



The Parish Voice

July 2025



How much of the Bible is God's Word? Is it only the Gospel, that is, the promise of salvation in Christ Jesus? There are those who would argue this given that Christ (i.e., the Gospel) is the end of the Law for those who believe. Is it only the words of our Lord found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? Some have asserted this by arguing from silence that same-sex relationships must not be *that* bad since Jesus says nothing about them. These positions both assume that while the Bible contains God's Word, it is not God's Word in its entirety.

St. Paul, an apostle appointed by the risen Lord to proclaim His Word, says something different. "*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) Paul says here that all of the Bible is inspired, that is, comes from the Spirit of God. How much of the Bible is God's Word? All of the Bible is God's Word, each and every word. Hence St. Paul can argue in Galatians 3:16 that since God's promise is made to the seed of Abraham (singular) in the Old Testament, it must refer to one of Abraham's descendants, namely, Jesus. Each and every word of the Bible matters because each and every word comes from God the Holy Spirit given in, with, and under the authorship of the prophets and apostles. As 2 Peter 1:21 declares: "For no prophecy was ever produces by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

Within the Lutheran Christian tradition we therefore believe, teach, and proclaim that the Bible is verbally inspired, that each and every word (*verbum* in the Latin) comes from the Holy Spirit. Because every word of the Bible comes from the Holy Spirit the Bible is the ultimate role and norm for what the Christian believes, teaches, and confesses. This norming property of Scripture can be a challenge to us sinful, rebellious human beings. Sometimes we don't like what God says such as His condemnation of same-sex relationships in Romans 1:26-27. Other times it is a great comfort to us when God declares His love and promise of salvation for all people (including those in same-sex relationships) and creation, as He does in John 3:16. May we as Christians regularly read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Bible, because it is none other than God speaking to us today. Amen.

Pastor Blake

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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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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DEVOTION AND PRAYER

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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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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PAPER TOWEL ROLLS

Deb Wolff would like us to save white paper towel rolls and toilet rolls to be given to her daughter Becky Larkins to be used at her work for crafts. Please place them in the basket in the narthex.

Also if you would like more pickles or relish Deb needs your jars to be refilled. Thank you!

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WE HOPE EVERYONE HAD A VERY HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod-----Newsletter Article – July 2025

Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as "no big deal." St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God's purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.

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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NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

The Youth will be traveling out of state July 19-23 for the annual youth gathering. Pastor will be attending also.

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RUMMAGE SALE

A Rummage Sale will be held at the church July 25-26 from 9:00-1:00 each day. See Ruth for more information.

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50th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Jay & Barb Goodell will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and our congregation is invited also on August 3. More information will be in the bulletin.

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St. Thomas
Lutheran Church

9042 STATE ROUTE 43, STREETSBO RO
ACROSS THE STREET FROM GIANT EAGLE

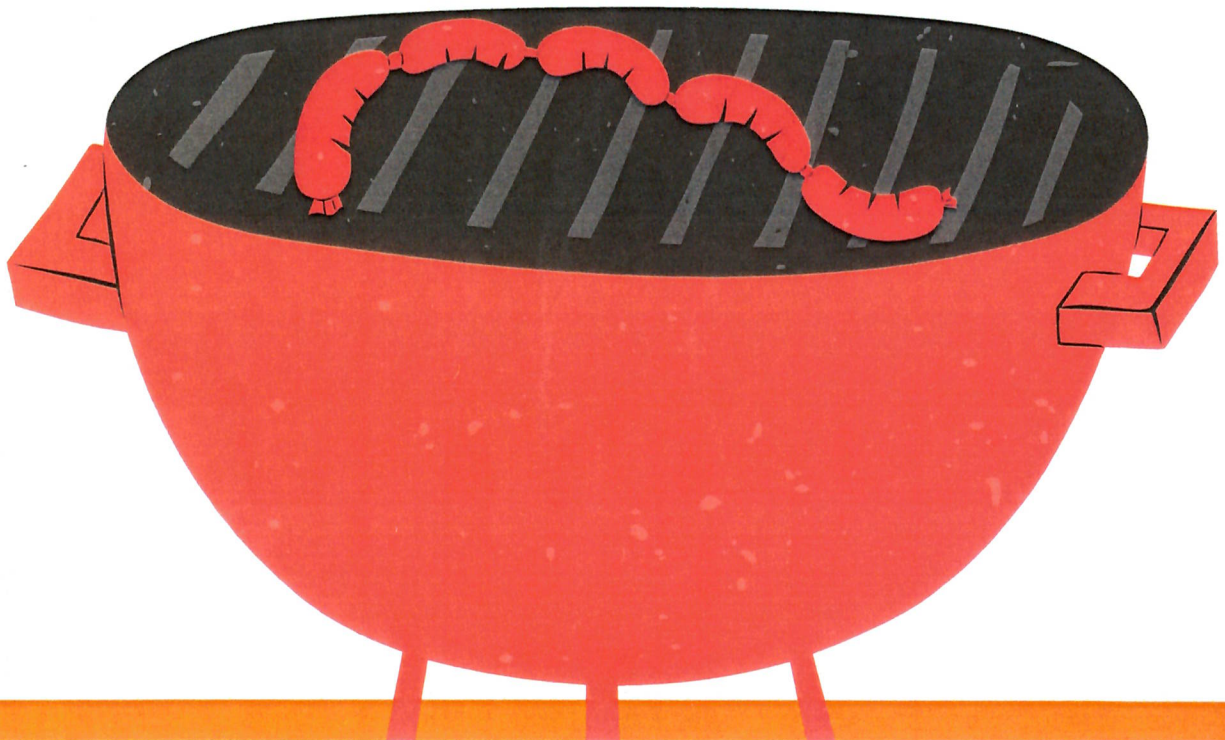
FREE

COMMUNITY COOK OUT

Join us for bounce houses, corn hole,
hot dogs and all the fixings!

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH, 2025
5PM-8PM

FREE EVENT! INVITE A FRIEND
AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Crile	Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman	Pastor Just
Lorene Kozar	Richard	Carol Poston	Heather Poston
Aaron	Andrea	Isabella Andrews	Barb
Becky	Denise Bender	Ray Bishop	Rose Boland
Lana Carnes	Grant Clare	Courtney	Courtney
Danny	Dwight Hask	Jackie	Daniel Gump and wife
Janice	Jerry	John	John Zema
Kathy	Kathy	Kenny	Kevin
Larry Kraus	Laura	Linda	Logan & McGowan family
Madalyn	Dan Meenach	Meg	Stu Merkel
Monica	Amanda Nicely	Denise Nicely	Powers Family
Glenn Springer	Susan	Suzanne Polkov	Tina
Bennie Wegener	Trinity	Greg Werner	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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JULY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

4-David Kanengeiser
 10-Steve Crile
 11-Bill Crile
 12-Diane Reynolds
 13-Keth Larkins
 20-Bob Earle
 23-Sharon Crile



JULY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

2-Diane Lee
 20-Jodi Earle
 21-Pete Malherek

Happy Anniversary to...
 21-Bob & Carole Earle
 30-Rory & Deb Wolff

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, August 21 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 May 2025

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	5970.30	55019.91	50025.49
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	5059.24	34453.66	30162.57
NET GAIN (LOSS)	911.06	20566.25	19862.92
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	59.00	508.00	2522.00
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	266.63	390.08
NET GAIN (LOSS)	59.00	241.37	2131.92
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1492.58	2620.00	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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 TOPS 9:30	2	3 Office Hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Picnic planning 5:00 Bible Study 6:00 pm	4	5 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ
6 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	7	8 TOPS 9:30	9	10 Office hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Bible Study 6:00 pm	11	12 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ 5-8 Community Picnic
13 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	14	15 TOPS 9:30	16	17 Office Hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Bible Study 6:00 pm	18	19 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ Youth Gathering
20 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship Pastor out	21 of town for	22 TOPS 9:30 Youth	23 Gathering	24 Office Hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Bible Study 6:00 pm	25 Rummage Sale 9-1 at Christ	26 9-1 Mantua Variety Market at Christ Rummage Sale 9-1 at Christ
27 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	28	29 TOPS 9:30	30	31 Office Hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Bible Study 6:00 pm		



P.O. Box 2247
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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