

Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



Easter VI
10:00 a.m.
May 14, 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 Mike Phillips birthday and Ian Phillips and Tim Nicely's baptism birthdays.
- **Happy Anniversary** to Del & Donna Groff on their wedding anniversary on the 18th.
- **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 April-June Portal of Prayers** are on the stand.
- **May 18th is The Feast of the Ascension**, the day that celebrates Christ's return to heaven. Sometimes referred to as "the forgotten feast day," this is an important event in the life of our Lord and of His Church. Jesus Himself said: "*...it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*" Give thanks to God that Jesus has ascended to the right hand of God and that the gift of the Holy Spirit is at work among us.
- **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 24 Adults 2 Youth

Confirmation Class Pastor plus 2 students

Towards Budget

Current Expense	2507.00	Building Fund	70.00
Benevolence	63.00	Loose	80.00
1 + 1 + 1	17.00		
Total Offering	2287.00	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 "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done" No. 135

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.

***The Hymn of Praise—This is the feast pg. 60**

C: Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

- 1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain**
- 2. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. Refrain**
- 3. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**
- 4. Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain**
- 5. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Refrain**

Prayer for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God,

**C: You send your Holy Spirit to be the light and life of all
Your people. Open our hearts to receive His riches, so
that we may produce the fruit of the Spirit in love and
joy and peace.**

P: We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who . 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 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

²⁹"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Song "O All You Peoples, Bless Our God" (Psalm 66) Insert

Second Lesson 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. 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 14:15-21

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus taught the disciples]: *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.*

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “Very Religious?”

Hymn for the Day “Church of God, Elect and Glorious” Insert

Affirmation of Faith Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
In fulfillment of the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

P: Let us now demonstrate the hope that fills our hearts by turning to God in prayer.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, it is in the power of Your abundant and life-giving Spirit that we call upon
You in prayer. Deepen our hope in Your presence and Your promise; hear us in Your tender
love, now and 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 Music

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. Teach us to recognize these gifts for what they are, O God—

C: responses to Your endless care, signs of our thanks and praise.

P: Teach us to recognize these gifts for what they are, O God—

C: evidence of Your Spirit, living deep within our hearts.

P: Teach us to recognize these gifts for what they are, O God—

C: for they are the cries of Your people. They are our prayers.

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 offer at this table Your presence, O Christ.

C: You offer Your Spirit.

P: You offer true grace. Encourage us by this meal, O Christ.

C: that we may BE for one another as You ARE for us.

P: We bless You now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now into the world.

Search for the God who is not far from each one of us.

Offer to all who ask an account of the hope that is in you.

Keep your conscience clear as you live the commandments in love.

God greet your prayers with constant love.

Christ Jesus give you life through His own life;
the Spirit of truth abide with you and within you, + always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn “Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!” No. 147

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

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
Laurie—breast cancer, undergoing Chemo—friend of Diane
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
The family of Mike Menhart who passed away—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