



The Parish Voice

May 2025



“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” (Matt. 24:35) Through the passage of thousands of years the Holy Scriptures, the word of God, come to us today. As I wrote in our last newsletter article, we are blessed with thousands of manuscripts that help us reconstruct with a high degree of certainty what autographs (the first copies of the writings) said. It is these autographs, the Holy Scriptures written for us by the prophets and apostles, that we confess to be the inspired, infallible, and inerrant word of God for all matters of faith and life. With the manuscripts we have we can reconstruct with certainty about 99.5% of the original text. The aspects of the Holy Scriptures that we are unable to reconstruct (that small .5%) have no effect on articles of the Christian faith. They include

unimportant issues such as “Which Greek word for love did St. Paul use in this passage?” Etc.

Differences have entered into the copies of Holy Scriptures because whereas the original writers were preserved from error in matters of faith and doctrine the scribes (the people who made hand-written copies of the Scriptures) were not preserved from copying errors (writing the same verse twice, skipping over a line, or misremembering). Such human errors explain the vast majority of differences we find in manuscripts (hand-written copies) of the Bible. Sometimes scribes would intentionally add passages would be added to the Bible. These passages were added for several reasons: to express more clearly the teaching of Holy Scripture, to smooth over differences within the text, or to include an account that was believed to go back to the apostles and first eyewitnesses. Notice that when passages were intentionally added to the Scriptures it was not done with malicious intent, but to edify the Christian Church.

The most well-known addition to the Scriptures is probably the longer ending of Mark (Mark 16:9-20). It was added to the Gospel of Mark sometime during the second century A.D. because someone thought that it was strange that Mark (unlike the other gospels) did not have an account of our Lord’s appearances to His disciples after His resurrection. However, when we look at this longer ending, there is nothing found therein that contradicts the teaching of Holy Scripture elsewhere. The longer rendering of Mark proclaims Scriptural truths such as baptism saves (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21), the risen Jesus has commissioned His Church to proclaim the Gospel to all the world (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 24:47; John 20:21), and the Lord continued to perform miraculous signs through His apostles (Mark 16:17-18; John 14:12; Acts 5:12). As a matter of fact, one of the reasons New Testament scholars know that the longer ending of Mark was added later, is because it is a clear harmonization of the accounts of our risen Lord’s appearances found in Matthew, Luke, and John. Was it written by Mark? No! Is it the word of God? Yes, because it proclaims the exact same thing taught in the rest of Scripture.

Other passages that have been added over time include 1 John 5:7 (“For there are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one...”) and the story of the woman caught in adultery (John 7:53-8:11). The passage from 1 John confesses the Holy Trinity (that there is one God who exists as three persons), a divine truth taught elsewhere in Scripture in the accounts of our Lord’s Baptism (where the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit appear as three distinct persons) and the risen Lord’s commission to baptize “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19; notice that there is one name shared by three persons). For whatever reason (we don’t know why) some scribe added an additional confession of the Holy Trinity to 1 John. The story of the woman caught in adultery is not found in our earliest copies of the Gospel of John (and as a matter of fact it is sometimes found in copies of the Gospel of Luke!).

Even here, though, we merely encounter the truths already contained in Scripture: all human beings have sinned (John 8:7; Romans 3:23), the Lord forgives sins (John 8:11; Mark 2:5), and He has compassion on all sinners, even adulterers (John 8:4; John 4:18). Moreover, the story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery likely record a historical event because Papias, a follower of one of Jesus' disciples, knew of this story himself.

What we find in these passages added to Holy Scripture, then, are not distortions of scriptural truths but further corroborations of what Holy Scripture already teaches in abundance elsewhere. Such variations and differences in the texts are reflected in our many English translations. The King James Version includes passages that are not found in the English Standard Version and The New American Standard Bible. These differences are not the result of dishonesty and a desire to mislead people. Rather, differences in the text and translation result from the good and honest work of various committees of translators and biblical scholars entrusted with the important task of reconstructing the original text of the Bible and then translating it into English. It shouldn't surprise us that when you have two or three people gathered for the same task that there will be differences in opinions and results. (Sometimes there are differences in opinions and results when only one person is at work, just ask me). Nonetheless, even with these scribal errors, additions, changes, and differences in translation, one thing is still certain: The Triune God in His mercy and out of love for us has preserved His Word and divine truth revealed in the Holy Scriptures for us today. Thanks be to God!

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).

Pastor is also planning to do bible studies during the summer on the book of Galatians. We will be meeting twice a month.

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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 dcero@redeemerlincoln.org or 402-499-0807. Any youth interested please let Pastor Blake know so he can get the application form to you.

Pastor and Rory Wolff will be attending this conference.

ANNIVERSARY OF ST. THOMAS

We will be celebrating our 64th anniversary of St. Thomas on Sunday June 8 during the service and with a special coffee hour after the worship service. Please join us!

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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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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 Thomas Ayers for graduating from Kent State with a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering. Way to go Thomas!

Congratulations to Grace Rohaley for graduating from Kent State University on May 10th with a College of Arts Science degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Materials Science. Way to go Grace!

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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.

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WORK DAY

There will be a work day on June 7th starting at 9:00 a.m.. All are welcome to join us. See Del for projects that are being planned. Donuts and coffee available. Property Committee also has 2 push mowers available to donate to anyone who would like them.

Rooted in Christ, Growing in Stewardship

The heartland is now awash in various hues of green. The doldrums of winter give way to the colors of spring. Now, the promise of spring gives way to the growth of summer. Fields are planted and sprouted. Gardens are planted. Flowers adorn the beds of neighborhood homes and roadside ditches. Green is the shade of life! Green growth is also the hue of the faithful steward. The seed of faith planted in human hearts in the waters of Holy Baptism grows as it is nurtured in the Word proclaimed and ingested in the Holy Supper. This faith does indeed save. But our stewardship of the Gospel is also designed to bear fruit for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor.

To consider this, let us look at the hymn, "Fruitful Trees, the Spirits Sowing" (LSB 691). It is very much a stewardship hymn!

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase, Fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love and joy and peace.

- The tree of faith is not planted in us by us. It is the Spirit's work! We do not claim the title "steward." Rather, we are created for it (Gen. 1:26–28).
- He is the One who makes it grow in us. The fruits of the Spirit are borne out because we, by grace through faith, are connected to the vine that is Jesus (John 15).

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

- Our stewardship is NOT about what we do. It is about what the Holy Spirit does in and through us. That is the fruit that we bear. His fruit for His purposes.
- But that fruit is lived out through us. The world sees the fruit of our stewardship of the Gospel in lives lived connected to Word and Sacrament.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.

- Stewards have been created and redeemed to reflect the image of Jesus in the world. He is the pattern. We reflect to others around us the Light of the Gospel He has shone on us.
- This reflection comes when Christ's goodness flows from us to others.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease; Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.

- Just as the Spirit has created us for stewardship of the Gospel, so also does He cause our faithfulness! He calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and KEEPS us in this faithful stewardship of the Gospel.
- The ultimate goal of our faithful stewardship is eternity. For us. For our neighbor. All worked out by the Spirit.

Green is the color of the world right now. It is also the color of our stewardship and it is growing in us as we are connected to the vine, Jesus! God grant our growth in Him!





St. Thomas
Lutheran Church
9042 State Route 43
Across the street from GetGo
Fill your tank...then your belly


SAT. 12
JULY
5 to 8 p.m.

FREE COMMUNITY PICNIC!!!


STARRING




HOTDOGS AND THE CONDIMENT'S





SODA AND THE




DRINKS



ACTIVITIES



CORN HOLE



BOUNCE HOUSE

Oh yeah, did we mention it's **FREE**

Volunteers are needed for this very special Outreach program. Join us on Thursday, June 5 at 5:00 p.m. for our planning meeting. There is a sign up sheet for volunteers and to help with the food donations. If you have any questions, please see Joyce Torres.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Crile	Palagia Hlava	Pastor Just	Lynn Kanengeiser
Lorene Kozar	Richard	Carol Poston	Heather Poston
Aaron	Andrea	Isabella Andrews	Spencer Barber
Becky	Denise Bender	Ray Bishop	Rose Boland
Lana Carnes	Grant Clare	Anne Cooper	Courtney
Courtney	Danny	Bill Foster	Daniel Gump and wife
Dwight Hask	Janice	John Zema	Kathy
Kenny	Kevin	Larry Kraus	Laura
Linda	Logan & McGowan family	Monica	Dan Meenach
Meg	Stu Merkel	Glenn Springer	Amanda Nicely
Denise Nicely	Powers Family	Greg Werner	Susan
Tina	Bennie Wegener		Claudia York

Our College Students—Corey Hautmann, 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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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-Jillian Earle

Happy Anniversary to...
21-Rocky & Kim Kinder
29-Save & Palagia Hlava

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, June 19 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!

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of April 2025

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	0.00	49049.61	50025.49
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	8919.53	29434.42	24808.46
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(8919.53)	19615.19	25217.03
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	449.00	2522.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	52.33	266.63	390.08
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(52.33)	182.37	2131.92
Average General Fund Income Per Week	0.00	2335.70	2382.17
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week		<u>1281.73</u>	

Special Funds Include:

Special Building/Property, Pastor's Second Chance, Memorial Gifts, New Building, Lutheran Women's Group, 5th Sunday Benevolence

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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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 or call Christina at 234-703-9735.

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MORE THAN A MOM

The Mom group will be meeting on the 3rd Saturday of the month with meetings scheduled for June 21st and July 19th. On June 21st from 9:30-11:30 am for a potluck breakfast/brunch—bring a dish to share! Childcare provided. Devotion, food, discussion supporting mom's in all stages of motherhood. Grandma's are encouraged to attend and share their wisdom!



June 8 Pentecost Sunday



June 15



June 15 Holy Trinity Sunday

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	2	3 TOPS 9:30	4	5 Coffee Time 10-11 Office Hours 9-3 Picnic planning 5:00 Bible Study 6:00 pm	6	7 9:00 Work Day 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ
8 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship celebrating our 64 th anniversary	9	10 TOPS 9:30	11	12 Coffee Time 10-11 Office hours 9-3 Bible Study 6:00 pm	13	14 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ
15 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	16 VBS week at Christ from 5:00-8:00 each day	17 TOPS 9:30	18	19 Coffee Time 10-11 Office Hours 9-3 Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Mtg 7:00	20	21 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ 9:30-11:30 More Than mom meeting at Christ
22 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	23	24 TOPS 9:30	25 Synod	26 Coffee Time 10-11 Office Hours 9-3 Bible Study 6:00 pm Conference	27 Pastor out	28 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ Of town
29 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship w/Pastor Just	30					



**P.O. Box 2247
9042 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241**

Change Service Requested

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**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