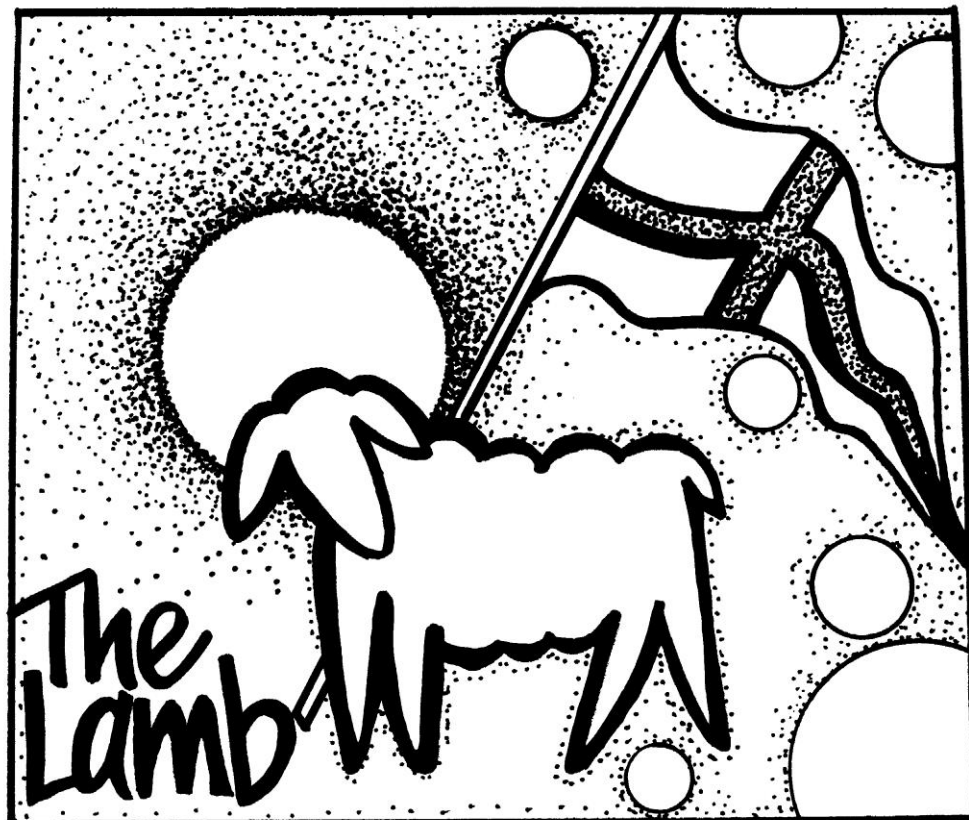


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



of God who takes away
the sin of the world.

John 1:29

Epiphany II
10:00 a.m.
January 15, 2023

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 celebration of Nicole Johnson's birthday.
- **The Prayer book** is on the music stand by the door.
- **The Lay Reader** list is available for volunteers for the month of January. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex. **Our lay reader today is**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The January-March Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **A special congregational meeting** is being planned today after our worship service to discuss the possibility of calling a seminarian student. Please mark your calendar for this important meeting.
- **Church Council** will be meeting today after the congregational meeting.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 January 8 20 Adults 2 Youth

Confirmation Pastor and 2 students

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	2039.38	Building Fund	30.00
Benevolence	25.00	Altar Guild	13.98
Loose	0.00	1 + 1 + 1	30.00
Total Offering	1711.00	Weekly need	2138.36

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

C: If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true.

P: But if we walk in the light as God himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C: and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Almighty God,

C: You dwell in light unapproachable. Unprotected, we perish in your presence, for our hearts are darkened, our minds beclouded; we have loved darkness rather than the light; we call for night to cover our deeds. The darkness of death awaits.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

C: For his sake we beg forgiveness.

P: For his sake God hears your prayer. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in your hearts, to give you the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: We have seen the Lord's glory; we have heard the Lord's voice.

P: Walk, then, as children of light—in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn "*The Only Son from Heaven*" No. 86

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**

2

Prayer for the Day

P: Let us pray. We join our voices with that of John, O God, proclaiming Your presence among us:

C: “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

P: We join our voices with that of Andrew, O God, sharing Your presence with others:

C: “We have found the Messiah!”

P: Rename us, O God,

C: as Your Son renamed Simon to “Peter”.

P: and bid us follow You,

C: as Christ bade the disciples, “Come and see”.

P: For we desire Your name upon us, O Governor of all things.

C: We desire to follow in Your way of peace.

P: Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. 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 49:1-11

Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born; while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.

²He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God.”

⁵ And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.

⁸ Thus says the LORD: In a time of favor I have answered you; on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages,

⁹ saying to the prisoners, “Come out,” to those who are in darkness, “Show yourselves.” They shall feed along the ways; on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;

¹⁰ they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them and by springs of water will guide them.

¹¹ And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “Day after Day I Sought the Lord” (Psalm 40) Insert

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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

Holy Gospel John 1:29-42

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “*What are you looking for?*” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “*Come and see.*” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “*You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas*” (which is translated Peter). This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “*Seeking Jesus*”

Hymn for the Day “*I Lay My Sins on Jesus*” No. 305

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,

**who made the world and reaches out to it
with a love fierce and passionate, tender and kind.**

We believe in Jesus the Christ—God revealed in a human life.

**He touched the untouchable,
pardoned the unforgivable and
unmasked the powers that enslave us.**

**In fear and arrogance we cast him, lifeless, into the grave,
and with him went our hopes of salvation.**

**Raised by God, he is parting the sea of evil and despair
and leading us across into the land of freedom and promise.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit—God’s mysterious presence with us—

**who breathing gives life;
whose fire purges and renews;
whose wisdom surprises, prompts and questions,
awakening courage, humor and hope.**

**We believe that we ourselves are made in the image of
God**

**and growing to wholeness in Christ.
Gathered by the Spirit, we have been baptized into a
common life;
a life laid open to all;
overflowing with love and mercy;
richer than mind can measure,
but appearing foolish to the world.**

**And we trust that the foolishness of God will prove wiser
than the wisdom of the world,
and that the suffering of God will heal the earth
and fulfil our hopes of justice and peace. Amen.**

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Prayers of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus
and for all people according to their needs.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty Lord, You have called Your church to witness
to Your reconciling love for the world in Christ Jesus;
help us to be true to our calling and proclaim the good
news of Your love, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: and also with you.

All those present greet one another with a word or 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: You are a God of Light, Heavenly Father.

C: Into our darkness you shine.

P: Accept our gifts here given. And accept ourselves as well.

C: Make us beacons of Your Light.

P: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. You have revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit; three persons, equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory. 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, that 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.

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 Cantic

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia Alleluia.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: You have fished us in, O Christ,

C: Baited and hooked, we are your heavenly catch!

P: Now help us, fish of your catching, to continue your
Church's mission.

C: Transform these fish into fishers.

P: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now and celebrate God's justice,
Take the Lord's teachings to heart
and commit yourselves to pleasing God.
Boldly declare God's truth and care
and let others know that you have found the Messiah.

God's maternal love surround you;
Christ Jesus move you to trust in the Lord;
the Holy Spirit enrich you with all spiritual gifts
and strengthen you + to the end.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"* No. 479

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

Jim Doerfler—on the passing of Jeannette

Del Groff—heart surgery recovery

Palagia Hlava—complications from MS

Robin Hoffman—back injury and toxic neuropathy

Stephanie Johnson—healing from a fender bender

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
Sandy Eicher—stroke—cousin of Amy
Evelyn French—macular degeneration—Carol’s mom
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
Bob Hudson—successful open heart surgery-continued healing—co-worker of Deb
John Johnson—heart surgery recovery—friend of Robin
Naomi Just—fell and broke hip—Pastor’s sister
Linda Kuzniakowski—brain cancer—co-worker of Deb Earle
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
Delilah Nicely—recovery from pneumonia—granddaughter of Joyce
Karen Powers—home from hospital after COVID—aunt of Carol Earle
Kathy Peters—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
Mary Lou Snider—health issues—friend of the Wolffs
John Szabo—multiple myeloma—family friend of Amy
Deacon Robert Szalai—born prematurely—home may have brain issues—grandnephew of Steve Hlava
Todd—diagnosed with Cushings—friend of Robin
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
Kim Weiggart—bacterial andocarditis—co-worker of Deb
Darcy Wood—lymphoma diagnosis—cousin of Joyce
Donny Wood—healing from cancer—friend of Joyce
Ukraine refugees
All natural disasters victims
COVID 19 virus patients