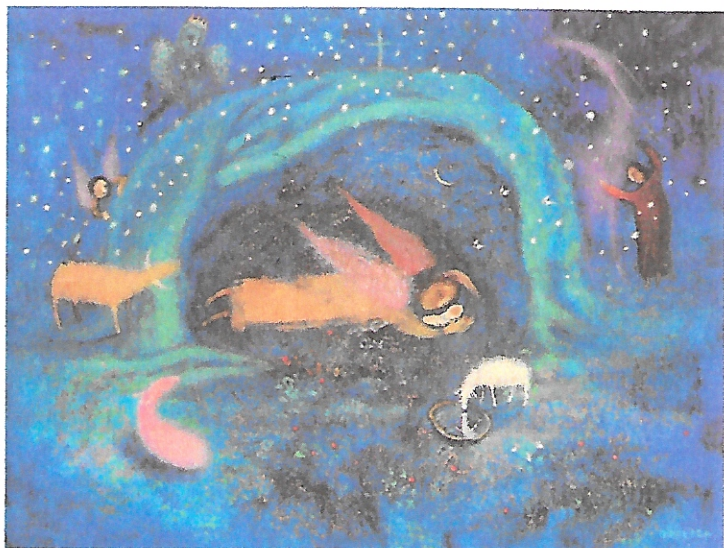


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church – Streetsboro, Ohio

December 2023



At Christ and St. Thomas, we follow the Church Year. The Church Year helps us concentrate on different aspects of the biblical witness concerning Christ's life. The first season of the Church Year is Advent. Advent begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th, St. Andrew's Day, the first day of the Church Year. St. Andrew's Day is so called because St. Andrew was the first called of Jesus' disciples (John 1:40-42). Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming." The first two Sundays of Advent focus on the coming of Christ in Glory to judge the living and the dead, and the last two Sundays of Advent focus on Christ's first coming in the flesh to be our savior. Traditionally, Advent has functioned as a time of repentance in preparation for Christmas, the celebration of Christ's birth. The earliest witness to the celebration of Advent comes from the late 4th century. The celebration of Christmas on December 25th is much older than Advent since Advent was designed as a season to prepare for Christmas.

Repentance is a proper preparation for Christ's first and second coming. In daily repentance we reflect upon our sins and ask God to forgive us the sins we know of and the sins we don't know of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We repent, however, knowing that God will forgive our sins because He has forgiven our sins already through the death of Christ Jesus. It is on the basis of Christ's death for the forgiveness of sins that we can stand before the judgment seat of Christ righteous in His sight (Romans 8:1). This death for the forgiveness of sins is the reason God the Son became man in the first place so that He might be our brother and bear our sin for us (Hebrews 2:17). We repent, then, knowing that God has forgiven us and continues to forgive us day by day.

This daily forgiveness also reminds us that Christ not only came 2,000 years ago as a human being and that He will come again in Glory but that He comes to us today through His "means of grace." Means of grace are the ways Christ gives His gift of salvation to us in the present. The means of grace that we all live in is baptism, a continual font of forgiveness, where we have been united once and for all to Christ's death and resurrection (Acts 2:38; Colossians 2:12-15). Christ also comes to us wherever His Gospel is proclaimed in writ or voice transforming us from Glory to Glory (2 Corinthians 4:6). Lastly, but just as important, the Lord gives us His body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, bringing us closer to Himself by strengthening our faith and uniting us to one another (Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son, became man to die for our forgiveness, He comes to us today to deliver us that forgiveness, and He will declare us righteous when He comes again because we stand in His forgiveness.

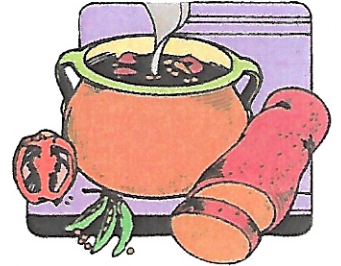
Join us for our Advent Midweek Services on Thursdays at St. Thomas Lutheran Church. We will have a soup supper at 6 followed by a worship service at 7. Services begin December 7th.

Pastor Blake

CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE. WOULD LOVE TO SEE ALL MEMBERS THERE!!

COMMUNITY DINNER

St. Thomas and Christ Lutheran will be hosting a community dinner on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. with a special Bible Study entitled "What is Christmas? Its History, Meaning, and Purpose within Christianity" at 7:00 p.m. Invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers etc. We would love to see the Fellowship Hall filled with dinner guests. Christ Lutheran will be providing chili. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex to help provide for the dinner. This is a perfect opportunity for social outreach!



SOUP SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

We will be hosting soup suppers and worship on Thursday, Dec. 7th and 21st at 6:00 p.m. with worship at 7:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex to help provide for these suppers.

CHURCH DECORATING

We will be decorating the Christmas tree and fellowship hall on Sunday, December 10 after the worship service in preparation for our Community Dinner on the 14th. Hope to see you there!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us on Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. for our Candlelight Communion Worship service to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Gilbert Ayers	Kathy Brashear	Palagia Hlava	Pastor Just
Lorene Kozar	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Patty Abramovich
Adalyn	Diane Altier	Betsy & Peggy	Ray Bishop
Archer Bradshaw	Barb Basmagy	Marshall Camp	Russ & Lana Carnes
Carl	Billy Earle Jr.	Evelyn	Evelyn French
Dennis Fuldauer	Daniel Gump	Mary Hardesty	Lance
Kim & daughter	Maria Knittle	Christine Kuntzman	Steve Mamber
Frank Manijak	Eva McCall	McGowan family	Amanda Nicely
Larry Powell	Pastor Bob Tauscher	Don Thornton	Bennie Wegener
Renee White	Ukraine refugees	COVID-19 patients	All Natural disaster victims
Tuscarawas Valley School community and the driver of the semi			Gaza & Israel victims
Our military veterans			

We would love to have updates on our prayer list. If you have good news about someone on this list please let the church know or call Marla at 330-472-3045. Thank you!

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

Carole Poston 12790 Chamberlain Aurora, OH 44202	Lorene Kozar 8460 Westport Dr. #225 Mentor, Oh 44060
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Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jenna Zimmerman, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

OUR SERVICE PROJECTS

We remember all those who are facing a crisis in their lives. Lutheran Missions Ministry is our main organization that we donate to. They are doing a great job helping these families.

Please remember the families of Streetsboro by donating to the Streetsboro Community Pantry with a monetary donation or food donation. You can do this through the church through your offering or placing food items in the basket in the Narthex.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

2-Pastor Just
13-Robin Hoffman
17-Vicki Weber
21-Ben Wolff
31-Diane Pencin



DECEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

19-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Madelyn Ayers
27-Linda Hautmann

Happy Anniversary to...
8-Anibal & Joyce Torres

If anyone has been left off this list or any other list, please let Marla Manijak know so she can add you. I would love birthdays and anniversaries and baptism birthdays if you know when it is. Thanks!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for a way to help out during the service on Sundays. Volunteers are needed for Lectors, Ushers, Communion, Singers and refreshment hosts. See the signup sheets in the Narthex on the bulletin board. If you would like to help out singing during communion or offering, see Marla. She would love to have more voices. Refreshments are being served in the Fellowship Hall once again. A sign up sheet will be available for Sundays in December. It is wonderful to be able to meet with our friends socially after the worship. Join us this Sunday.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please place your order for poinsettias on the blanks below. Orders need to be in by December 10th. Money needs to be turned in by December 24th. Please make checks out to Marla Manijak.

Name _____ Phone no. _____

4" pot with 1 plant is \$3.00. Red White Pink
In Memory of OR In celebration of

6" pot with 1 plant is \$4.50. Red White Pink
In Memory of OR In celebration of

8" pot with 2 plants is \$8.50. Red White Pink
In Memory of OR In celebration of

10" pot with 3 plants is \$11.00. Red White Pink
In Memory of OR In celebration of

10" mixed pot with 4 plants is \$13.00.
3 Red and 1 White OR 3 White and 1 Red
In Memory of OR In celebration of

Deb Wolff has pickles ready. Please bring back your empty jars and she will fill them up again. The pickles are delicious!!

Becky Larkins is collecting Paper towels and toilet paper rolls for craft projects. Also 2 litre plastic bottles. You may give them to Deb Wolff. Thank you!

Deb Wolff is collecting bottle caps for Ohio Easter Star Home. They will be using them to make park benches. Thank you!

Church Council will be meeting Sunday, December 17 after the worship service. If there is something you would like the council to work on, please let one of the council members know. They are Steve Hlava, president, Del Groff, Guy Jeanblanc, Joyce Torres, Deb Wolff, Gilbert Ayers and Marla Manijak.

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Blake Martzowka at the church on Thursdays from 9-3 at 330-626-4945 or on his cell phone 989-372-5318 for emergencies or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions.

Finance Report

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of September 2023

	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	5930.36	62819.03	47694.79
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	6271.12	55437.96	45681.48
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(340.76)	7381.07	2013.31
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	67.26	2383.36	3375.42
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	302.46	589.49
NET GAIN (LOSS)	67.26	2080.90	2785.93
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1186.07	1427.71	1083.97
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1292.31</u>		

Special Funds Include:

Special Building/Property, Pastor's Second Chance, Memorial Gifts, New Building, Lutheran Women's Group, 5th Sunday Benevolence

**St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 2247
9042 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241**

Change Service Requested

THE PARISH VOICE NEWSLETTER

Office: 330-626-4945

Web Site: www.stthomasstreetsboro.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.

IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!!