

Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



The Transfiguration of our Lord
10:00 a.m.
February 19, 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 Bob Earle and Marla Manijak's baptism birthdays.
- **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 Guy Jeanblanc.**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The January-March Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **Church Council** will be meeting today after the worship service.
- **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 last Sunday 21 Adults 2 Youth

Confirmation Pastor and 2 students

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	697.00	Building Fund	10.00
Benevolence	13.00	Loose	30.00
1 + 1 + 1	14.00	Tops Donation	50.00
Total Offering	824.00	Weekly need	1,288.46

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 "O God of God, O Light of Light" No. 536

Opening Dialog

P: When Peter saw You transfigured, O Lord, he said, "It is good to be here!" Now we who see You at work in this place say,

C: It is good to be here, O Lord.

P: Here in this place, as we pray, You are transforming hearts and lives with Your presence.

C: It is good to be here, O Lord.

P: Here in this place, God declares to us how much he loves his Son and how much he loves each one of us.

C: It is good to be here, O Lord.

P: Here in this place, as we come before You filled with doubts and fears, You say, "Do not be afraid."

C: It is good to be here, O Lord.

P: May our time in this place uplift and inspire us.

C: May our time in this place be a foretaste of the glory yet to come. Amen.

Song of Praise: “I Adore” Insert

Prayer for the Day

P: Atop a high mountain we see a vision, O God—

C: a vision of ancient fathers, bearing witness to Your Son.

P: Caught up in the bright cloud we hear Your voice, O God—

**C: a voice that announces, “This is My Son, the Beloved;
with Him I am well pleased; listen to Him!”**

P: And, knowing whom we follow, we say with Peter,

C: “It is good, Lord, for us to be here!”

P: Inspire us by this vision,

C: to acknowledge our adoption into Your family.

P: Inspire us by Your booming voice,

**C: to hear in it the echoes of the voice that will one day
invite us into paradise:**

P: “Come, blessed of my Father”...

**C: ...”inherit the kingdom prepared for You from the
foundation of the world.”**

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 Exodus 24:12-18

¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “The Lord Has Placed a King” (Psalm 2) Insert

Second Lesson 2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel Matthew 5:21-37

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon "*On the Mountaintop*"

Hymn for the Day "*None But Jesus*" Insert

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 to God who commanded the light to shine
out of darkness and whose glory is like a devouring fire.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Arise, O Morning Star, and in Your rising lift us to
behold with all the saints the majestic glory of God, so
that through the shadows and darkness of this world we
may ever press toward the glory of the world to come,
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit You live and
reign, God 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 Offering Song “With All I Am” Insert

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Our great and glorious God,

C: we thank You for sending Your dear Son Jesus.

**Teach us to follow His example of self-giving service,
and to offer ourselves and all we have in love to You
and to others. In Jesus’ name. 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 to give You thanks and praise, O God,
for Your transfiguring light has overcome us
and is restoring within us the image of Your glory.

At the dawn of time Your glory overcame the chaos
and gave birth to the earth and heavens.

On the fiery mountain You gave the law to Moses,
and through men and women moved by your Holy Spirit
you gave us your word to lighten up the dark places.

In the timeless presence of Moses and Elijah
you transfigured your anointed one, Jesus,
allowing his terrified followers to witness his majesty
and hear your voice from the awesome cloud.

Powerful leaders plotted against Him and killed Him,
but you raised Him from the dead,
declaring Him again to be Your beloved Son.

Calling us now to listen to him
you send us forth to share Your transfiguring love with all.

Therefore with angels and archangels and all the
company of heaven, we praise and glorify Your name, evermore praising You and
saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty

**All space and all time show forth Your glory
now and always. Amen.**

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.”*

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 Christ, we are witnesses of great mysteries—

C: a transfiguration on a mountaintop...a meal that confers true grace.

P: Help us now to bear witness to these great mysteries.

C: Give us voices that are ready to shout what we have witnessed:

P: "You are the Lord forevermore!"

C: Amen.

Farewell to "Alleluia"

It is an ancient custom in the Christian church that a "Farewell to Alleluia" be sung at the close of the liturgy on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Traditionally "Alleluia" is not sung then until Easter morning, symbolizing our voluntary restraint of praise during the penitential season of Lent. This 11th-century hymn, is a traditional farewell to Alleluia. As the hymn is sung, a banner bearing the word, "Alleluia" is solemnly rolled up, and laid away until Easter when it will be unfurled and set before the church in triumph.

Farewell Song "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" WOV 654

Sending

P: Go now and make known the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Bow at God's feet, and serve the Lord with joy.

God be your shelter;
Christ Jesus take away your fear;
the Holy Spirit lead you in truth until the day dawns
and the morning star rises + in your hearts.

C: Amen.

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

Kathy Brashear—not feeling well
Jim Doerfler—on the passing of Jeannette
Del Groff—heart surgery recovery—doing well
Palagia Hlava—complications from MS
Robin Hoffman—back injury and toxic neuropathy
Jill Earle—broken ankle/foot, healing—niece of Bob and Carol
Lorene Kozar—strength and peace
Becky Larkins—successful adoption of Rowan
Marla Manijak—cataract surgery Thursday
Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS

Amy Rohaley—Covid

Deb & Rory Wolff—safe travels home from Florida

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
Archer Bradshaw—fighting leukemia-3 year old family friend of Joyce
Russ & Lana Carnes—need assisted living—the Wolff's
Christine—knee replacement surgery—teacher friend of Joyce
Jeff—double knee surgery, healing—friend of Bob and Carol
John Cowling—leukemia—brother-in-law 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
Heather Hendrix—acute onset leukemia—family friend of Amy
Bob Hudson—successful open heart surgery-continued healing—co-worker of Deb
Jaylah—lost her mother to overdose—single parent home—bus student of Joyce
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

Adalyn—diagnosed with cancer—great-granddaughter of Mary Lott

Steve Mamber—bone marrow transplant this week—brother-in-law of Amy

Sam Mamber—son who is donating bone marrow to dad this week

Frank Manijak—failing health—Steve's Dad

Mike Menhart—under hospice care—Epiphany member

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

Delilah Nicely—recovery from pneumonia—granddaughter of Joyce

Paul—had stroke—came through now hoping on rehab bed—friend of Joyce

Karen Power—family searching for care facility, she keeps falling—aunt of Carol Earle

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

Joan Rupp—suffering pain from gallstones—good friend of Amy

Leslie Slanina—healing—Gilbert's mom

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

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

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

Kim Weiggart—bacterial endocarditis—co-worker of Deb

Kathy & Greg Wolf—looking for new home in Findley—friend of the Earle'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