Becky Larkins** is collecting Paper towels and toilet paper rolls for craft projects. Also 2 litre plastic bottles. You may give them to Deb Wolff. Thank you!

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

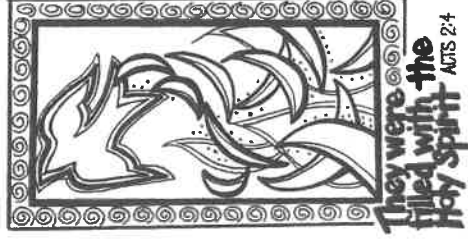
**Deb Wolff** has pickles ready. Please bring back your empty jars and she will fill them up again. The pickles are delicious!!



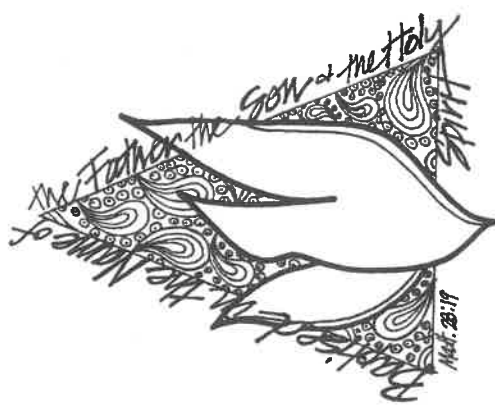
Ascension of our Lord  
May 9



Mother's Day  
May 11



Pentecost  
May 19



Holy Trinity  
May 26

## 1st Quarter state of the congregation report

Thanks to you, the results from our successful stewardship campaign are being noticed. There's been an increase in both the offerings and involvement in a couple of key committees.

While our expenses are about 10% higher than they were in the first quarter of 2023, this has been mostly within our budget. Since our offerings have increased about 28% over this time last year, we have been able to add to our savings. This can help offset costs of any unbudgeted expenses as we look to make needed improvements to our property (i.e. - sound system) in the 2nd quarter. Please note that \$1500 of this increase in donations was for March's 5th Sunday collection for Freedom House.

Keep your eyes and ears open to future opportunities announced in our bulletins and newsletters.

Steve Hlava  
Treasurer

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering

**There will be a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in June and council has designated Safer Future women's shelter as our organization we will be donating to. You will get reminders in you church bulletin. Thank you!**

#### TREASURERS REPORT - Month of March 2024

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	8176.00	37008.00	17954.36
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	5227.10	15141.50	13742.10
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>2948.90</b>	<b>21866.50</b>	<b>4212.26</b>
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	239.00	387.00	247.50
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	81.76	190.08	109.56
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>157.24</b>	<b>196.92</b>	<b>137.94</b>
Average General Fund Income Per Week	<b>1635.20</b>	<b>2846.77</b>	1381.10
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

**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](http://www.stthomasstreetsboro.com)**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.**

**PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE**

**LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

**OR IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM**

**BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS 6:00 P.M.**