

**Welcome to St. Thomas
Lutheran Church**

PLANT THE SEED



**G[°]D WILL MAKE
IT GR[°]W**

1 C[°]RINTHIANS 3:6

**Epiphany VI
10:00 a.m.
February 12, 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 to the Glory of God!
- **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 Diane Lee.**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The January-March Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **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 23 Adults 1 Youth

Confirmation Pastor and 2 students

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	1827.19	Building Fund	20.00
Benevolence	5.00	1 + 1 + 1	12.00
Total Offering	1864.19	Weekly need	2,138.36

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 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" Insert

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: Open our eyes, O Lord, to see Your good and holy will—

C: a will that prohibits anger.

P: Open our ears, O Lord, to hear Your good and holy will—

C: a will that excludes lust.

P: Open our hearts, O Lord, to know in our hearts Your good and holy will—

C: a will that desires love for You, compassion for others.

P: Open us up to your will, O Lord, that we may not only KNOW it...

C: ...but that we may DO it.

P: And when the guilt of not doing Your will weighs upon us,

C: wash our guilt away with Christ's holy and precious blood.

P: Through the same 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 Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “How Blessed Are They Who Always Keep” (Psalm 119) Insert

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people but rather as fleshly, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still fleshly. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not fleshly and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not all too human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. ⁹For we are God’s coworkers, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building. 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 Matthew 5:21-37

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Jesus taught them:] “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder,’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot

make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one. This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon *“Learning to Live: The New Terrain”*

Hymn for the Day *“God! When Human Bonds Are Broken”* 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.**

Copyright © 2001, Nathan Nettleson. Used by permission of the author.

Prayers of the Church

P: Our gracious God calls us to be ministers of reconciliation in a world refusing to honor God.

In acknowledgment of our Lord’s command, let us place our prayers before God.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, in Your unsearchable wisdom You command us to do what is right and good, so that through faith-filled action we may come to recognize Your loving concern for us. Keep us always single-minded in carrying out Your commands, especially to be reconciled to one another. We make this prayer 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 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: Let us pray. Lord our God,

C: we thank You for making us Yours. Teach us to live as Your holy people, obeying Your commands in our hearts, and giving ourselves in loving service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 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: Filled with You, O Christ,

C: we are ready to shine!

P: Strengthen in us, by the power of this holy supper, the desire to shine with Your own borrowed light.

C: We are a city on a hill. Let us never be hid!

P; We bless You now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: God has placed before you life & death, blessings & curses.

Therefore choose life, follow God's way.

Go now, and be a people of reconciliation and integrity.

Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" "no".

In all the paths you walk God hold you steady and close.

Christ Jesus bless you and every place you enter.

The Holy Spirit give you length of days and + fullness of life.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth" No. 396

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

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 Holly—Praise God—and for successful adoption of Rowan

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

Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS

Deb & Rory Wolff—safe travels to Florida and back and while on cruise

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

Carmen—health and depression—friend of Robin

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

Christine—knee replacement surgery—teacher friend of Joyce

Bryan Corban—walking with boot—Thank You!—brother of Marla

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

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

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

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—pituitary tumor-benign-pressing on optic nerve—friend of Robin

Tom—oral surgery and hip surgery—friend of Robin

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 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