

Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



THE KINGDOM
of GOD IS LIKE
A MUSTARD SEED

M A R K 4 : 3 0 - 3 1

Pentecost III
10:00 a.m.
June 13, 2021

Rev. Dr. Christian F. Just, Pastor
St. Thomas Lutheran Church
9042 S.R. 43, P.O. Box 2247
Streetsboro, Ohio 44241

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thank you** everyone for joining us this morning for our worship service. Please join us inside or you can listen to the service on your car radio at 96.9. If you miss the service you can always watch it on our Facebook page. If any problems happen doing the service please let Del or Rory know so they can fix the problem immediately. Thank you again!
- **The Vigil Candle** is given in celebration of Elizabeth Ayers and Stephen Nicely's birthdays and Jim Doerfler's baptism birthday.
- **Steve will** be watching from the door and will bring out bulletins and communion cups to those who stay in their cars. Those coming inside can pick up your bulletin and communion cup as you enter the sanctuary.
- **The Prayer book** is available on the desk by the door. Steve can bring it to the cars.
- **The Lay Reader** list is available for volunteers for the month of June. Still need volunteers. Please see the signup sheet in the Narthex or let Steve know you would like to sign up. **Our lay reader today is Diane Lee.**
- **Ushers are Del inside and Steve outside.**
- **If you haven't** signed up for the English District Virtual Gala "Thy Strong Word" to be held on this evening at 7:30 p.m. yet, please do so and let Pastor Just know you have signed up. Register now at www.englishdistrict.org
- **The April-June and July-September Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **Contact Person:** Please call Pastor Just at 216-789-6688 or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions. Pastor Just is in the office on Thursdays.

Attendance last Sunday 15 Adults 0 Children

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	833.00
Building Fund	15.00
Benevolence	13.00
Mission	5.00
1 + 1 + 1	6.00
Candle Fund	100.00
Loose	20.00
Total Offering	992.00

Needed each week to meet budget--\$1,112.21

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him.

C: **“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”**

P: Sin began in a garden, the garden in which we have now been placed. Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess to You with contrite hearts that we
have sinned.**

**Our thoughts, our words, our deeds condemn us. We have failed—and refused—to
bring forth the
fruit which You desire.**

We are doomed to die!

**For the sake of the innocent sufferings and death
of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, we plead for
mercy.**

**Forgive our sins that we may be able to stand
before Your judgment seat, as those who have
pleased You.**

P: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. For the sake of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Grow, then, as God gives you strength and opportunity.

C: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Entrance Hymn “O Savior, Precious Savior” No. 514

The Kyrie

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

****The Hymn of Praise—Glory to God pg. 59***

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayer for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Lord God,

C: You protect all who trust in You, and without You nothing is strong and nothing is holy. In Your great mercy guide us through the good things of this life, so that in the end we do not lose the things of eternal life. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

All readings are from the New Revised Standard Version

The First Lesson Ezekiel 17:22-24

²² Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³ On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴ All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;

I will accomplish it.

This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Psalm “*How Good It Is to Thank the Lord*” Psalm 92 Insert

The Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

The Verse

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia.

*The Holy Gospel Mark 4:26-34

C: Glory to you, O Lord. Pg. 63

²⁶Jesus also said, “*The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.*”

³⁰He also said, “*With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.*”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples. This is the Gospel of our Lord.

The Sermon *“Seeds and Plants”*

Hymn of the Day *“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”* No. 362

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God, creator of all,
whose love is more than mind can measure or time
contain.**

**We believe that God’s desire is fullness of life for all,
and from the heights of heaven to the depths of hell,
nothing and no one has fallen beyond the reach of
God’s mercy.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who unveiled the divinity of
human flesh and revealed to us the nature of God;
who embodied God’s holy wisdom and brought forth
fruits of love, joy, peace, goodness, faithfulness and
humility.**

**We believe in the way of the cross,
for when Christ embraced the outcasts and unmasked
the arrogant, He stirred into deadly confrontation
the power of love and the love of power.**

**The enemies of life had their way with Him, tearing
spirit from flesh,
but God’s saving power raised Him to life,
so that we and every person on earth might follow
Him into the fullness of life which death cannot
overcome.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, God’s ceaseless and
mysterious Go-between, who kindles the fires of
passion and integrity.**

**Elusive and uncontrollable, comforting and disturbing,
He purges our delusions with fire
and whispers grace with a lover’s breath,
empowering us to refuse what is evil, and be taken up
with praise.**

Though sometimes fearful, in God we trust.

**We lay ourselves open to the Spirit’s touch
that we might be the body of Christ,
offering our life for the life of the world,
and being drawn into the mysterious dance of the
Trinity,**

**through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory and praise forever. Amen.**

****The Prayers of the Church***

P: In the presence of our creative God who calls us to a growth that will transform and support us, let us come together and present our needs.

(after each petition)

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Nurturing God, gather us as the seeds of Your mysterious life. Teach us to sense deeply Your presence with us as we grow strong in love and service. May we be shelter for all in need. We ask this through Jesus Christ who is Your fullness with us and in us.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up our hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord—God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only
Son, that all who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for the salvation you have
prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we
may receive our Lord with a living faith as he
comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and
gave it to the disciples, saying:

*Take and eat; this is My body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of Me.”*

Again after supper, He took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*“This cup is the new covenant in My blood,
Shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin,
Do this for the remembrance of Me.”*

The Lord’s Prayer

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil;
for Thine is the Kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Communion

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may honor His sacrifice by continuing His mission in the world.

All are invited to take the communion packet that was provided as you came to worship this morning.

P: Take and eat, this is the Body of Christ, broken for you to be made whole.

*All are invited to open the larger cup from the
communion packet and partake of the wafer therein.*

**P: Take, drink, the Blood of Christ, poured out for you to be filled with His endless life.
Please open the smaller cup to consume the wine.**

**P: The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious Blood strengthen and preserve you
in true faith to life everlasting.**

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

**P: Let us pray. Pour out upon us the Spirit of Your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of
those whom You have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

C: Amen.

Closing Dialog

P: O Lord above, You have planted the seed of Your love in us.

C: May your love in us continue to grow stronger with each passing day.

P: O Lord above, You have planted the seed of Your word in us.

C: May our understanding of Your Scriptures grow deeper with each passing day.

P: O Lord above, You have showered us with Your grace.

C: May Your grace continue to enrich us and restore us with each passing day.

P: O Lord above, You have given us the ability to bear fruit.

C: May we continue to bear fruit that is pleasing to You. Amen.

Sending

P: Go out, and live no longer for yourselves,
but for Him who died and was raised for you.

Walk by faith, not by sight,
and judge others only by the integrity of their
hearts.

Make it your aim to please the Lord,
and to persuade others of the love of Christ.

God answer you in times of trouble and protect you;
Christ Jesus grant you your heart's desire;
the Holy Spirit take hold of you mightily + from this
day forward.

C: Amen.

Closing Song “*On What Has Now Been Sown*” No. 261

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Our Worship Is Ended—
Now Our Service Begins!**

Please remember these members in your prayers

Bill & Sharon Crile—recovery from hospital stay and illness
Jim Doerfler—serious mouth surgery—continued healing
Carol Earle—immediate family for peace and comfort
Deb Earle—health issues
Cory Hautmann—Physiological strength and loss of Grandpa Ron
Linda Hautmann—Strength and healing for Lupus and from melanoma and loss of her dad Ron Stenglein
Palagia Hlava—complications from MS

Stephanie Johnson—sprained wrist

Lorene Kozar—recovering from stomach surgery

Marla and her mom traveling mercies to Maryland

Joanna, Joyce and Abigail traveling mercies to Maryland

Ken Nicely II—complications from diabetes
Kenny Nicely III—shoulder pain—healing from surgery
Kenny Nicely IV—Epilepsy
Stephen Nicely—traveling mercies to work in Normal, Illinois for 2 months
Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS
Diane Seman—searching for job
Becky Larkins—fostering Holly, a preemie
Our College Students— Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Joanna Nicely, Grace Rohaley
Troy Roman—joined the Marines

Remember in prayer these friends of the congregation

For our Bishop, Jamison Hardy, and the congregations and pastors of the
English District and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Rick Arman—knee replacement recovery—brother of Joyce
Alice Artman—in pain for needed knee replacement—sister-in-law of Joyce
Barbara's daughter delivered twins--in NICU—co-worker of Joyce
Roger Black—lung cancer is back—brother-in-law of Deb
Patty Bowman—covid—Bill & Sharon Crile's daughter
John Butterbaugh—spot on his lung—friend of Joyce
Carl—in memory care in Arizona—father of Carol Earle
Lana Carnes—heart attack and stroke—friend of the Wolff's
Chuck—has Covid—coworker of Stephen Nicely
Anna Cooper—heart surgery complications—friend of Wolff's
Leona Corban—pulled muscle in her back—Marla's mom
Scott Corban—Rheumatoid Arthritis—brother of Marla
Tom Corban—Parkinson Disease—Marla's brother
Deb Defer—eye problems—sister of Diane Lee
Jamie Dunn—battling cancer—back to work—bus driver for Streetsboro
Bill Earle—underwent heart bypass—continued healing—brother of Bob
Billy Earle Jr.—diabetes, leg amputation—in rehab
Sue Ellinwood—liver cancer—friend of the Wolff's
George Foerster—father of Dianne Reynolds
Christine Frank—cancer—friend of Jim
Bridget Gehri—medical issues—friend of Trudy Ayers
Ken Granville—leukemia—retired Band Director and friend of many
Anita Hlava—speedy recovery from hip surgery—Steve's mom
Charles Hovavetz—triple bypass surgery—friend of Beuck's
Debbie Hovavetz—internal problems—neighbor of Tom & Linda Beuck
Janice—heart problems
John—multiple health issues--neighbor of Joyce
Sherry Johnson—stroke recovery—grandma of Nicole and Gabe
Kathi—family issues w/son—co-worker of Joyce
Brad Kozar—suffering from propsychotic depression—son of Lorene
Suzanne Latham—lyme disease—sister of Marla

Lauren—healing from surgery—step cousin of Diane Lee
Kristina Lonardo—problems with pregnancy—friend of Trudy
Tyler Lutz—hodgekins lymphoma—son of Deb’s co-worker
Dave Lauver—stomach cancer—Wolff’s cousin
Lori—complications with knee replacement—co-worker of Joyce
Anne Mack—in hospice for breast cancer—dear neighbor of Deb’s
Frank Manijak—congestive heart complications—Steve’s Dad
Mary—wound on ankle that is slow in healing—neighbor of Diane Lee
Matt—brother of Gilbert Ayers—passed away
Samantha Nicely—migraines—granddaughter of Joyce
Inge Osborne—cancer—doing well—no chemo—friend of St. Thomas
Sandi Platen—health issues and loss of husband Ron—sister of Steve Manijak
Karen Power—healing from back fusions—friend of the Earle’s
Peter Power—diabetes—friend of the Earle’s
Valonte Ragland—paralyzed from car accident—starting to take steps—co-worker’s son of Amy
Latesha Ragland—learning how to care for Valonte
Jessica Reker—job searching—friend of Amy
John Rutherford—covid—friend of Joyce
Leslie Slanina—continued heling—Gilbert’s mom
Tim Tolodzieski—recovering—brother-in-law of Steve Crile
Kenneth Udovic-cancer-brother-in-law of Tom Beuck
Linda Valetta and family—family issues—friend of Robin
Denny Wood—cancer surgery recovery—friend of Joyce
Carol Yurkschatt—hospitalized—Rocky and Kim Kinder
Zack—life problems—Joyce’s friend’s son
COVID 19 virus patients