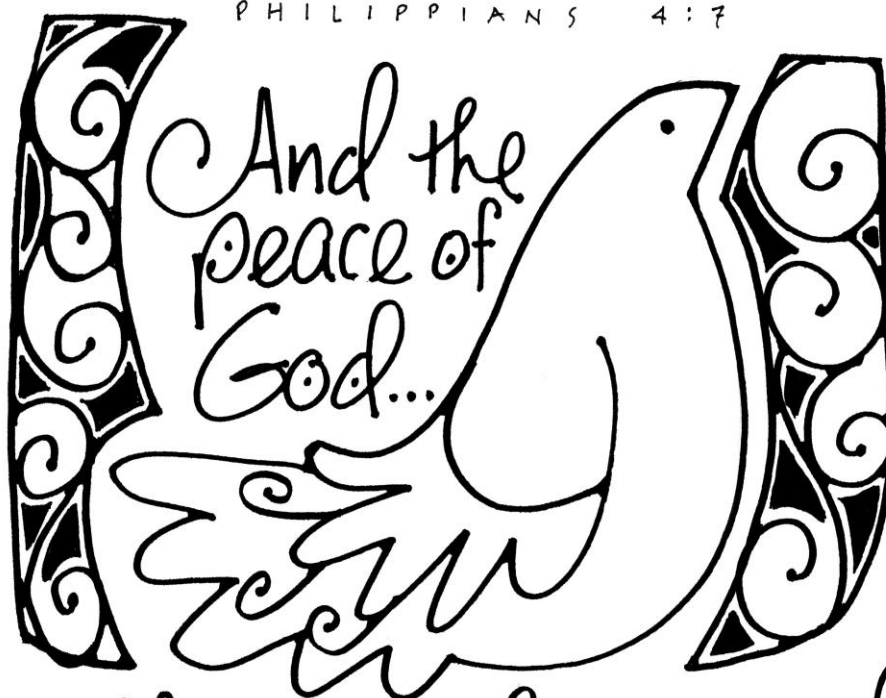


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church

PHILIPPIANS 4:7



will keep your hearts and
minds in Christ Jesus

Advent III
10:00 a.m.
December 12, 2021

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 or on our Facebook page. If any problems happen during the service please let Del or Rory know so they can fix the problem immediately.
- **The Vigil Candle** is given in celebration of Robin Hoffman's birthday.
- **The Prayer book** is available on the choir stand by the bulletin stand. Steve can bring it to the cars.
- **The Lay Reader** list is available for volunteers for the month of November. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex or let Steve know you would like to sign up for November. **Our lay reader today is Diane Lee.**
- **Usher Steve Manijak**
- **Our last midweek service will be this Wednesday.** We will have soup and other items at 6:30 and worship at 7:30. We will be having chicken noodle soup and cheese soup this Wednesday. There will also be salad, homemade bread, pizza and dessert. Our theme for this Wednesday is JOY. We hope to see you Wednesday,
- **Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service** will be held on Friday, Dec. 24th at 7:30 p.m.. It is a beautiful service of music and a special candlelight "Silent Night". Join us on Christmas Eve.
- **Service Project...**We are helping out the Lutheran World Relief with the earthquake in Haiti and the hurricane Ida destruction in Louisiana and the northeast portion of our country. Please make check out to the church and place it in the offering plate.
- **Let's continue** to remember the Community pantry. Bring food or monetary donations anytime.
- **The Church Council and Call Committee** have been meeting with Christ Lutheran Church in Mantua to work on a plan to share a pastor. Meetings have been going well. We are hoping to start meeting with new pastor candidates in the new year. If you would like to know more, please talk to Pastor, Steve Hlava, Jim Doerfler, Diane Lee, Deb Wolff, Marla Manijak, Joyce Torres, Del Groff, Gilbert Ayers, Guy Jeanblanc, Diane Pencin or Robin Hoffman.
- **The January-March Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **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 18 Adults 3 Children

Bible Study 8 Adults 2 Children

Soup Supper/Worship 6 Adults 3 Children

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	1068.00	Building Fund	15.00
Benevolence	38.00	Mission	5.00
1 + 1 + 1	10.00	Lutheran relief	0.00
Loose	0.00		

Total Offering	1136.00	Needed to meet budget--\$1,112.21
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Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The candles of Hope, Peace and Joy are lit.

P: Three candles are lit, O Lord,

C: and we rejoice in You.

P: Three candles are lit, O Lord,

C: and we rejoice in the people You have placed around us here.

P: Three candles are lit, O Lord,

C: and we rejoice in this place of worship, which you have called Your home.

P: Three candles are lit, O Lord,

C: and we rejoice in Your presence in the world.

P: Three candles are lit, O Lord,

C: and we rejoice in Your presence in our hearts. Amen.

Song of Joy: *Light One Candle*” Insert

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.

**C: Most holy and merciful Father,
we confess to You and to one another that we have
sinned both in our actions and in our failure to act.**

P: Our lack of joy that comes from belonging to Christ, we confess to the Lord.

C: forgive us, Lord.

P: Our failure to live in trust of God’s providence, we confess to the Lord.

C: forgive us, Lord.

P: That we take the Good News of our salvation so often for granted, we confess to the Lord.

C: forgive us, Lord.

P: Our reliance on our own efforts and strength, we confess to the Lord.

C: forgive us, Lord.

P: Our ingratitude for the blessings God has showered into our lives, we confess to the Lord.

C: forgive us, Lord.

After the final bidding the prayer of confession concludes:

P: Merciful Father, give us pardon and peace and free us from our sin for the sake of Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved. (*Mark 16:16*)

Entrance Hymn “*Hark the Glad Sound!*” No. 35

The 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.

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty God, the Baptizer spoke, and ears were opened to your will:

C: “Repent! Bear fruit! Prepare God’s way!”

P: Open our ears, our hearts, our minds, that we may know your holy will:

C: “Repent! Bear fruit! Prepare God’s way!”

P: Open our mouths, our lives, our hands, that we may do your holy will:

C: “Repent! Bear fruit! Prepare God’s way!”

P: Let us proclaim as John had done, the coming of Your own dear Son.

C: And so we shall prepare Your way.

P: Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now...

C: and forever. Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

All readings are from the New Revised Standard Version

The First Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

The Psalm “I Will Praise You, O Lord” (Isaiah 12)

Insert

The Second Lesson Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

The Verse

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

*The Holy Gospel Luke 3:7-18

C: Glory to you, O Lord. Pg. 63

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ Pg. 63

The Sermon “*How Many Messengers?*”

Hymn of the Day “*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*” No. 25

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.**

We believe in Jesus the Christ

**--God coming to us in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God’s laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell,
He broke free the captives,
to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth as the body of Christ,
and empowers us to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.**

We believe in the coming reign of God.

Announced by the Baptist,

it has drawn near to us in Jesus,

and will be consummated

in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,

**when all who have passed through the world's deep
sorrow**

**will be raised from the waters, robed in
righteousness,**

**and gathered into the joyous fulfilment
of God's desire.**

For the coming of that day on this day,

we work and pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

P: Let our hearts and minds be stirred as we pray to God for that peace so much greater than we can imagine.

(after each petition)

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, fill our minds and hearts with everything that is good and loving and worthy of thanksgiving and praise, everything that comes to us under the sign of Your peace and in the name of 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 times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven 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!

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus

took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:

*Take and eat; this is My body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*“This cup is the new covenant in My blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this for the remembrance of Me.”*

The Lord’s Prayer

**C: 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.**

Song for the Eucharist “Now the Silence”

No. 205

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.

All are invited to take the communion packet that was provided as you came to worship this morning.

P: Take and eat, this is the Body of Christ, broken for you to be made whole.

All are invited to open the larger cup from the communion packet and partake of the wafer therein.

**P: Take, drink, the Blood of Christ, poured out for you to be filled with His endless life.
Please open the smaller cup to consume the wine.**

P: The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious Blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: O Lord, this sacrament, like John, proclaims Your presence with us here.

C: We proclaim Your presence until You come.

P: Baptize us with Your Spirit.

C: That we may shout Your name.

P: Baptize us with Your fire.

C: That we may bear much fruit.

P: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now and rejoice in the Lord always,
Do not be afraid or worried about anything,
but in everything trust God and pray.
Bear fruits worthy of repentance,
sharing what you have and being gentle with all.

God rejoice over you with gladness;
Christ Jesus renew you in his love;
the Holy Spirit give you peace beyond understanding
to guard your hearts and minds + in Christ.

C: Amen.

Closing Song *“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”*

Insert

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

Bill & Sharon Crile—recovery from hospital stay and illness
Jim Doerfler—serious mouth surgery—continued healing
Carol Earle—immediate family for peace and comfort
Cory Hautmann—Physiological strength
Linda Hautmann—Strength and healing for Lupus and from melanoma
Palagia Hlava—complications from MS
Lorene Kozar—has moved to Mentor assisted living
Becky Larkins—fostering Holly—possible adoption
Steve Manijak—healing for his finger
Ken Nicely II—possible kidney failure due to diabetes
Kenny Nicely III—shoulder surgery
Kenny Nicely IV—Epilepsy
Stephen Nicely—traveling mercies for work in Normal, Illinois
Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS
Rory Wolff—shoulder and back pain
Jenna Zimmerman—appendicitis—daughter of Kari Earle
Our College Students— Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Joanna Nicely, Thomas Ayers
Troy Roman—joined the Marines

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.

Alayna—has covid—granddaughter of Joyce
Alexa—swollen spleen—granddaughter of Joyce
Alice Artman—Bell's Palsy—sister-in-law of Joyce
Aaron—marriage problems—brother of Joyce
Chip Black—loss of her husband, Roger--sister of Deb
Nickoles Bohne—dying from liver failure—in-law of Guy
Patty Bowman—covid—Bill & Sharon Crile's daughter
Carl—transition from Memory Care to move to Concord, OH—father of
Carol Earle
Debbie Conrad—home burned down—co-worker of Amy
Leona Corban—pneumonia, doing better—Marla's mom
Dan Erlandson—severe depression-hopelessness—friend of Robin
George Foerster—father of Dianne Reynolds
Christine Frank—cancer—friend of Jim
Pastor Paul Frerich's Father—in hospice care—Pastor at Redeemer
Lutheran
Ken Granville—leukemia—retired Band Director and friend of many
Patty & Kenny Hansen—many mechanical problems with their home—
friend of Amy Rohaley
Kelly Heritage—severe lack of blood flow to legs—co-worker's husband
of Deb Wolff's
Anita Hlava—speedy recovery from hip surgery—Steve's mom
Evan Hlava—heart inflammation—nephew of Steve Hlava
Charles Hovanvetz—triple bypass surgery—friend of Beuck's
Debbie Hovanvetz-internal problems-neighbor of Tom & Linda Beuck
Janice—heart problems
Jayme—suffered a stroke—Joyce's son's fiance
John—multiple health issues--neighbor of Joyce
Mike Latham—shoulder surgery--brother-in-law of Marla and Steve

Laura—family relationship problems—Joyce’s sister
Dave Lauver—stomach cancer—Wolff’s cousin
Lexi—Praise! No cancer but a bacterial infection—Trudy’s niece
Lori—complications with knee replacement—co-worker of Joyce
Frank Manijak—failing health—Steve’s Dad
Joe Manijak—complications after back surgery—brother of Steve
Samantha—ear barotrauma{swelling}--granddaughter of Joyce
Amanda Nicely—strength and peace—Trudy’s sister-in-law
Jodie Powers—addiction healing—niece of Steve and Marla
Peter Power—diabetes—friend of the Earle’s
Leo Rohaley—declining health—uncle of Amy
Kathi Rohrer—healing from back surgery—co-worker of Joyce
Sharon—heart valve infection—friend of Rory
Jim Shuster—hospitalized for several strokes—friend of Amy
Leslie Slanina—healing—Gilbert’s mom
Angela Smith—stage 4 cancer—friend of Robin
Joe Svidron—health issues—husband of co-worker of Joyce
Tim Tolodzieski—recovering—brother-in-law of Steve Crile
Linda Veletta and family—family issues—friend of Robin
Bennie Wegener—pancreatic cancer—friend of the Wolff’s
Dan Wiley—undergoing radiation therapy—friend of Diane Lee
Donny Wood—cancer surgery recovery—friend of Joyce
Carol Yurkschatt—hospitalized—Rocky and Kim Kinder
Terri Zeigler—broken arm—on chronic dialysis—friend of the Wolffs’s

The missionaries that have been saved in Haiti

**The Haitian earthquake survivors, the survivors of Hurricane Ida and
survivors from the wildfires and all other natural disasters**

Homeless served by LMM—space in Independence

COVID 19 virus patients