

The Parish Voice

December 2024

Matthew 1:23, "'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel'(which means God with us)" at the beginning of the newsletter article?



In Advent we focus on the three advents (“arrivals”) of our Lord Jesus. The first advent we focus on is His becoming human being (Christmas). The second advent we focus on is His coming to us now through the Gospel written, preached, and poured (Holy Baptism) and the Lord’s Supper where He is bodily present. The third advent of Jesus is His coming in Glory on the final day as the Son of Man. This final advent is the one we focus on at the end of the Church Year in November.

To be honest, I don’t like referring to our Lord’s coming in Glory as His “second coming.” The phrase second coming to me gives the false impression that Jesus is not really present with us today. This would contradict our Jesus’ promise given to us in Matthew 28:20: “I am with you always until the end of the age.” The only difference between our Lord’s presence on the final day and His presence now is that then He will be visible to our eyes (“in Glory”) and now is hidden to our eyes within His Word.

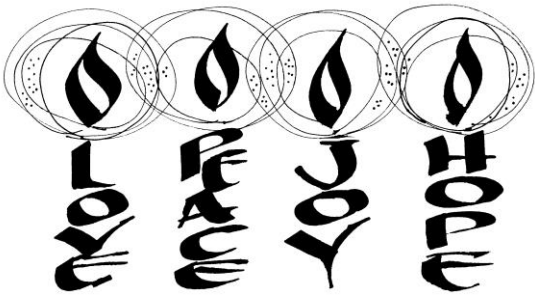
We might properly understand the phrase second coming in this way: The second coming means that the Lord comes where He already is. Yeah, it sounds strange, but its faithful to what the Scriptures teach. Jesus arrives where He already is. I can’t wait for the Lord’s “second coming.” It will be a wonderful day when we see the Lord with our own eyes because then we will become as He is without loss, pain, sickness, fear, and uncertainty (1 John 3:2). This second coming, the final advent, is the destination of our earthly lives as Christians. Yet, in the meantime, we wait for our Lord’s appearance suffering the ills of this world. Not suffering alone, however, for the Lord is with us.

Blessed Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Blake



ADVENT WORSHIP



Welcome the Christ we long and wait for

Our advent worship services will be held on Wednesday Evenings at Christ Lutheran in Mantua with a dinner at 6:00 p.m and worship at 7:00 p.m.

Our advent wreath lighting will be on Sunday mornings at the beginning of the worship service. Volunteers are needed to do the readings. See Marla if you would like to volunteer.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING



Join us on Sunday,
December 15 after
the worship service
to decorate the tree
and the sanctuary



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6:00 P.M. AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

8:00 P.M. AT ST. THOMAS

We hope to see you at one of these
Services.

Have a very Merry Christmas!



BIBLE STUDIES

BIBLE STUDIES are being held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Lutheran as we study the lectionary readings from the previous Sunday. St. Thomas holds their bible studies on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. There are no bible studies on the 2nd week of the month as Pastor is at meetings that week. We would love to see you!

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PROPERTY NEWS

The Property Committee has been very busy. Mowing season is finally over and the mowers will be picked up for routine maintenance for next spring's mowing season. Thank you Steve Hlava, Jim Doefler and Del Groff.

The doors have been fixed up and new keys have been made. If you need a key see Diane Lee. They are finishing up with the sanctuary door and the fellowship hall soon. Thank you to Guy Jeanblanc, Robin Hoffman, Jim Doerfler, Diane Lee and Del Groff for all your help in this project.

The Sound System has been installed thanks to Woodsy's in Kent and Rory Wolff and Gilbert Ayers.

Thank you to Guy Jeanblanc for purchasing a new tree for the Sanctuary, wreaths for the doors and roping for the outside sign.

Thank you to Steve Manijak for replacing the lights on the cross on the outside of the church building.

If I forgot someone I'm sorry. Everyone who helps make the church look wonderful is greatly appreciated. Thank you!!

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SYNOD CONFERENCE

The Synod Conference will be held once again this year in June. Thank you to Rory Wolff for volunteering to be our congregational delegate to attend the conference with Pastor Blake.

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ENGLISH DISCTRICT CIRCUIT FORUM

The Circuit Forum will be held in January to nominate a new circuit visitor. Currently we have Jonathon McCall as our circuit visitor. The districts will be combining the East and West Circuits and Jonathon will not be available to serve in this capacity. We will be nominating Robert Welden at the Forum and know he will do a great job. Thank you to Guy Jeanblanc for volunteering to be our representative along with Pastor Blake at this Forum.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rest.”



FACEBOOK

Facebook live feed of our Sunday Service has been interrupted. We have lost our ability to live stream our service on Sunday mornings due to constraints from our social media provider. To be able to live stream going forward, we need at least 100 followers on our Facebook page which is St Thomas Lutheran Church. So far we have only 94. We only need 6 more followers **Everybody can help here by talking to friends and family about following us on Facebook at St Thomas Lutheran Church.** It's very simple you just need to go to your Facebook page find Saint Thomas and follow us. Once we obtain over a hundred followers will be able to live stream again. We are actively looking for other solutions as well.

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Ravenna Community Choir will be presenting their Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 1 at 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Ravenna. Pepper Choplin will be our guest conductor. Deb Wolff and Marla Manijak are members of this choir. A basket raffle will also be available for all guests. See you on the 1st.

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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. Mark on your envelopes "Lutheran Mission Ministry".

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.

Deb Wolff has pickles ready. Bring back your empty jars and she will fill them up again.

Your October-December Portal of Prayers are here. You can find them on the stand by the door.

Church Council will be meeting Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. 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-Vice President, Joyce Torres-Secretary, Deb Wolff-Financial Secretary, Guy Jeanblanc, Gilbert Ayers and Stephanie 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.



When they saw the star they were overjoyed. And they saw the child with his mother Mary and bowed down and worshiped him and offered him their gifts of gold and incense and myrrh.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Kathy Braeshear	Palagia Hlava	Pastor Just	Lorene Kozar
Richard	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Deb Wolff
Patty Abramovich	Isabella Andrews	Ray Bishop	Brian
Carl	Russ & Lana Carnes	Dan	Danny
Debbie	Gary	Ryan Goodrich	Daniel Gump and wife
Anita Hlava	Kenny Hanson	Mary Hardesty	Ida Hoover
Jerry	Jim	Jim	John
Kathy	Kenny	Kim	Larry Kraus
Laura & family	Logan	McGowan family	Dan Meenach
Amanda Nicely	Denise Nicely	Keith Nowak	Patriots family
Patti	Reb. Rob Sparr	Susan	Tina
Bennie Wegener	Mary Whittaker		

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

The world/USA—racism and lack of love outside of God’s words

Healthy pregnancies for family and friends

Our military veterans All Natural disaster victims COVID virus patients

Gaza & Israel victims Ukraine refugees

**The power of prayer is so miraculous that we would love to hear 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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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

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



DECEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

19-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Madelyn Ayers
27-Linda Hautmann
Lynn Kanengeiser
Richard Kanengeiser

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

If anyone has been left off this 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!



**I heard the bells on Christmas Day ringing out the good news!
Jesus Christ is born!**

STEWARDSHIP

Our stewardship program is starting now with mini talks before each service. Included in this newsletter is a form for all members to fill out. Please return it as soon as you can. Thank you!

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NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your new envelopes for the 2025 year are available now. Please put your name on your first envelope so that Deb Wolff can record it in her book. Thank you for your giving spirit!

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Thank you to everyone who donates to our 1 + 1 + 1 a Dollar for Missions service project. The 2024-2025 recipients of these are Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry, First Trinity Lutheran, Pittsburgh, PA and Ascension Lutheran Church, Montreal, QB Canada. Your generous giving was greatly appreciated!

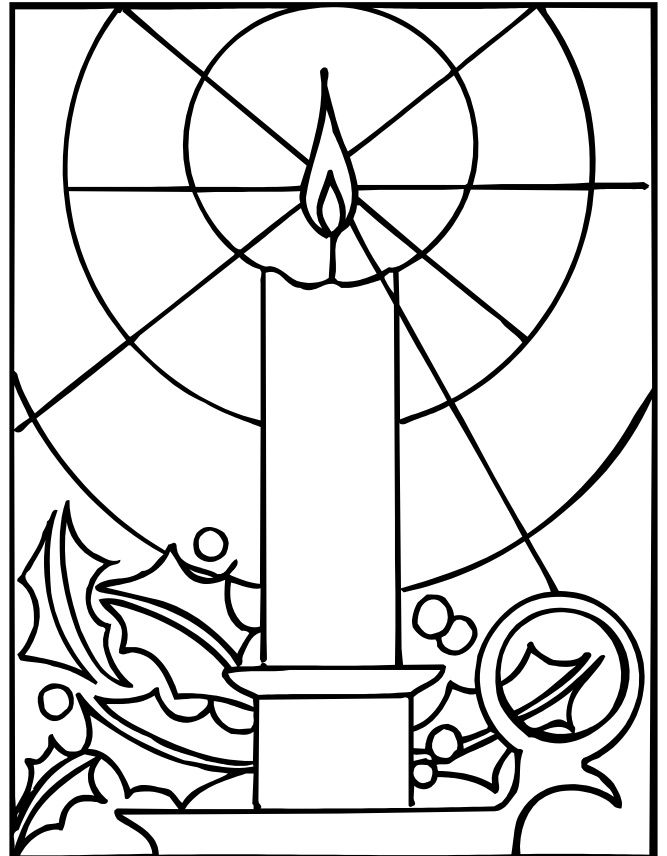
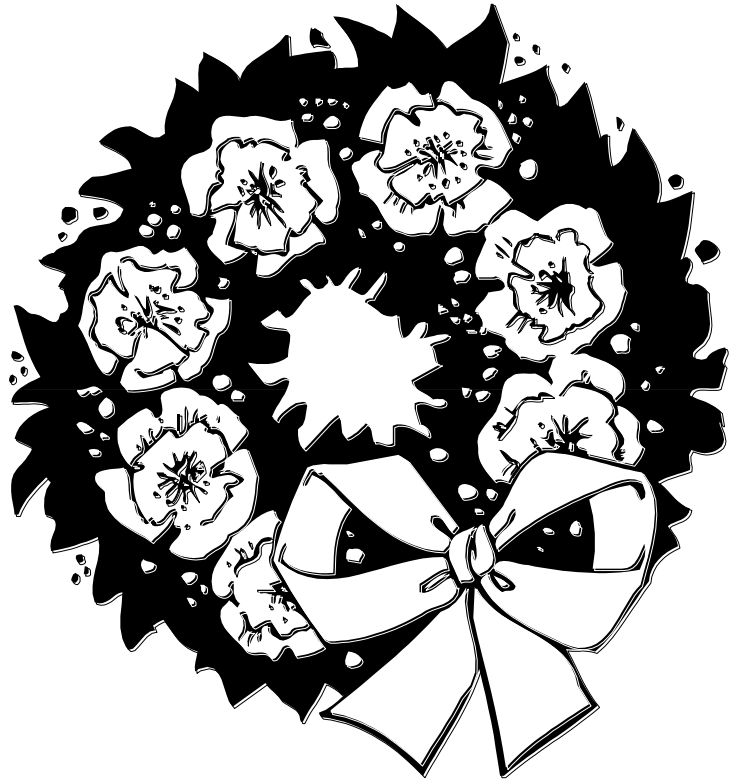
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FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2025 budget was approved at our congregational meeting on Oct. 6. Our new weekly need is \$1,306.73. Please help us meet this goal through your stewardship giving. Thank you!

TREASURERS REPORT - Month of October 2024			
	Current Month:	Current YTD	Prior YTD:
TOTAL INCOME - General Fund Only	5849.89	82952.98	47694.79
TOTAL EXPENSE - General Fund Only	8473.74	58842.61	55657.96
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(2623.85)	24110.37	(7963.17)
TOTAL INCOME - Special Funds (See Below)	1986.00	6142.50	3375.42
TOTAL EXPENSE- Special Funds (See Below)	0.00	657.52	302.46
NET GAIN (LOSS)	1986.00	5484.98	3072.96
Average General Fund Income Per Week	1462.47	1929.14	1109.18
Amount needed to meet expense budget - per week	<u>1306.73</u>		
Special Funds Include:			
Special Building/Property, Pastor's Second Chance, Memorial Gifts, New Building, Lutheran Women's Group, 5th Sunday Benevolence			

Have fun coloring these pictures!





**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.

PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE

**LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE—PLEASE FOLLOW US
SO WE CAN BE LIVE AGAIN**

OR IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS 6:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 8:00 P.M.PL-