

Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



The Baptism of our Lord
10:00 a.m.
January 8, 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 Troy Roman and Deb Wolff's birthdays and Ben Wolff's baptism 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 signup sheet in the Narthex. **Our lay reader today is Robin Hoffman.**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The January-March Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **A special congregational meeting** is being planned for Sunday, January 15 after our worship service to discuss the possibility of calling a seminarian student. Please mark your calendar for this important meeting.
- **We wish everyone** a blessed New Year!
- **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 1 15 Adults 0 Youth

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	1645.00	Building Fund	30.00
Benevolence	20.00	Advent folder	10.00
Loose	0.00	1 + 1 + 1	6.00
Total Offering	1711.00	Weekly need	1229.52

Welcome and Announcements

Epiphany Song: *Shine, Jesus, Shine* Insert

Opening Dialog

P: When Christ was baptized in the Jordan by John,

C: “Behold, the heavens were opened,”

P: and the Spirit of God descended upon him. On the day you were baptized,

C: “Behold, the heavens were opened”

P: and the Spirit of God descended upon you. We are no longer merely children of this earth.

C: We have been made children of heaven.

P: We are no longer only children of our mothers and fathers.

C: We have been made children of God.

P: We are no longer left to fend for ourselves here on earth.

C: We are forever connected to the Father, by the work of the Holy Spirit.

P: Our prayers reach up to heaven.

C: God’s words reach down to us.

P: May what God has done through our baptisms

C: bring others to the waters of God’s grace.

P: And may we who are baptized and beloved by God

C: live all our lives in praise to Him.

Entrance Hymn “From God the Father, Virgin-Born” No. 83

Prayer for the Day

P: Come down, O God...

C: ...in booming, approving voice, come down.

P: Come down, O God...

C: ...in white-winged Spirit, come down.

P: For once You came, O God, to Jordan’s shores in voice and dove.

C: Once You proclaimed your Son beloved. Once You anointed Him with Your Spirit.

P: Come down in booming voice, O God, to all of Your baptized sons and daughters...

C: Proclaim us beloved.

P: Come down in fluttering Spirit, O God, to all of our beloved children.

C: Anoint us with Your Spirit.

P: Make us faithful, as Your Son was faithful,

C: that we may share a Son’s inheritance.

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 42:1-9

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will

bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “Ascribe to God” (Psalm 29) Insert

Second Lesson Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to the household of Cornelius: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John [the Baptist] at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "*Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.*" Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon "*For Now...and for Eternity*"

Hymn for the Day "*The Sinless One to Jordan Came*" Insert

A Rite for the Remembrance of the Baptism Covenant

A sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism as is said:

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

C: Amen.

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of His Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from His Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith into which you are baptized.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do You believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.

P: A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
[6:3-11] This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: A reading from the letter to the Ephesians:

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all
[4:1-6] This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: A reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians:

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [5:17-20] This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: In Baptism, God brings us into His family and calls us His own. By Baptism, God gives us the gifts of faith, love, life, forgiveness, and strength, and asks us to respond in faithfulness to Him and in service to others. In answer to the question, "What does Baptism mean for daily living?" the Small Catechism responds: "It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever."

On this day that the Church remembers the Baptism of Our Lord, we invite you to come to the font yet again, reach in and touch the water, mark yourself with that rich wetness, and remind yourself how real is this promise from God.

[All are invited to come forward to touch the water to mark themselves again with the sign of the cross.]

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, we thank You for the new life You have given us through Holy Baptism. Continue to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit, and increase in us Your gifts of

grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in Your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Baptismal Hymn “Crashing Waters at Creation” Insert

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: Lord God, heavenly Father, receive our thanks this day for the lives of all Your servants who were washed in Baptism, taught Your Word, and fed with Christ’s precious body and blood, who now rest from their labors and rejoice in Your presence. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to Your heavenly Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, to all ages of ages.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: Luke the Evangelist wrote of our risen Lord that when He was at table with the disciples at Emmaus, He took bread and blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. This is Christ’s table. Our Savior invites those who trust in Him to share the feast which He has prepared. Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened His heart to us, and God will be glorified. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

C: and also with you.

All may greet one another with a word and gesture of peace.

Offering

Offering Prayer

P: Surely, God, You show no partiality...

C: ...for You have chosen even us to be Your servants...to be Your children.

P: Filled with Your Spirit, approved by Your voice, saved by Your Son,

C: we are bold to come before You now. Accept these gifts. Accept our lives.

P: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving** *(spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: We are the body of Christ.

C: His Spirit is with us.

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 to give You our thanks and praise, O God,
for in You and through You all righteousness is fulfilled.

When Your voice first thundered over the seas
You created the heavens and spread out the earth.

You breathed the Spirit of life into us
and called Your people to be a light to the nations.

When the time came to declare new things among us
You gave us Your servant, Jesus the Christ,
Your chosen one in whom You are well pleased.

You anointed Him with Holy Spirit and with power
and sent Him to open eyes long blind
and to release those imprisoned in darkness.

When He was put to death,
You raised Him on the third day,
making the earth shudder with the birth pains of new life,
and raising with Him all those who have died with Him
in the waters of baptism.

Therefore we bow before You and adore You with the words:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of all living.

Earth and heaven are filled with Your glory.

We bless Your name.

Blessed is he who comes in the midst of His people.

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 proclaim to us Your will.

He is Your Word, inseparable from You.

Through Him You created all things,
and in Him 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 the resurrection,

taking bread and giving thanks to You, said:

“Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this in 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 for the 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 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 our 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.

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: O Lord, in Baptism You invited us into Your presence. In this meal You make yourself known.

C: Give us joy, O Christ—Spirit-given joy...world-changing joy.

P: We bless You now and evermore..

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now as a light to the nations.

Honor the Lord;
preach what you know of the risen Christ,
and fulfil all righteousness.

God strengthen you and bless you with peace;
Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you;
the Holy Spirit alight on you
and affirm you + as God's beloved ones.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn *"Remember the Waters, Remember the Word"* Insert

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

Carol Earle—sinus infection clearing

Del Groff—heart surgery

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

Grace Rohaley—graduation from Kent State

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
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—open heart surgery—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
Matt—moving to New Mexico—family friend of Amy
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
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