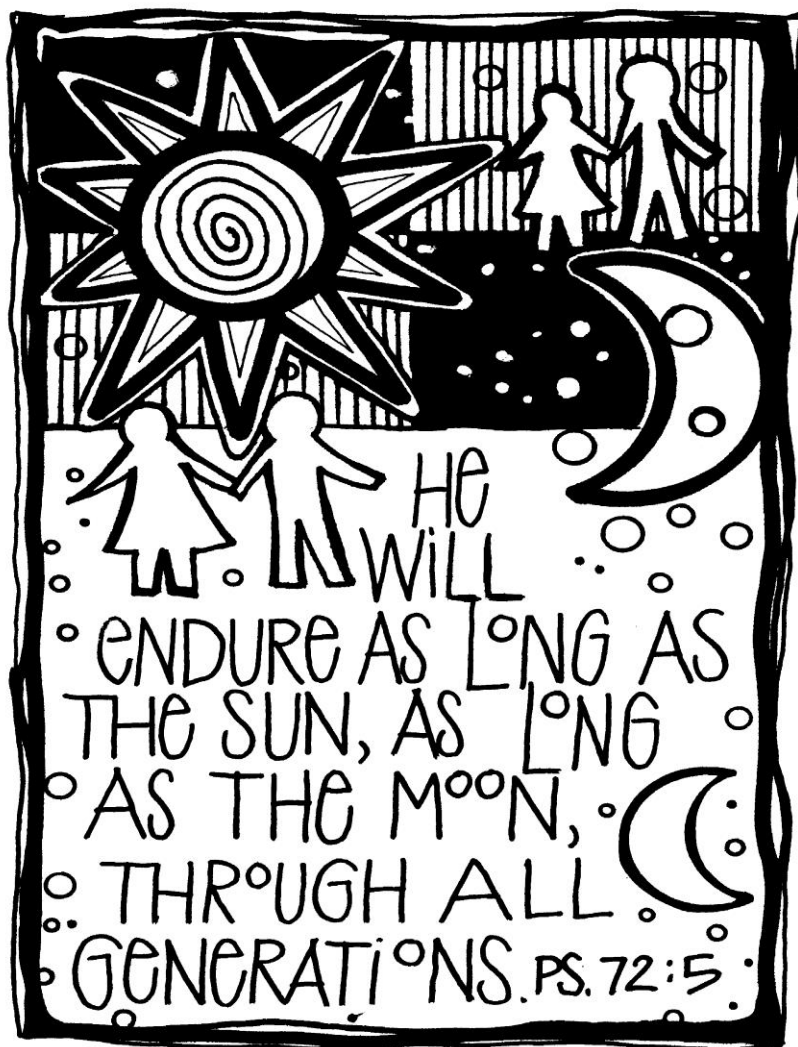


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



2nd Sunday in Advent
10:00 a.m.
December 4, 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. If you miss the service you can always watch it on our Facebook page. If any problems happen during the service please let Del or Rory know so they can fix the problem immediately. Thank you again!
- **The Vigil Candle** is given in anticipation of the birth of our Savior.
- **Happy Anniversary** to Anibal and Joyce Torres who will be celebrating on the 8th.
- **The Prayer book** is on the music stand by the door.
- **The Lay Reader** list is available for volunteers for the month of December. Please see the signup sheet in the Narthex. **Our lay reader today is**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held after the worship service today. At least one council position will need to be filled. We will also be approving the 2023 budget and talking about our next step in seeking a pastor for our congregations plus any other subject the congregation would like to talk about. See one of the council members if you are interested in serving or need more information on what it entails. Refreshments will be provided.
- **Advent Worship and Soup Suppers** have begun on Thursdays with Soup served at 6:30 and worship at 7:30. Please see the sign up sheet in the narthex to sign up to be a soup maker or to provide some other item for the supper.
- **The October-December Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **The Ravenna Community Choir** will be having their Christmas concert at the Ravenna Assembly of God on S.R. 14 in Ravenna today at 3:00 p.m. Deb Wolff and Marla Manijak are members of this choir and we would love to sing for you.
- **Lutheran Campus Ministry of Kent (LCMK)** is seeking people to serve on their board of directors. A variety of experiences and skills are needed in this ministry to college students. Two pressing needs are in publicity/communication and finance. If you are interested in any way, please contact pastor Eric Tritten at pastort@gloriadeihudson.org.
- **Service Projects...**Lutheran Missions Ministry to help those in Haiti and Ukraine. Please make your check donation made out to St. Thomas.
- **Let's continue** to remember the Community pantry. Bring food or monetary donations anytime. Thank you.
- **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 22 Adults 7 Youth

Confirmation Pastor and 2 youth

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	827.19	Building Fund	15.00
Benevolence	5.00		
Loose	0.00	1 + 1 + 1	16.00

Total Offering 863.19 Weekly need 1229.52

Welcome and Announcements

A Candlelighting Litany Insert

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: The time of Christ's coming is at hand; the day is drawing near.

C: Let us lay aside the works of darkness; let us put on the armor of light.

P: Lest that day surprise us unprepared, let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us His promised forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. We have grown complacent and content, desiring darkness rather than the light.

We are helpless to free ourselves.

We beg Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: He who is coming has come! His birth among us brings us light; His death for our transgressions brings us life. For His sake our sins are forgiven!

C: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Entrance Hymn *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

No. 36

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.

Prayer for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Stir up your power, O Lord...

C: for our hearts yearn for You, O Lord. Our spirits long for You.

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare...

C: for preparation is necessary. We are expecting a visitor.

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for Your only Son.

C: For a shoot is emerging from Jesse's stump. A tender Young branch is peeking out of roots assumed dead.

P: He will bring LIGHT...

C: to our dark paths!

P: He will bring STRENGTH...

C: for our conflicts!

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for Your only Son! For He 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 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
 He shall not judge by what his eyes see
 or decide by what his ears hear,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
 the calf and the lion will feed^[b] together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of
 him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. This is the word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “Sing Praise to Our God” (Psalm 72) Insert

Second Lesson Romans 15:4-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
 and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
 and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Verse

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

Holy Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon *“A Voice in the Wilderness”*

Hymn for the Day *“There’s a Cry”* Insert

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

P: The prophet John the Baptist preached a repentance
which would bear fruit in the lives of those who heard
him. In penitence and faith, let us offer to God our
prayer for all people.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We offer these prayers to You, our God, in penitence for
what is past and in faith that Your work in us will bear
fruit as we seek to do your will, for You alone are the
Holy One. May our lives give honor to You, through
Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All those present share with each other a word and gesture of peace

Offering and Offertory

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a
harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather
the hopes and the dreams of all, unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our
table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Our ears have heard the words of Your
prophet, O God.

**C: Our spirits have responded to the call—
“PREPARE!”**

P: And the roadwork has begun. A highway is being
laid...

C: in our hearts!

P: We bring these gifts to You, O God...

C: signs of the preparation being made. Our hearts are ready for You!

P: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving** (spoken)

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, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. 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: On the night when He was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ took bread into His hands, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples with the words,

"Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, spoke a prayer of thanks over it, and said,

"This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins"

Therefore, Lord our God, we commemorate

that Christ had to suffer and die,

but most of all that He is the firstborn from the dead,
the firstborn of the whole creation;

that glorified at Your right hand, He speaks on our behalf;
and that He will come to judge the living and the dead
on the day which You have appointed.

We pray Lord our God, send us Your Holy Spirit,

the Spirit who brings to life the power of Jesus Christ.

We pray that we may surrender ourselves completely
to Your service, and that, in the midst of this world,

and before the eyes of all Your people,
we may live Your Gospel and be the sign of Your peace;
that we may support and serve each other in love;
that our hearts may be opened to the poor, the sick,
and the dying, and to all who are in need,
that so we may be the Church of Jesus Christ,
united with all faithful people everywhere.
Through Him and with Him and in Him You are blessed and praised,
Lord our God, almighty Father, in union with the
Holy Spirit, today and all days, forever.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, You have come in power...

C: the power of grace and life that this meal brings.

P: Inspire us by the power of this bread and cup,

C: that we might bring Your powerful love to all the waiting world.

P: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now and prepare the way of the Lord.

Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you,
And bear fruits worthy of repentance.

God grant you harmony with one another;

Christ Jesus fill you with joy and peace in believing;
the Holy Spirit empower you + and fill you with hope.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn “People Look East” WOV No. 626

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

The Ayers family on the passing of Ken Nicely II

Carol Earle—sinus infection

Del Groff—heart surgery

Palagia Hlava—complications from MS

Robin Hoffman—back injury

Nicole Johnson—foot injury—is doing better

Lorene Kozar—strength and peace

Becky Larkins—for successful adoption of Holly and Rowan

Steffen Nicely—doing well at his job in Orlando, Florida

Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS

Rory Wolff—continued improvement

Our College Students— Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Grace Rohaley, Jacob Zimmerman, Jenna Zimmerman

Our military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

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.

Patty Abramovich—metastatic lung cancer—friend of Deb Wolff

Alexa—swollen spleen—granddaughter of Joyce

Ally-Marriage struggles—friend of Joyce

Diane Altier & family—bone issues after surgery—cousin of Bob Earle

Paul Berry—internal bleeding—friend of Joyce

Shirley Blackerby—advanced breast cancer—friend of Robin

Paul Bower—depression after losing wife--friend of Steve and Marla

Archer Bradshaw—fighting leukemia-3 year old family friend of Joyce

Russ & Lana Carnes—need assisted living—the Wolff’s

Bryan Corban—continued healing on broken ankle—brother of Marla

Leona Corban—continued healing—Marla’s mom

Carlton Dorris—broken clavical—grandson of Bob Earle

Bill Earle Sr.—pneumonia—Bob’s brother

Sandy Eicher—stroke—cousin of Amy

Dennis Fuldauer—on the wrong path—son of Kathy Brashear

Daniel Gump—stroke—friend of Pastor Just

Mary Hardesty—metastatic colon cancer—co-worker of Deb

John Johnson—heart surgery recovery—friend of Robin

Naomi Just—fell and broke hip—Pastor's sister

Lance—dementia—friend of Joyce

Laurance Jeanblanc—withstand malignant tumor, anemia and weight loss—brother of Guy

Nancy Kirkpatrick—in hospital with COVID—dear friend of Wolff's

Steve Mamber—bone marrow transplant Dec. 8—Amy's brother-in-law

Sam Mamber—son who is donating bone marrow to dad

Frank Manijak—failing health—Steve's Dad

Amanda Nicely—strength and peace—Trudy's sister-in-law

Karen Panier—dementia. COVID—aunt of Carol Earle

Kathy Peters—breast cancer, is in remission Praise God!—friend of Marla and Deb

Barb & Dan, Carl & Linda, Pat—elderly health issues, difficulty moving around—neighbors of the Earle's

Larry & Sally Powell—failing health—friends of the Wolffs

Sarah—in hospital with meningitis—great niece of the Wolff's

Leslie Slanina—healing—Gilbert's mom

Angela Smith—stage 4 cancer—friend of Robin

John Szabo—multiple myeloma—family friend of Amy

Deacon Robert Szalai—born prematurely—home may have brain issues—grandnephew of Steve Hlava

Dave Tregoning—stroke—family friend of Amy

Tyler—dealing with depression—14 year old grandson of Joyce's friend

Linda Valetta—health and family—friend of Robin

Bennie Wegener—pancreatic cancer—friend of the Wolff's

Darcy Wood—lymphoma diagnosis—cousin of Joyce

Donny Wood—healing from cancer—friend of Joyce

James Woods family—Streetsboro High School senior who passed away suddenly

Ukraine refugees

All natural disasters victims

COVID 19 virus patients