

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church – Streetsboro, Ohio

June 2024



As Christians, we worship the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Since the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equally God we can pray to all three persons of the Trinity. Our Lord Jesus invites us to ask Him for things in His name (John 14:13). Many Christian hymns have been written entreating God the Holy Spirit to act, such as the old Latin hymn “Come, Creator Spirit.” Today we focus on prayer to the First Person of the Trinity, God the Father, in the name of Jesus. Jesus teaches us about such prayer in John 16: **“I assure you that whatever you ask the Father He will give you in my name.”** (John 16:23)

In this way, our Lord Jesus invites us to pray to God the Father in His name. What does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus? It means to pray with faith in Jesus Christ. It is only through Christ Jesus that we can approach the Father. Hence our sermon today is entitled “Praying in Jesus: Abba, Father.” Without Jesus, we would not have the First Person of the Trinity, Jesus’ Father, as our Father in heaven. It is because of Jesus’ death on the cross that we have been reconciled to God and we can now call Jesus’ Father our Father. The sins that once separated us from God

have been washed away by Jesus’ blood. Because our sins have been washed away, we can approach God without fear of unworthiness or punishment. All of our prayers are heard and answered on account of Christ Jesus’ worthiness and merit.

Why does it seem as though God our Father does not answer all of our prayers? We must make a distinction between God the Father answering prayers and God the Father answering prayers as we would like Him to. Sometimes God’s answer is not the answer we would expect. As our Father in heaven, He knows what is best for us. He knows what is best for us more than we do. The Father has our ultimate well-being in mind when He hears our prayers. For example, He will never answer a request that will result in us losing our faith or falling away from our salvation. God works all things for our salvation and ultimate well-being, and this working means that He does not always grant us what we ask for because He knows better what does and does not contribute to our ultimate well-being. When we pray to God the Father, we acknowledge that He knows best and has our best interest in mind because He loves us.

Moreover, when we pray according to the Father’s will, such as when we pray for things related to our salvation, like forgiveness, the Father is compelled to answer our prayers. Whenever we ask for forgiveness, we can be sure that God the Father will forgive our sins right then and there, because He has sent His Son to die for the forgiveness of all our sins. Similarly, we can pray for all the gifts God has promised to give us, knowing that God remains faithful to His promises: **“There has not failed one word of all His good promise”** (1 Kings 8:56). And when we are praying for things other than what God has promised to give us, such as forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit, and eternal life, we can still be confident that He hears our prayer and will answer according to His steadfast love and faithfulness. Do not be afraid to pray for that car you want to buy or the tomato plants you hope will grow well. Just understand that in such matters your Father hears your prayers and will answer the way He sees fit.

However the Father may answer our prayers, we can be sure that He will always answer the heart of our prayers. Much of the time when we ask for something it is because we think it will improve the quality of our lives in some way. God our Father knows what we need when we pray, and He will always give us what *He* knows we need. Some have called prayer the heartbeat of the Christian life. This description is not wrong. Prayer is an expression of your relationship to God. When you bring all of your concerns to God regularly, you are expressing confidence in Him, that He hears you, and that He cares for you, and that you can trust Him with your needs. Pray regularly and confidently in the name of Jesus. You can call the First Person of the Trinity, "Abba, Father," just as Jesus Christ does because He is now your Abba, dear Father on account of Christ Jesus. And your dear Abba loves boisterous children who are constantly coming to Him to ask questions, say thank you, get help, ask for something, or just talk. Amen.

Pastor

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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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Spiritual Life and Evangelism Meeting

On June 6th after our Bible Study we will be having our first Spiritual Life and Evangelism Meeting to discuss a proposed Statement of Faith for St. Thomas' website and promotional materials. If any is interested in being on the Spiritual Life and Evangelism Committee, they are invited to attend and make their interest known. Or if people just want to come and discuss the statement of faith, that is fine as well.

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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)!

Graduates

Congratulations to Nicole Manijak on her recent graduation from Streetsboro High School on May 21 and from Maplewood Career Center on May 28. Nicole studied Criminal Justice at Maplewood and is looking to pursue that as a career in the future. Congratulations Nicole!

Congratulations also to Joanna Nicely on her recent graduation from Kent State University on May 11. Joanna received her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health concentrated in clinical trials research. Congratulations Joanna!

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First Communion

On May 5 St. Thomas welcomed **Nicole and Gabe Manijak** to the Lord's table for their first communion. They are finishing up their confirmation classes soon and will be confirmed at a later date.

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Vacation Bible School

Christ Lutheran will be hosting VBS June 24th-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.

Church Council will be meeting Thursday, June 20 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!!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Trudy Ayers	Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman	Pastor Just
Lorene Kozar	Becky Larkins	Marla Manijak	Timothy Nicely
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Deb Wolff	Patty Abramovich
Adalyn	Diane Altier	Isabella Andrews	Joe Bandier
Beth	Betsy	Ray Bishop	Barb Basmagy
Archer Bradshaw	Heather Burton	Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes
Charles	Charly Crawford	David Colvin	Deacon
Evelyn French	Dennis Fuldauer	Ryan Goodrich	Daniel Gump
Mary Hardesty	Heather	Heather	Bob Isaman
Jill	Karen	Lance	Larry
Laura	Logan	McGowan family	Amanda Nicely
Deb Prpuska	Richard	Mario Rios	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

Ukraine refugees

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

17-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Stephen Nicely
25-Del Groff
26-Ruth Martzowka
27-Gilbert Ayers
29-Corey Hautmann
30-Diane Lee



JUNE BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

10-Deb Earle
18-Jim Doerfler
24-Logan Hagen
24-Gavin Hagen
24-Samantha Weber
24-Vickie Weber
24-Jillian Earle

Happy Anniversary to...
8-Tina & Russ Hagen
21-Rocky & Kim Kinder
29-Steve & Palagia Hlava

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!

New addresses

**Steve and Sherry Crile
7985 Selwick Dr.
Parma, Ohio 44129**

**Pat Repicky
4039 Oakmont Ct.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702-5300**

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5th Sunday offering

There will be a 5th 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 April 2024

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	6582.18	43590.18	22555.72
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	9426.10	24567.60	18491.29
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(2843.92)	19022.58	4064.43
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	1870.00	2257.00	329.84
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	200.00	390.08	191.59
NET GAIN (LOSS)	1670.00	1866.92	138.25
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1645.55	2564.13	1326.81
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



Happy Father's Day!!

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.

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.