

Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



Epiphany Sunday
10:00 a.m.
January 2, 2022

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 or on our Facebook page. If any problems happen during the service please let Del or Rory know so they can fix the problem immediately.
- **The Vigil Candle** is given in celebration of Joanna Nicely and Gabe Johnson's birthdays.
- **The Prayer book** is available on the choir stand by the bulletin stand. Steve can bring it to the cars.
- **The Lay Reader** list is available for volunteers for the month of January. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or let Steve know you would like to sign up for January. **Our lay reader today is**
- **Usher Steve Manijak**
- **Service Project...**We are helping out the Lutheran World Relief with the earthquake in Haiti and the hurricane Ida destruction in Louisiana and the northeast portion of our country. Please make check out to the church and place it in the offering plate.
- **Let's continue** to remember the Community pantry. Bring food or monetary donations anytime.
- **On January 9**, Pastor will be starting a new bible study on the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians at 9:00 a.m. Please join us.
- **Our fifth Sunday offering** for the month of January will be going to Family & Community Services, Inc. in Ravenna. Please consider remembering them on January 30.
- **The January-March Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **The Church Council and Call Committee** have been meeting with Christ Lutheran Church in Mantua to work on a plan to share a pastor. Meetings have been going well and we are ready to start interviewing potential candidates in the new year when the Synod sends us a list. If you would like to know more, please talk to Pastor, Steve Hlava, Jim Doerfler, Diane Lee, Deb Wolff, Marla Manijak, Joyce Torres, Del Groff, Gilbert Ayers, Guy Jeanblanc, Diane Pencin or Robin Hoffman.
- **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 16 Adults 2 Children

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	949.34	Building Fund	15.00
Benevolence	5.00	Mission	5.00
1 + 1 + 1	9.00	Lutheran relief	50.00
Loose	160.00	Comm. pantry	150.00
<hr/>			
Total Offering			1343.34

Needed to meet budget--\$1,112.21

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Christ Candle had been left unlit throughout the Advent season, reflecting our anticipation of the coming Savior. In the Epiphany season, we make it a point to light this candle to reflect the announcement of Isaiah, “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1)

P: The promise You made, the work You have done, is fulfilled; we have seen it.

C: Your rescue, Your salvation, Your coming into our world, and switching on the lights, so we can see where to go, and how best to live.

P: The way You have chosen us, filled us with Your Spirit, with Your presence, with Your wisdom, the way you allow Your goodness and compassion and grace to peek through our brokenness—

C: these are gifts beyond measure, these are what make life truly alive; and so we praise You, and celebrate You, Christ, Child of God, Light to the nations, and the Glory of Your people. Amen.

By John van de Laar Copyright 2008 Sacredise

The Song: “*Christ Be Our Light*” Insert

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8,9)

C: Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

(Hebrews 4:14,16)

P: Since we are assembled here to hear God’s Word, to call upon Him in prayer, and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, let us think on our unworthiness, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and realize also that by our own strength we cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. There we take refuge in His infinite mercy, seeking and imploring His grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: God be merciful to me, a poor, sinful being, May almighty God have mercy on us all, forgive us our sins, and lead us to life everlasting. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved (*Mark 16:16*). **Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.**

Entrance Hymn “*Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*” No. 84

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.

**The Hymn of Praise—This is the Feast* pg. 60

C: Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

- 1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain**
- 2. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. Refrain**
- 3. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**
- 4. Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain**
- 5. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Refrain**

The Prayer of the Day

P: O God, a star led. The wise men followed.

C: And thus You revealed Your Son to the nations.

P: Lead us today, O God,

C: in our home life and our work life, in our relaxation and our worship, in what we say and what we do.

P: And reveal yourself in our lives, today,

C: that we might revel, at last, in your heavenly presence.

P: Through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now...

C: and forever. Amen.

All readings are from the New Revised Standard Version

The First Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.
³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.
This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Gates”* (Psalm 24) Insert

The Second Lesson Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for
you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few
words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of
Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now
been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become
fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the
gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was
given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace
was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to
make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in^[d] God who created all
things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made
known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the
eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to
God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. 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 Matthew 2:1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ Pg. 63

The Sermon *“Made Known”*

Hymn of the Day *“The Only Son from Heaven”* No. 86

Affirmation of Faith Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

**He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

He was born of the virgin Mary, and became man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
In fulfillment of the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and
glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the Church

P: Today we celebrate the manifestation of God's love to all nations, both Jew and Gentile.
With confidence let us bring our petitions to God's altar.

(after each petition)

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, we offer You our prayers, some in words, others written in our hearts. Read our hearts; hear our prayers; and continue to shed on us Your light, Christ Jesus, who is Lord, this day and forever.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your 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. Sharing our life he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so with the Church on earth and 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: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to reveal to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things and in him you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot

and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will

and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to

free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he, who handed over to a death he freely accepted,

in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one to crush hell underfoot, to

give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth his resurrection,

taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

“Take and eat; this is My body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

In the same way He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave

it for all to drink, saying

“This is my blood poured out for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,

we lift this bread and cup before you,

giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of your

Church;

gather into one all who share this bread and wine;

fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish of faith in

truth,

that we may praise and glorify you through your son

Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, almighty

Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both

now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.**

Song for the Eucharist “Now the Feast and Celebration”

WOV 789

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: You have led us to your table.

C: You have fed us with yourself.

P: We have bowed in worship,

C: and have received more than we have offered.

P: Guide us as we use the gifts you give us.

C: We offer them back to you in lives of service and worship.

P: You Lord, are King forevermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now to seek out the Christ wherever he may be found, share the good news with all whom he places in your path.

Bring light to those in thick darkness,
be a voice to those no one speaks for,
and bring hope to those no one cares for.

God make you a share in the promised light.
Christ Jesus fill you with his sense of what is right.
The Holy Spirit be to you like rain that gives life +
to the fertile earth.

C: Amen.

Closing Song *“We Three Kings of Orient Are”*
WOV 646

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
Cory Hautmann—Physiological strength
Linda Hautmann—Strength and healing for Lupus and from melanoma
Palagia Hlava—complications from MS
Lorene Kozar—has moved to Mentor assisted living
Becky Larkins—fostering Holly—possible adoption
Steve Manijak—healing for his finger
The Manijak, Johnson and Jones family—down with COVID
Ken Nicely II—possible kidney failure due to diabetes
Kenny Nicely III-shoulder surgery
Kenny Nicely IV—Epilepsy
Stephen Nicely—traveling mercies for work in Normal, Illinois
Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS
Amy Rohaley—down with COVID
Rory Wolff—shoulder and back pain
Our College Students— Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Joanna Nicely, Thomas Ayers
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.

Alayna—has covid—granddaughter of Joyce
Alexa—swollen spleen—granddaughter of Joyce
Alice Artman—Bell's Palsy—sister-in-law of Joyce
Aaron—marriage problems—brother of Joyce
Chip Black—loss of her husband, Roger--sister of Deb
Nickoles Bohne—dying from liver failure—in-law of Guy
Patty Bowman—covid—Bill & Sharon Crile's daughter
Carl—transition from Memory Care to move to Concord, OH—father of Carol Earle
Debbie Conrad—home burned down—co-worker of Amy
Leona Corban—pneumonia, doing better—Marla's mom
Dan Erlandson—severe depression-hopelessness—friend of Robin
George Foerster—father of Dianne Reynolds
Christine Frank—cancer—friend of Jim
Pastor Paul Frerich's Father—in hospice care—Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran
Ken Granville—leukemia—retired Band Director and friend of many
Patty & Kenny Hansen—many mechanical problems with their home—friend of Amy Rohaley
Kelly Heritage—severe lack of blood flow to legs—co-worker's husband of Deb Wolff's
Anita Hlava—speedy recovery from hip surgery—Steve's mom
Evan Hlava—heart inflammation—nephew of Steve Hlava
Charles Hovanvetz—triple bypass surgery—friend of Beuck's
Debbie Hovanvetz-internal problems-neighbor of Tom & Linda Beuck
Janice—heart problems
Jayme—suffered a stroke—Joyce's son's fiance
John—multiple health issues--neighbor of Joyce
Mike Latham—shoulder surgery--brother-in-law of Marla and Steve
Laura—family relationship problems—Joyce's sister
Dave Lauver—stomach cancer—Wolff's cousin

Lexi—Praise! No cancer but a bacterial infection—Trudy’s niece
Lori—complications with knee replacement—co-worker of Joyce
Frank Manijak—failing health—Steve’s Dad
Joe Manijak—complications after back surgery—brother of Steve
Samantha—ear barotrauma {swelling}--granddaughter of Joyce
Amanda Nicely—strength and peace—Trudy’s sister-in-law
Jodie Powers—addiction healing—niece of Steve and Marla
Peter Power—diabetes—friend of the Earle’s
Leo Rohaley—declining health—uncle of Amy
Kathi Rohrer—healing from back surgery—co-worker of Joyce
Sharon—heart valve infection—friend of Rory
Jim Shuster—hospitalized for several strokes—friend of Amy
Leslie Slanina—healing—Gilbert’s mom
Angela Smith—stage 4 cancer—friend of Robin
Joe Svidron—health issues—husband of co-worker of Joyce
Tim Tolodzieski—recovering—brother-in-law of Steve Crile
Linda Veletta and family—family issues—friend of Robin
Bennie Wegener—pancreatic cancer—friend of the Wolff’s
Dan Wiley—undergoing radiation therapy—friend of Diane Lee
Donny Wood—cancer surgery recovery—friend of Joyce
Carol Yurkschatt—hospitalized—Rocky and Kim Kinder
Terri Zeigler—broken arm—on chronic dialysis—friend of the Wolffs’s

The missionaries that have been saved in Haiti and those still in captivity
The Haitian earthquake survivors, the survivors of Hurricane Ida and
survivors from the wildfires and all other natural disasters
The victims of recent tornados
Homeless served by LMM—space in Independence
COVID 19 virus patients