

The Parish Voice

May 2025



Holy Scripture – the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament – are the word of God in their entirety. As St. Paul teaches us: “*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) *All Scripture* – each and every word – is breathed out by God. The Greek word translated in English as “breathed out by God” is *theopneustos*. *Theopneustos* literally means “God-Spirited,” that is, all Scripture is filled with and comes from the Spirit of God, the third person of the Trinity. For this reason, Holy Scripture is the ultimate rule

and norm for what we believe and how we live. The how we live (Law) ultimately directs us to whom we believe (Gospel), the central message of Scripture, as the Gospel of John says: “*But these things were written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*” (John 20:31)

This word has been preserved for us through the centuries in the form of thousands of manuscripts. A manuscript is a handwritten copy of a document (*manu* – hand; *script* – writing). Before the invention of the printing press in the 16th century, the only way to copy the Scriptures was by hand. Some of these manuscripts are written in Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic (the original languages of the Bible), whereas others are written in other languages such as Latin, Syriac, Coptic, etc. Even the manuscripts written in languages other than the original languages of the Holy Scriptures are valuable because they are translations of earlier copies of the Holy Scriptures in their original languages. For example, the Septuagint (often abbreviated as LXX) is a Greek translation of the entire Old Testament. This translation was made sometime around the third century B.C. Therefore, the manuscripts that it is based on are very old, providing us a window into what the text of the Old Testament looked like around that time.

Sadly, we no longer have the autographs for the books of Holy Scripture (the original copies written by the various authors). Nonetheless we do have very early manuscripts, such as Papyrus 52 (a copy of St. John’s Gospel from around 125 A.D.), Papyrus 137 (a copy of St.

Mark's Gospel from around 150 A.D.), Papyrus 46 (a copy of St. Paul's letters from around 175 A.D.), and Papyrus 75 (a copy of St. Luke and St. John's Gospels from around 175 A.D.). These are only a few of the thousands of manuscripts we have available. Moreover, we have very early copies of the various Old Testament books in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek from around 200 B.C. to 100 A.D. that were discovered at Qumran along the Dead Sea (what we call the Dead Sea Scrolls). And to top that off, in addition to manuscripts, we also have thousands of quotes from the Holy Scriptures preserved in the writings of early Jewish and Christian writers.

When we compare our thousands of manuscripts together, we do see that the text has changed over time, because errors are bound to happen when a document is being handwritten. At the same time, with all of these manuscripts and their differences, we discover that not one article of the Christian faith is undermined by such differences. Textual criticism (known among conservative Christians as "lower criticism"), an invaluable academic endeavor for us Bible-believing Christians, is the scholarly study of these manuscripts in an attempt to reconstruct the original text of the Holy Scriptures. Scholars are relatively certain that because of these manuscripts and quotations we are able to reconstruct with certainty 99.5% of what the authors originally wrote. Praise God! Nonetheless, there are some common (and rather minor) changes that have occurred over the thousands of years the Holy Scriptures have been handed down to us. We will talk about some of those next month. *"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever."* (Psalm 119:160) Amen.

Pastor Blake

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BIBLE STUDIES

BIBLE STUDIES have resumed at Christ on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. (topic: Gospel of John) and at St. Thomas on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (topic: Biblical Stewardship).

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ENGLISH DISTRICT CONVENTION

The Convention will be held June 26-28 at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI. All high school aged youth (ages 14-18) are invited to apply to attend as Youth Delegates along with our Voting Delegates, Advisory Delegates, and Guests. The application is needed for them to forward to the youth a registration form. Travel, lodging and meals are all covered for each youth delegate. The youth will explore what it means to be a disciple in 2025 by diving deep into the theme "Living Your Baptized Life in Christ." The program will include a strong servant component, an overview of the convention, engaging breakout sessions, late-night camaraderie, and a youth group celebration before we conclude our time together. What will the youth take away from the experience? It is our prayer that post-convention youth will understand discipleship can be a beautiful collaboration between baptized believer, the Holy Spirit, and God's word, guiding us toward transformative action on our life journey. DCE Emily Leising from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Medina can answer any questions you may have or you can contact DCE Rod Lane from Redeemer Lutheran in Lincoln, NE at dcerod@redeemerlincoln.org or 402-499-0807. Any youth interested please let Pastor Blake know so he can get the application form to you.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Women of St. Thomas are starting a prayer group that will meet every Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. before service to pray for the people on the prayer list, God's ministry at St. Thomas, and our brothers and sisters in Christ. This gathering is a time devoted to prayer. All women of the congregation are welcome to join us in the room across from Pastor's office.

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FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

The Feast of the Ascension will be celebrated on May 29th at 7:00 p.m. in place of the Bible Study.

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Please join Pastor Blake on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for devotions, prayer, coffee, and fellowship. Pastor will lead devotion and prayer followed by fellowship.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Joyce Torres** for taking 7th place out of 37 drivers in the recent Regional Bus Rodeo. Joyce will be heading to Columbus for the State Bus Rodeo on May 10th. Good luck Joyce!!

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SNACK MAKERS

We would love to have goodies for our after worship fellowship time and also for our bible studies. See Robin for more information.



Happy Mother's Day!

Stewardship Thoughts – May 2025

Stewardship in the Body of Christ

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”* This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”* In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”* Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

CHRIST LUTHERAN EVENTS

MANTUA VARIETY MARKET

The Mantua Farmers Market that is held in the lower parking lot at Christ Lutheran each summer has been renamed *Mantua Variety Market* to reflect the true nature of the market. You can sell anything—produce, bakery, jam, honey, eggs, syrup, plants, flowers, garage sale items—as long as it is legal. Sales are on Saturdays 9 AM to 1 PM. Season runs from May 17th through August 23rd (closed July 5th). Vendor fees are only \$1.00 per date. Please consider this opportunity to make some cash for only a \$1.00 fee. Call Diane Lottig to reserve your spot at 330-274-2868.

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GENERATIONAL TEA

A **Generational Tea** is being planned for Saturday, May 10th from 1pm to 3pm. All women of the congregation are invited—adults and children. Big hats and floral dresses suggested. Bring your own China and a story: how did you acquire it, does that pattern mean something special? Don't have fancy teapot or China? Bring your everyday kitchenware and a story to share about you, mom or grandma.

We will provide: entertainment, light refreshments, tea, and lemonade. Reservations required. Call Kayla at Christ Lutheran at 330-274-2849 to reserve your spot!

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COMMUNITY COOK OUT

The Youth at Christ will be hosting a Community Cook out at Ace Hardware, 8009 State St., Garrettsville on May 24th from 11am to 2pm. All donations will benefit the Youth Group trip to New Orleans. Hope to see you there!

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Christ Lutheran will be hosting the Vacation Bible School program called "Stellar" from June 16 through June 20th. A meal will be served at 5pm with activities starting at 6pm. Let Pastor or Ruth know if you would like to volunteer to help out with this program.

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KING NUT FUNDRAISER

To help raise funds for the Youth Group trip to New Orleans, Christ is taking orders for King Nut products. Please see the order sheet on the desk with the Visitor's book and place your order today. Items will arrive before Father's Day.

Join us for a

COMMUNITY PICNIC



**JULY 12TH
5PM TO 8PM**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
JOIN US ON THURSDAY MAY 22
BEFORE THE BIBLE STUDY
AT 5PM FOR A
PLANNING MEETING
SEE JOYCE TORRES
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Palagia Hlava	Lorene Kozar	Richard	Carol Poston
Heather Poston	Aaron	Andrea	Isabella Andrews
Denise Bender	Ray Bishop	Rose Boland	Lana Carnes
Grant Clare	Anne Cooper	Courtney	Danny
Bill Foster	Dwight Hask	Janice	Daniel Gump and wife
John Zema	Kathy	Kathy	Kenny
Kevin	Larry Kraus	Laura	Linda
Logan McGowan family	Jessica McGowan	Dan Meenach	Meg
Stu Merkel	Monica	Amanda Nicely	Denise Nicely
Patty	Kathy Robicheau	Susan	Tina
Bennie Wegener	Greg Werner	Claudia York	

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

The world/USA—racism and lack of love outside of God's words

Our military veterans All Natural disaster victims COVID virus patients

Gaza & Israel victims Ukraine refugees All Non-believers

All those who have lost their jobs recently

**The power of prayer is so miraculous that we would love to hear 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

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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

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.

Church Council will be meeting Thursday, May 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-Vice President, Joyce Torres-Secretary, Deb Wolff-Financial Secretary, Guy Jeanblanc, 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.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Our new weekly budget need is \$1,306.73. Please help us meet this goal through your stewardship giving. Thank you!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Office Hours 9-3	2	3
4 9:00 Worship Women's Prayer Group 8:30	5	6 TOPS 9:30	7	8 Office hours 9-3 No Bible Study	9	10 1-3pm Generational Tea at Christ See flyer on bulletin board the 12 th
11 9:00 Worship Women's Prayer Group 8:30 Pastor out of	12 town	13 TOPS 9:30	Pastor out 14	15 Office Hours 9-3 Bible Study 6:00 pm	16 through	17 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ
18 9:00 Worship Women's Prayer Group 8:30	19	20 TOPS 9:30	21	22 Office Hours 9-3 Planning mtg. 5:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Mtg 7:00	23	24 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ
25 9:00 Worship Women's Prayer Group 8:30	26	27 TOPS 9:30	28	29 Office Hours 9-3 Feast of the Ascension 7:00 pm	30	31 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ



**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 PM