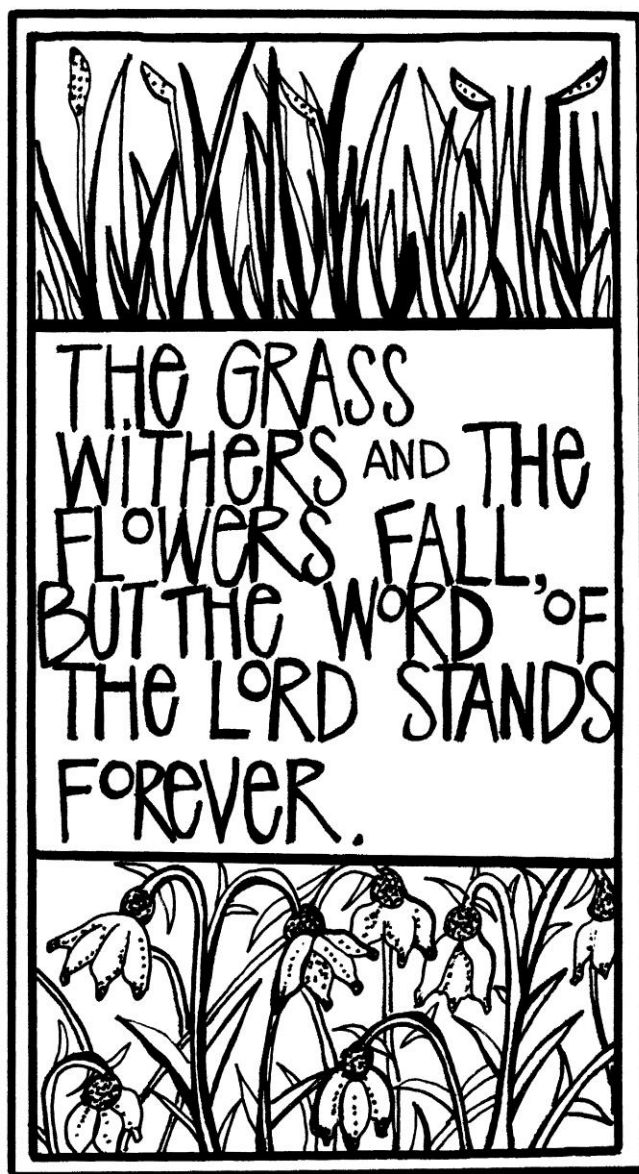


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



1 PETER 1:24-25

Easter III
10:00 a.m.
April 23, 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 Kari Earle and Haley Rohaley 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**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The April-June Portal of Prayers** are on the stand.
- **Our Lutheran World Relief** project is to make personal care kits. We will be assembling these kits next Sunday after the worship service. If you can stay to help with this project we would greatly appreciate it.
- **This week** seminary students will be given their assignments. On Tuesday will be Ft. Wayne students and on Wednesday from St. Louis. Christ Lutheran will be having a watch party on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. if you are interested in finding out if our congregations have been chosen. Pray that we are one of them.
- **The Ravenna Community Choir** will be performing today at 3:00 p.m. at the Assembly of God Church on S.R. 14 in Ravenna. Deb Wolff and Marla Manijak would love to have you attend and listen to these wonderful songs.
- **The volunteer program** at UH Portage Medical Center in Ravenna includes opportunities to serve patients and family members with spiritual care 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 19 Adults 2 Youth

Confirmation Class Pastor plus 2 students

Towards Budget

Current Expense	2066.76	Building Fund	20.00
Benevolence	5.00	Loose	00.00
Outside Benevolence	100.00	1 + 1 + 1	24.00
Total Offering	2215.76	Weekly need	1,288.46

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ.

C: We were baptized so that we might have a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

P: Therefore, let us confess our sins to God, so that we may receive the outcome of our faith, the salvation of our souls.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Almighty and all-merciful God,

C: We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise. We have offended Your majesty and denied Your divinity; we have brought death and darkness where You once said, "Let there be light." We deserve the doom You have decreed. We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise.

P: But Christ is risen.

C: Risen indeed!

P: Since we have been united with Him in a death like His,

C: we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. For His sake, our Father, we implore You: forgive our sins and free us from all doubt and disbelief. Let us be raised with Christ!

P: "Thus it is written, that the Messiah had to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins must be proclaimed in his name."
That word is now proclaimed to you.

C: We have seen the Lord! Alleluia! Amen.

Entrance Hymn "*This Joyful Eastertide*" WOV 676

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: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: You have come down, O God.

C: Your Son made himself low...enduring the humility of mere humanity.

P: Your Son made himself low...enduring persecution and suffering.

C: Your Son made himself low...enduring the cross and the grave.

P: You have come down, O God...down to our level. And in so doing You have raised us up.

C: You have raised us up—heightening our awareness of You and Your love.

P: You have raised us up—out of sin's mire.

C: And You have raised us up—eternal souls to live eternally.

P: O raising, ever-living God, continue Your work in us.

C: Raise us up as examples of Your love for the world.

P: And raise us, at last, to eternal life. 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 Acts 2:14a, 36-41

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

³⁶"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰And he testified with many other

arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Song “I Love the Lord; He Heard My Cries” (Psalm 116) Insert

Second Lesson 1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Verse Pg. 63

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

Holy Gospel Luke 24:13-35

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “*What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?*” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “*What things?*” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “*Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!* ²⁶*Was it not necessary that the Messiah^[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?*” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon *"Foolish, Slow, or Both?"*

Hymn for the Day *"On Emmaus' Journey"* Insert

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,

**Maker and Sustainer of earth, sea and sky,
and midwife of every life that emerges from the womb
of the earth.**

We believe in Jesus Christ.

**Born of the womb of Mary, he was the first of our race to
live fully the destiny for which we were all created.**

**Healing the broken and serving the poor,
liberating the burdened and reconciling heaven and earth;
His every action unmasked the evil that waits to
enslave us all.**

**Hell, wounded at its heart and filled with bitterness and
rage, struck back in fury unrestrained.**

Jesus was condemned by the religious and crucified by the state.

He died forsaken, a man of sorrows.

**No pain in our hearts or in our planet is unfamiliar to
Him for He was cast into the jaws of death.**

**Redeeming even death, God raised Jesus from the grave
and with wounded hands He embraces us.**

**He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present
and there is now nothing beyond the reach of His
healing touch.**

**We believe in the Holy spirit, who raises us from the
waters of death, breathes new life into us and
declares us to be God's beloved.**

And we believe Christ came that all may have life.

**Violence and hatred have done their worst
but Christ's reign of peace will conquer.**

**All who trust in Christ, though they die,
shall be lifted to life in all its fullness.
The grip of suffering will be forever broken,
and death shall have no dominion. Amen.**

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Prayers of the Church

P: Let us who journey on the way with Christ, risen and ever-present in mystery, pray for the world with all our heart and mind.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Preserve us all, O Lord, and take us home to Your heart, so that all our lives may be woven together in prayer and praise, 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. 66

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. By your Son's presence among us you have raised us up, O God—

C: raised us to new life...holy life...joyful life.

P: And so we raise our hearts to you,

C: along with these gifts.

P: Accept them as signs of our love. 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 almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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 those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now 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: 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.”

Again after supper, 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 72

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: Let us pray. As once you made yourself known to the Emmaus disciples in the breaking of the bread,

C: so you have made yourself known to us in this place...in this meal.

P: As we have experienced your presence here, fill us with the contagious joy that the disciples felt.

C: Lead us to spread the good news: "The Lord has risen indeed!"

P: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

A Closing Dialog

P: Risen Lord, the disciples of Emmaus welcomed You into their homes.

C: Stay with us, O Lord, and come into our homes.

P: When we sit down to eat a meal with family and friends,

C: stay with us, O Lord, and share this time with us.

P: When someone in our home is sick or in need,

C: stay with us, O Lord, and bring Your healing touch.

P: When we are feeling sad and alone,

C: stay with us, O Lord, and gladden our homes and our hearts with Your presence,

P: When we fold our hands in prayer,

C: stay with us, O Lord, to hear us as we pray.

P: When we are at work in our homes,

C: stay with us, O Lord, and give us the strength we need to complete our tasks.

P: When we are at home to rest,

C: stay with us, O Lord, and grant us Your peace. Amen

Sending

P: Go now as witnesses of God's eternal presence.

The risen Christ has made himself known to you
In the breaking of the bread,
So set your faith and hope on God,
fulfilling your vows and living in genuine mutual love.

God hear and respond whenever you call;
Christ Jesus make Himself known to you in all things;
the Holy Spirit open your eyes and set your hearts on fire
+ with love.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn “A77de with Us, Our Savior” No. 263

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

Palagia Hlava—complications from MS

Robin Hoffman—back injury and toxic neuropathy

Lorene Kozar—strength and peace

Becky Larkins—successful adoption of Rowan

Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS

Ben Wolff—healing of repaired rotator cuff

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

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

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

Ray Bishop—pancreatic cancer—friend of the Wolff's
Archer Bradshaw—fighting leukemia-3 year old family friend of Joyce
Carl—lost his wife Linda and is all alone now—neighbor of the Earle's
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
Jonelle Cillo—cancer treatment for acute leukemia—sister of Steve Hlava
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
Kari Hendrix==hip surgery and healing—neighbor of the Earle's
Heather Hendrix—acute onset leukemia—family friend of Amy
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
Leo—healing from broken hip and dementia—uncle of Amy
Christine Lowdin—2nd knee replacement and healing—friend of Joyce
Steve Mamber—not doing well after bone marrow transplant, in oncology ICU—brother-in-law of Amy
Sam Mamber—son who donated bone marrow to dad
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
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
Chris Zimmerman—recovering from sepsis—friend of the Wolff's
Ukraine refugees
All natural disasters victims
COVID 19 virus patients