



Suffering is only a problem if God exists. If there is no God, then suffering is just a part of existence like atoms, water, and air. It is neither good or bad. Suffering just happens. There are no valid grounds for the organism to complain about the life they have. Therefore, the argument against God's existence on the basis of suffering only works if God actually exists. Whenever we experience suffering, we have a sense that things are not the way that they should be. We are convinced that suffering is not just a part of existence but that it is *wrong*. Some people try to overcome this natural response to suffering through meditation or by tricking themselves into believing that there is not right and wrong. This sense of wrongness in response to suffering testifies to the fact that the life we experience in this world is disordered, which is only true if there is a God, a personal being who created all things and hence has a will for His creation not yet fully realized in the world.

Scripture testifies that out of love God created all things and that He made them *good*. Suffering came into the world through the sin of man which alienated him from his Creator. By willfully rebelling against his Creator, man rejected the good order created by the Creator and opened himself to the disorder, death, and suffering experienced in our world today (Romans 5:12). And since God had given man responsibility to care for creation, now all creation suffers and reaps the fruit of its negligent steward (Genesis 1:26; Romans 8:20). The suffering we experience in the world, then, stands as a testimony against man's waywardness and the fact that we are born alienated from our Creator (the source of all life and goodness) without any fear, love, or trust in Him. Yet things in the world could be a lot worse than they are. Complete separation from the Creator means non-existence. So, the question we should ask is why do things continue to exist and why is there any good in the world as opposed to perpetual suffering?

The world continues to exist because God, our creator, continues to love His creation and desires to save it. For this reason, He continues to sustain creation by giving us air to breath, food to eat, clothes to wear and children to love. He preserves this creation instead of starting all over because He loves *this* creation and not another. He continues to create new generations of human beings because He loves wayward Adam and all of His rebellious descendants. He loves you. "[God our Savior] desires all people to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4) Moreover, God wills that this "creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:21) God preserves this creation for the time being in its brokenness because He intends to repair it. It is this God of love who uses all things, even suffering, for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

In order to save us and creation, God has even become one with this creation by assuming our humanity and becoming man in the womb of the Virgin Mary (John 1:14). As part of our creation, He willingly lived the highs and lows of our present existence. He partied with family, friends, and strangers. Out of love, He helped the poor, healed the sick, and sought the wayward. He suffered rejection, isolation, insults, the death of loved ones, and even an excruciating and ignominious death on a cross. God became fully human and a part of creation in person and deed so that He might redeem creation. It is this individual who fully God and fully man conquered suffering and the grave as the first fruits of a new creation through His bodily resurrection from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:23). This individual is none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has reconciled the wayward creation to Himself through His incarnation, life, death, and resurrection so that we

have the sure hope of eternal life and the restoration of all the good creation He dearly loves (1 Peter 1:3).

Suffering is a problem in this life, a problem resulting from human sin, yet a problem that God has and can use for a greater good, and a problem that God has promised to deliver us from on that day when we shall see Him face to face. God loves this creation and so He preserves it for the time being – imperfections and all. He has preserved this creation to redeem and restore it through Christ Jesus. He is not done sharing the news and hope of this salvation with humans in this creation, so people continue to be born into this world. Whatever suffering comes our way, we remember that a loving and good God is in control of all things and He has given us and all creation victory through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. We can even rejoice in our suffering knowing that what we experience is what our Lord experienced and because we share in His suffering we shall also share in His resurrection (Romans 8:17-18). Amen.

Pastor Blake

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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.

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CAMP OUT

There will be a camp out at Christ on August 2 starting at 6 with a meal at 7. Bring a tent and a side dish for dinner. Join us for God's Word, fellowship food and fun!



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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NIGHT

Join us for Christian Education Night at Christ on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. and at St. Thomas Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.! 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. *Fides quaerens intellectum* (faith seeks understanding)!

BIBLE STUDIES are also being held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Lutheran as we study the lectionary readings from the previous Sunday.



Thank you to the property committee for seeing to the painting project in the Sanctuary. It looks great! Thank you to everyone who helped remove and replace all the items for the paint job! Your help was greatly appreciated.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

There will be a women's retreat at Christ for both congregations on August 24th from 11:00-2:00. Join us for food, painting, God's Word, and fellowship. The admission fee is \$25 per person for the cost of painting. Bring your own beverage (and a friend). Sign up in the Narthex!

YOUTH NIGHT

Youth night will be held September 21st at Christ from 6:00-10:00 for food, games, and a Bible study. Topic for the Bible study: People You Should Know: Jesus of Nazareth. Who is Jesus? What can we know about Him? Why is He important for our lives? Any adults willing to serve as volunteers are welcomed (and desired)? Free!



MINI-MEN'S RETREAT



Pastor is summoning all the men of both congregations to join him for a Mini-men's retreat on October 12th from 1:00-5:00. Join us for God's Word, BBQ, and a movie. Free, even though donations for food expenses are welcome. Bring your own drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). Topic: God's Call for men: What does God call us as men to do? Sign up in the Narthex!

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.

Church Council will be meeting Thursday, August 15 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.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Kathy Braeshear	Palagia Hlava	Pastor Just	Lorene Kozar
Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Deb Wolff	Patty Abramovich
Diane Altier	Allison	Andrea	Isabella Andrews
Tammy Beach	Betsy	Ray Bishop	Heather Burton
Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes	Dan	David Colvin
Deacon	Dennis Fuldauer	Garbowski family	Ryan Goodrich
Daniel Gump and wife	Kenny Hanson	Mary Hardesty	Kathy
Logan	McGowan family	Amanda Nicely	Denise Nicely
Patriots family	Richard	Will Robert	Pastor Bob Tauscher
Tina	Joe Wargo	Bennie Wegener	Carol VanVaulkenburg

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, 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



School will be back in session this month. Please keep our students, bus drivers and teachers in your prayers for a safe and happy school year!

Please remember to pay attention when you see a school bus. Always slow down for their **yellow** lights so you are ready to stop when they turn **red**! Thank you!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

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



AUGUST BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

20-Ruth Martzowka

Happy Anniversary to...
 2-Tom & Jen Jones

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!

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.

Donate to the Go-Fund Me to help Kevin Toothman's family pay for funeral expenses, food, and other unexpected costs. Kevin was the brother-in-law of Katie Toothman (daughter of Pastor Esala, the former vacancy pastor at Christ), husband, and father of two young children. He passed away unexpectedly. The link for his Go-Fund Me is <https://everloved.com/life-of/kevin-toothman/>.

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

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of June 2024

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	8486.00	58511.49	30507.08
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4214.21	34135.92	30570.03
NET GAIN (LOSS)	4271.79	24375.57	(62.95)
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	1223.25	3745.25	472.84
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	64.16	454.24	245.18
NET GAIN (LOSS)	1159.09	3291.01	227.66
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1697.20	2250.44	1173.35
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

BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS 6:00 P.M.