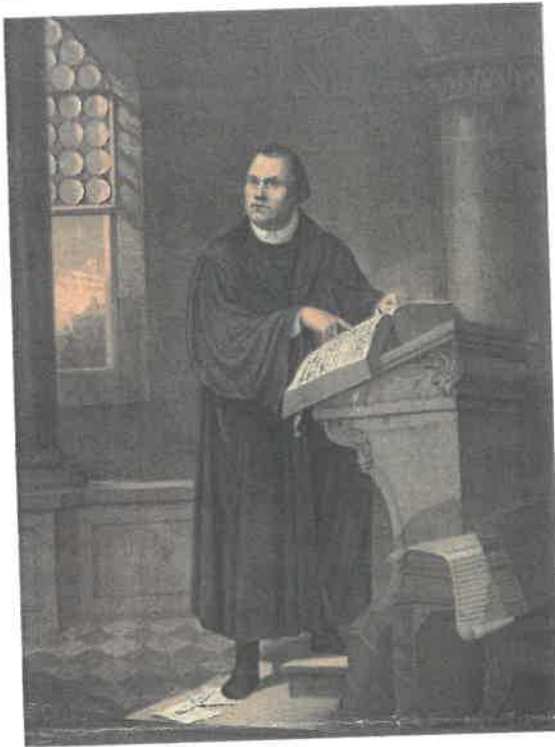


The Parish Voice

October 2025



“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Rom. 1:16) Here the gospel refers to the promise of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation on account of Christ Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. The Apostle Paul suffered much for the gospel. He was rejected by his fellow Jews, attacked by mobs, stoned, scourged, and at one time shipwrecked. Everyone and everything seemed to be against him. Yet in all of these he remained faithful to his calling. Why? Because Paul knew that he had been “set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord...” (Romans 1:1-4)

Martin Luther and many other reformers suffered similarly for their declaration that a person is saved by trust in Christ Jesus alone apart from good works. At one time Luther was hunted by the governmental authorities in Saxony. During this time, he lived in Wartburg Castle under the false alias “Knight George.” There he

translated the Greek New Testament into German. Luther did doubt at times whether what he was doing was in accordance with God’s will. After all, state and church opposed him. Nonetheless, during difficult times such as these, he returned to the Scriptures, where he was reminded that the gospel he proclaimed was not man’s gospel but God’s gospel delivered to His apostles through His Son. With this knowledge he could stand before princes and say: “Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise.”

Maybe we aren’t persecuted in the same way by the world because of our faith. But we are certainly attacked and persecuted by the devil and his angels. As St. Peter warns us: “Be sober minded: be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8) They desire that you would fall away from the Christian faith on account of the difficulties of life let it be issues with money, health concerns, doubts concerning God and His love for you. In all these things they want you to reject the gospel as false. Yet in the midst of these trials we should run to Scripture and cling to the promises that God has given us, remember our baptisms and the gift of salvation given to us there, seek nourishment and strength for our faith in the proclamation of God’s Word and the Lord’s Supper given to us in the gathering of the saints. As St. Peter goes on to say: “Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (1 Pet. 5:9-10)

Peter died for the faith, crucified in Rome. Paul was beheaded in the same city, having made the good confession. Luther died at the age of 62 from health complications, never having renounced the gospel he was so bold to proclaim. These men, and many more like them throughout church history, were willing to sacrifice so much in this life while clinging to the gospel in faith, because they knew that the God who had promised them these things loved them so much that He had given His only begotten Son to die for them, and that He was

faithful and able to fulfill the promise of deliverance and eternal life He had given them just as He had done for His Son by raising Him from the dead. Centuries have passed since the Reformation, and even more time has passed since the death of the Apostles, yet our conviction remains the same: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37) The Triune God is your mighty fortress. Dwell in Him.

Pastor Blake

+ + + + +

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Harmonious Stewardship

"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" (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to "carry the tune" for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship.

The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

+ + + + +

BIBLE STUDIES are being held on Tuesdays at Christ at 10:00 a.m. on the Book of John and at St. Thomas on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. on the book of Galatians. There are not bible studies the **2nd week** of the month as Pastor is not available. There will be no Bible Study on Oct 16 because of Trunk & Treat.

+ + + + +

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.

+ + + + +

The Women of St. Thomas are meeting before the worship service in the nursery at 8:30 a.m. to pray for 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. Please join us this Sunday.

+ + + + +

A congregational spaghetti dinner is being planned for November 8 at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. We will be discussing the budget and electing new council members. Then we will end the evening with a white elephant game. So start looking for your white elephant gift now. Used or new, funny or serious. It just for fun! There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex to sign up for sides. See you in November.

+ + + + +

Oct. 5 the Browns will be playing in London. We will be watching on the TV in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Pizza and salad will be provided. You may bring other items for our tailgate and watch party. See sign up sheet in Narthex. Go Browns!

+ + + + +

The Annual Concordia Delegate meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 970 Sumner parkway, Copley, with registration and tours at 10 and Meeting with lunch at 11. RSVP to Celeste Jaklitsch by Nov. 5 at 234-466-8468. Glazed grilled salmon or Chicken Marco polo will be served. See Robin for more info.

+ + + + +

St. Joan of Arc will be having their annual Rummage Sale on Fri. Oct. 3 from 10am-7pm and on Sat. Oct. 4 from 10am-2pm. If you would like to drop off items for the sale you can do this Mon. Sept. 29-Oct 2 from 1—6pm. No furniture or large appliances.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Palagia Hlava	Robin Hoffman	Pastor Just	Kristine Just
Lynn Kanengeiser	Lorene Kozar	Stephanie Manijak	Carol Poston
Heather Poston	Aaron	Al Maze	Doris Adams
Andrea	Isabella Andrews	Becky	Denise Bender
Lana Carnes	Cameron	Courtney	Carl Dorris
Nick Gailey	Jackie	Janice	Daniel Gump and wife
Jim	Kathy	Kenny	Kevin
Larry Kraus	Linda	Dan Meenach	Logan & McGowan family
Meg	Monica	Nancy	Amanda Nicely
Denise Nicely	Rowan Larkins	Susan	Suzanne Polkov
Rev. Jeff Stephens	Tina	Bennie Wegener	

Our College Students—Corey Hautmann, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Ben Wolff and Carl Dorris

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

Our military veterans All Natural disaster victims

Gaza & Israel victims Ukraine refugees All Non-believers

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

++++++

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Kim Kinder
 3-Kathy Brashear
 7-Joe Earle
 9-Jim Doerfler
 15-Stephanie Manijak
 17- Abigail Ayers
 20-Madelyn Ayers
 24-Linda Beuck
 27-Linda Hautmann
 31-Brianne Wolff
 31-Richard Kanengeiser



OCTOBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

9-Trudy Ayers
 13-Joanna Nicely
 13-Gilbert Ayers
 13-Thomas Ayers
 20-Nick Phillips
 Steve Hlava
 David Kanengeiser

Happy Anniversary to...
 4-Keith & Becky Larkins

CHRIST LUTHERAN EVENTS

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEAL

This meal will be served the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the fellowship hall downstairs. This month it will be held on October 15 from 5:00-6:30 pm. If you would like to help out, contact Diane Lottig at 330-274-2868.

+ + + + + + +

4 C's Local Food Pantry

Is in need of Dish Detergent, Crackers, Canned Corn and Canned Green Beans, If you would like to help out please give your donations to Pastor or Ruth to take to the church.

+ + + + + + +

YOUTH GROUP

Attention all youth and guardians! Beginning this September please join us at Christ every fourth Sunday of the month from 6 to 8 for Youth Group for all youth 6th grade and up. They will have food, games and Bible study. The next meeting will be October 27th.

+ + + + + + +

CATECHISM CLASSES

Attention all Catechism students and parents! Catechism classes begin October 7th and will be every Tuesday from 4 to 5 at Christ Lutheran Church.

+ + + + + + +

FALL FESTIVAL

The Fall Festival will be held on October 4th where the youth will be selling pumpkins as a fund raiser for their next trip to San Antonio in 2028. The festival will start at 11:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Scouts.

From 11:00-12:00 Potato Pancakes are available. Pumpkins, Raffle Baskets , Kids crafts and games and Car & Tractor Show.

At noon there will be a Children's Costume Parade-trick or treat to the cars, followed by the Pet Parade and Kids pumpkin hunt.

At 1:30 there is a PIE THE PASTOR event. Don't miss it!

At 2:00 the Cars/tractor judging and announcement of winners

At 2:30 the raffle basket winners will be pulled

Wrap is at 3:00 p.m.

+ + + + + + +

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, October 23rd 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.

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!

++++++

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 August 2025

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	5967.39	75864.60	69180.84
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	7275.70	54045.45	46256.97
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(1308.31)	21819.15	22923.87
 TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	 90.63	 753.63	 4049.50
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	266.63	578.30
NET GAIN (LOSS)	90.63	487.00	3471.20
 Average General Fund Income Per Week	 1193.48	 2167.56	 1976.60
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	2 Office hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Bible Study 6:00	3	4
5 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship 10:00 Browns game watch in fellowship hall	6	7 TOPS 9:30 Bible Study at Christ 10:00	8	9 Office hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 No bible Study	10	11
12 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	13	14 TOPS 9:30 Bible Study at Christ 10:00	15 Loaves & Fishes Dinner 5- 6:30 at Christ	16 Office Hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 No bible study Trunk or Treat 5-8	17	18
19 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	20	21 TOPS 9:30 Bible Study at Christ 10:00	22	23 Office Hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Bible Study 6:00 Council 7:00	24	25
26 Reformation Sunday 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship 6-8 Youth group at Christ	27	28 TOPS 9:30 Bible Study at Christ 10:00	29	30	31 Happy Halloween	



**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