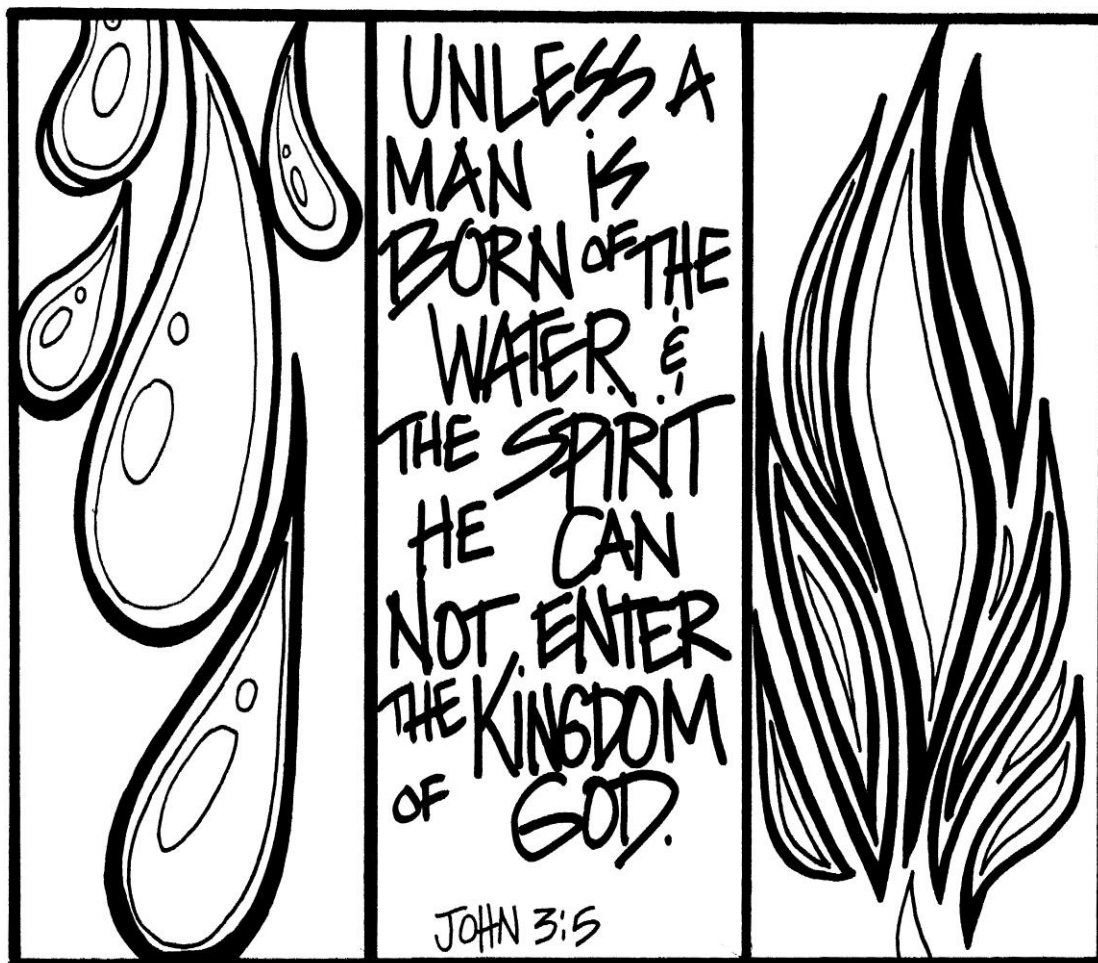


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



Lent II
10:00 a.m.
March 5, 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 Becky Larkins 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 sign up sheet in the Narthex. **Our lay reader today is**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The January-March and April-June Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **Our Midweek Lenten** services will be held on the Thursdays in March with soup supper at 6:30 p.m. and the worship service following at 7:30 p.m. A sign up sheet is in the narthex to sign up for soup makers and other items. We would love to see you join us for this fun fellowship hour and worship.
- **Our Lutheran World Relief** Lenten project is to make personal care kits. This Sunday is bars of 2-3 soap in a pack. Next Sunday is Adult size toothbrush in its original packaging, then one sturdy comb, remove packaging and one metal nail clippers.
- **Christ Lutheran youth** group is hosting a Pancake Breakfast at Shalersville Town Hall on Saturday, March 18th from 8-1 at a cost of \$10. Syrup from Goodell Farms will be provided. Help support the youth at Christ Lutheran.
- **The volunteer program** at UH Portage Medical Center in Ravenna includes opportunities to serv patients and family members with spiritual car support. Volunteers typically commit 3-4 hours per week or serve on=call a few days per month. If interested please contact UH Portage Medical Center’s Pastoral Care Dept. at 330-297-2445.
- **Service Projects...**Lutheran Missions Ministry is always in need of help. 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 24 Adults 2 Youth

Ash Wednesday 8 Adults

Confirmation Pastor and 2 students

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	940.00	Building Fund	15.00
Benevolence	5.00	Loose	30.00
1 + 1 + 1	13.00		
Total Offering	1003.00	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: When the time came, I listened to you,” says the Lord;
“and when you needed help, I came to save you.”

C: But we are dust, and to dust we will return.

P: “Yet even now,” says the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and with weeping and with mourning.”

C: The sacrifice the Lord desires is a broken, contrite heart; it will not be despised.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: O God, we have sinned.

C: In our thinking, in our speaking, in our doing—we have sinned. We have disobeyed Your will, and we have neglected it. We stand condemned. But Jesus Christ stands with us. His Spirit makes it possible for us to plead for mercy. We come with broken, contrite hearts, for we have sinned.

P: Christ never sinned! But God treated Him as a sinner, so that Christ could make us acceptable to God. By the working of the Holy Spirit, may God in His mercy grant you true repentance and sincere faith so that, reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, you may have treasure in heaven.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn “The God of Abraham Praise” No. 544

Opening Dialog

P: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.

P: Seek the Lord while He may be found.

C: Call upon Him while He is near.

P: Let the wicked abandon their ways.

C: and the unrighteous their thoughts.

P: Let them turn to the Lord for mercy,

C: to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

P: All you who are thirsty, come to the water. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat. Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk.

C: Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.

[The song of praise is omitted during Lent.]

Prayer for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, it is Your glory always to have mercy.

C: Bring back all who have erred and strayed from Your ways. Lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of Your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

All readings are from the New Revised Standard Version

The First Lesson Genesis 12:1-4

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “I to the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes” (Psalm 121) Insert

Second Lesson Romans 4:1-5, 13-17a

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)... This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Verse Pg. 63

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

Holy Gospel John 3:1-17

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “*Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.*” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “*Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.*” ⁶ *What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.* ⁷ *Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’* ⁸ *The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “*Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?*

¹¹ *“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.*” ¹² *If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?*” ¹³ *No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.* ¹⁴ *And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,* ¹⁵ *that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

¹⁶ *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

¹⁷ *“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”* This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “*Flesh and Spirit...Like Jesus*”

Hymn for the Day “*My Heart Is Longing*” Insert

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,

**Creator of all that is and shall be,
Redeemer of all that is less than it could be,
Sustainer of our living, our loving our being.**

**We believe in the cross of Christ,
drenched in hatred and cruelty,
yet overflowing with God’s unquenchable love.**

We believe in the bread of life:

**broken and shared,
it opens our eyes to the presence of Christ.
and strengthens us for the journey.**

**We believe that, in the pain suffered by Christ,
all our hurts, torments and betrayals
are magnified in the purity of love,
and embraced that we might be free.**

**We believe in the joy of the Holy Spirit,
poured into the hearts of those
who with courage and resolve
refuse to trade integrity for popularity.**

**We believe in the Gospel,
Good News offered to us in Jesus,
despised by the world
but leading us in the way of life.**

**We believe in love:
the nature of God,
a gift unsurpassed,
but a mystery only fulfilled
when all else is relinquished.**

**We believe in light shining from darkness
in mercy vanquishing bitterness,
in life bursting free where death reigned.**

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: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus 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 Offering Music pg 67

What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vow to the Lord now in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. During this season of almsgiving, O Lord,
open not only our pocketbooks;

C: but open our hearts to Your presence.

P: Open our arms to the needy;

C: open our lives to Your service.

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 time and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to all the children of God. 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: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send not your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In 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.
Do this for the remembrance of Me.”*

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 Canticle pg 63

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Lord Jesus Christ, at this table we meet You—

C: in body broken, in blood outpoured.

P: Nourish us with this holy food,

C: for by it we are made more than conquerors.

P: You are the Lord forevermore!

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go out into the world at the call of God.

Find your help in the Lord,
and in your flesh live fully from the Spirit of God.

God shelter you from evil and keep you from stumbling;

Christ Jesus secure your life in faith;

The Holy Spirit carry you + on the winds of God's love.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: "God Our Author and Creator" 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

Kathy Braesher—vertigo

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

Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS

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

Barb Basmagy—possible pneumonia—doing well--wife of Dusty

Paul Berry—internal bleeding—friend of Joyce

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

Donna Bureau—pancreatic cancer on hospice—aunt of Marla

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 last week—brother-in-law of Amy—next month crucial

Sam Mamber—son who donated bone marrow to dad last 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