

Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



Easter IV
10:00 a.m.
April 30, 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 Deb Wolff's baptism birthdays.
- **The Altar Flowers** are given in celebration of Steve and Marla Manijak's 47th Wedding Anniversary on the 1st and Leona Corban's 91st birthday on the 4th.
- **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 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 today after the worship service. If you can stay to help with this project we would greatly appreciate it.
- **We were very** excited at the Watch Party at Christ Lutheran Church last Tuesday to hear both our churches names read as we welcome Pastor Blake Martzowka to our congregations. Please see the insert for more information.
- **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	860.00	Building Fund	10.00
Benevolence	5.00	Loose	00.00
Candle	112.00	1 + 1 + 1	12.00
Total Offering	999.00	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 "Rejoice, Angelic Choirs, Rejoice!" No. 146

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: Into the cold stone tomb You cried, O Heavenly Father.

Into the tomb You called His name:

C: “Christ, my Son, ARISE!”

P: And, calling His name, You raised from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep.

C: Alleluia!

P: Now our ears are open to His call. Our lives are ready for His leading.

C: Where will our Shepherd lead us?

P: To rescue the lost.

C: Where will our Shepherd guide us?

P: To heal the injured.

C: Where will our Shepherd call us?

P: To feed one another...

C: ...with the rich food of knowledge...with the sweet drink of understanding.

P: Guide us, O Father, to be shepherds. 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 2:42-47

⁴² Those who came to faith because of Peter’s words] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Song “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” (Psalm 23) No. 456

Second Lesson 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,^[a] so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds^[b] you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. 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 John 10:1-10

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: *“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”* ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, *“Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”* This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “Flock Behavior” (or, “How to Be a Sheep without Getting Fleeced”)

Hymn for the Day “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me” No. 336

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: Gathered in the care of the Good Shepherd and guardian
of our souls, let us in trust pray for the church and the
world.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Enable us to know that by Christ's wounds we have
been healed, and that by the power of his risen and
Spirit-giving life we are empowered to serve you all our
days. We pray through Jesus Christ, our risen 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 “Jesus, All for Jesus” Insert

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. What more can we ask, O Lord?

C: Green pastures are ours. Still waters are ours. We shall dwell in Your house, forever.

P: Accept our gifts, O Lord.

C: We follow.

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 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, almighty God, Father of our Lord

Jesus Christ, blessed are You.

Before the foundation of the world You chose us to be

Your children.

You have liberated us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of Your dear Son,

The very image and reflection of Your glory.

For Him the universe was made.

In Him we have received redemption and forgiveness of sins.

On the night when He was betrayed He 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, gave thanks and said,

*“This cup is the new covenant in My blood,
which is shed for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Each time you drink of this cup,
do it in remembrance of Me.”*

When we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.

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,
the 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 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. You have called us by name, O Good Shepherd. You have led us to this place...

C: ...to this table.

P: Nourish us with this rich food. Empower us to serve You.

C: Then we, too, will be shepherds.

P: We bless You now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now, listening for the voice of Christ,
and follow the example He left us.

Devote yourself to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to the prayers of God's
people.

God lead you to places of rest and renewal;
Christ Jesus give you life in abundance;
the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with gladness + and
generosity.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" No. 487

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

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

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

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