

The Parish Voice

November 2025



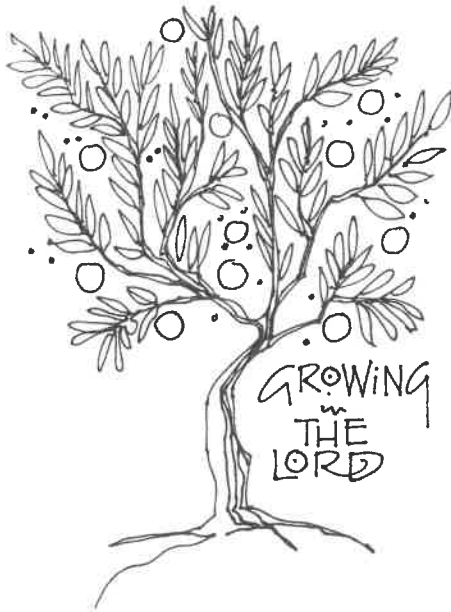
My grandmother died months before Ruth and I got married. Her absence wasn't as notable on our wedding day (after all, there's a lot going on the day of the wedding). A couple of weeks after the wedding, when we were opening our wedding presents, that's when it hit me. My grandma had gifted us her Rose of Sharon Quilt, her prized possession and something she had worked very hard to make. The quilt came with a card she had written. Hearing her voice (not literally of course) through the card reminded me that something was missing. I wouldn't hear something again on this side of eternity. Namely, the voice of my grandmother, whom I had spent many hours talking to throughout my childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. It reminded me that there was someone missing in my life now. Life was less complete in some ways because she was no longer there. It was like my life was now scarred.

Maybe many of us feel that way after the death of a loved one, that our life is in some way scarred, though functional. We might miss our grandparents, mother, father, brother, sister, husband, wife, etc. And although life keeps on going, we still miss them. Jesus' disciples certainly felt like their lives were irreparably scarred after the death of their Lord. They had left everything behind to follow Him. All of their dreams and hopes had found their rest in Him. After His death, they were lost and without direction. The words of the Emmaus disciples in the Gospel of Luke capture the way many of them probably felt: "But we had hoped that He [Jesus] was the one to redeem Israel..." (Luke 24:21) The death of our loved ones – whether expected or unexpected (Jesus' death should have been expected; He told His disciples about it several times) – can leave a hole in our life, a wound that might heal and become a scar, but the remnants of that loss will remain with us no matter how much time passes.

On All Saints' Day (November 1st), we remember that though we have lost loved ones, we do not mourn as those without a hope. As Christians, we can be certain that our loved ones who die, having trusted in Christ Jesus as their Savior and Lord, are now with Him. And that one day they will be raised bodily from the dead, just as surely as they died with Him in the waters of Holy Baptism (Romans 6:8). Our Lord has promised us this: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live..." (John 11:25) What a great hope we have as Christians! Our confidence in the face of death and loss is not in our ability to overcome these things and make them right. Our confidence is in the one who conquered death through His bodily resurrection, the one who holds the keys to Hades, the one who promises to wipe every tear from our eyes, and the one who swears on Himself that He will make all things new.

Yes, we bear our scars in this life, life is not the same without the ones we have lost, but we know that the scars will not last forever. The disciples who grieved the loss of their Lord were consoled when He appeared to them in a transformed body, risen from the dead. Their tears gave way to joy. So too shall our tears give way to joy when we see our loved ones, who have departed in the faith, victorious over the power of death, standing before their risen Lord. On the day of resurrection, the scars in our life will finally disappear. For the Lord who gave us our life shall restore our life to the point that it will never again be subject to death, sorrow, sin, and pain. Now we mourn and bear our scars; and at the same time, we continue to live our life, knowing that our loved ones would not want us to spend it wasting away in grief over them, and that even more so, one day we shall see those who have departed in the faith again. Happy All Saints' Day!

Newsletter Article – November 2025



Pointing to the Rock of Ages

*Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. (LSB
761:2)*

While the classic hymn “Rock of Ages” shows up in the *Lutheran Service Book* in the “Hope and Comfort” section, it can also teach us a valuable lesson about Christian stewardship. If that surprises you, stay with me on this one.

No Lutheran would ever dispute the fact that our work does not save us. Ephesians 2 makes it truly clear that we are dead in our trespasses and sins and would remain in that state until Christ raises us by grace. There is not a ladder on which we can climb out of the grave that our sins have dug for us. No blood, sweat nor tears will be able to rescue us. We all know this.

Our works do not save. Christ’s work on the cross of Calvary does! He bore human flesh. He carried the burden of our sin to the cross. His body was beaten, bruised and bloodied for us. He has indeed atoned for us! This is more than enough reason for this hymn to be bouncing around in your head all day today!

But our work has a place. The place is in response to what the Father has done for us in Jesus. The Rock of Ages, who is Jesus, becomes the foundation on which our lives of faith are built. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to make us God’s workmanship that Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:10.

Our workmanship does not display our power or prowess. Like the heavens declare the handiwork of the Creator, the works of a redeemed sinner point others to the salvation that is worked only by Jesus alone. Our work is a response to and reflection of a grace and glory that we ourselves could never accomplish or achieve.

We become stewards of the treasure that is the Gospel. When we faithfully support the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our financial support, we are doing the work which points to the One who alone atones. When we come alongside a struggling sister or brother for whom Christ died and we share the stewardship work of compassion and care, we enfold the treasure of God’s love and redemption. When we make it a weekly priority to arrange our schedule to be in the Lord’s House with other stewards of the Gospel to receive again and again the Gospel’s precious gift, we are stewards of the Body of Christ in the congregation that points even more people to Jesus.

We cannot do this. Jesus does it through us. We are simply stewards of this precious treasure!

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.

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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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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.

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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.

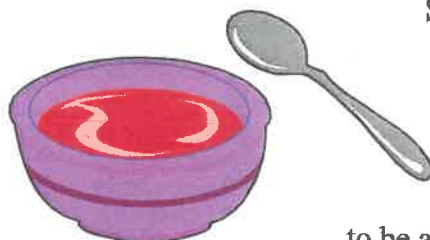


A congregational spaghetti dinner is being planned for November 8 at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. We will be discussing the budget and electing new council members. We have four 2-year term openings. Those leaving

are Del Groff, Stephanie Manijak, Gilbert Ayers and Steve Hlava. Please consider running for council. We could really use you! We are also needing to fill the Joint Committee. This consists of 3 members (2 regular and 1 alternate). 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 is a sign up sheet in the narthex to sign up for sides. See you on Saturday!!

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SOUP SUPPERS AND WORSHIP SERVICES



Soup Suppers will be held on December 4, 11, and 18. Please see sign up sheets in the Narthex to sign up to be a Soup Maker, Bread, Salad and whatever else you would like to bring. Soup will be at 6:00 and Worship will be at 7:00. Can't wait to see everyone for some great fellowship.

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THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

We will be celebrating our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 26 with a Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas this year. We would love to see everyone at this special service. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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SHEPHERDS HOUSE

Dueling Pianos-Cowboy Style will be held at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 251 W. Spruce St in Ravenna on Friday, November 21 with doors opening at 6:00 and entertainment at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at shepherds-house.net. Tickets include a Cowboy Buffet. Proceeds to benefit the Shepherd's House. There will also be raffle baskets. Please join them for this special evening for a special cause.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Palagia Hlava
Marla Manijak
Aaron
Isabella Andrews
Cameron Beck
Nick Gailey
Jim
Larry Kraus
Nancy
Susan
Tina

Pastor Just
Stephanie Manijak
Al Maze
Denise Bender
Sherry Clark
Janice
Kathy
Dan Meenach
Amanda Nicely
Suzanne Polkov
Bennie Wegener

Kristine Just
Carol Poston
Andrea
Margie Bowers
Courtney
Jazmine
Kenny
Meg
Denise Nicely
Jeanne Sutton's daughter
Zack

Lorene Kozar
Heather Poston
Doris Adams
Lana Carnes
Carl Dorris
Daniel Gump and wife
Kevin
Logan & McGowan family
Rowan Larkins

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

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Levi Just
9-Ken Nicely III
12-Dusty Basmagy
17-Grace Rohaley
24-Amy Rohaley
29-Thomas Ayers



NOVEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

4-Stephanie Manijak
14-Jarid Phillips
29-Sam Nicely

Happy Anniversary to...
9-Sam & Denise Nicely
29-Pastor & Kristine Just



HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!



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 November 19 from 5:00-6:30 pm. If you would like to help out, contact Diane Lottig at 330-274-2868.

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Bible Study

Bible Studies are held every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m., except the 2nd Tuesday of the month. We are studying the book of John.

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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.

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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 November 23rd.

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CATECHISM CLASSES

Attention all Catechism students and parents! Catechism classes are every Tuesday from 4 to 5 at Christ Lutheran Church.

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ADVENT SEASON

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th. Soup Suppers and worship services will be held at St. Thomas on Thursdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18 with soup at 6:00 and Worship at 7:00.

OUR SERVICE PROJECTS

We are helping out the Freedom House Homeless for Veterans this month. Please bring any items to help these veterans and place them on the table in the narthex. Monetary donations will also be appreciated.

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". We are especially remembering those who have been affected by Hurricane Melissa.

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 especially through this holiday season. Help is needed!.

Church Council will be meeting Thursday, November 20th 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!

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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 September 2025

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	7225.43	83089.73	77103.09
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	4077.80	58123.25	50368.87
NET GAIN (LOSS)	3147.63	24966.48	26734.22
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	339.00	1092.63	4156.50
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	266.63	657.52
NET GAIN (LOSS)	339.00	826.00	3498.98
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1806.36	2130.51	1977.00
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 Trick or Treat 6-8 in Streetsboro
2 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	3	4 TOPS 9:30 Bible Study at Christ 10:00 Catechism 4-5 Don't forget to vote!	5	6 Office hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	7	8 6:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner with Congregational meeting and White Elephant game
9 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	10	11 TOPS 9:30 NO Bible Study Catechism 4-5 Veteran's Day	12 Loaves & Fishes Dinner 5- 6:30 at Christ	13 Office Hours 9-3 No Coffee Time No bible study	14	15
16 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	17	18 TOPS 9:30 Bible Study at Christ 10:00 Catechism 4-5	19	20 Office Hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Bible Study 6:00 Council 7:00	21 Dueling Pianos fund raiser for Shepherds House	22
23 Christ the King Sunday 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship 6-8 Youth group at Christ	24	25 TOPS 9:30 Bible Study at Christ 10:00 Catechism 4-5	26 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve service	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28	29
30 1 st Sunday in Advent 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Worship						



**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