

Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



The dessert & the
parched land will be
glad; the wilderness
will rejoice & blossom
Like the crocus, it will
burst into bloom

Isaiah 35:1-2

3rd Sunday in Advent
10:00 a.m.
December 11, 2022

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 Robin Hoffman's birthday.
- **The Prayer book** is on the music stand by the door.
- **The Lay Reader** list is available for volunteers for the month of December. Please see the signup sheet in the Narthex. **Our lay reader today is Guy Jeanblanc.**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **Advent Worship and Soup Suppers** have begun on Thursdays with Soup served at 6:30 and worship at 7:30. Please see the sign up sheet in the narthex to sign up to be a soup maker or to provide some other item for the supper.
- **The October-December and January-March Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **Christmas Eve** services will be held Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. with a Candlelight and Holy Communion service. Invite your family and friends!
- **Christmas Day** services will be held on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 10:00 a.m.
- **6 poinsettia plants** have been ordered for the Christmas Eve service. I will list the names of remembrance of loved ones in the bulletin. Please let Marla know or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.
- **Lutheran Campus Ministry of Kent (LCMK)** is seeking people to serve on their board of directors. A variety of experiences and skills are needed in this ministry to college students. Two pressing needs are in publicity/communication and finance. If you are interested in any way, please contact pastor Eric Tritten at pastort@gloriadeihudson.org.
- **Service Projects...**Lutheran Missions Ministry to help those in Haiti and Ukraine. 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 21 Adults 0 Youth

Thursday service 10 Adults 1 youth

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	1282.00	Building Fund	5.00
Benevolence	113.00		
Loose	0.00	1 + 1 + 1	15.00
Total Offering	1415.00	Weekly need	1229.52

Welcome and Announcements

A Candlelighting Litany Insert

The Dialog

P: Blessed is He who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

P: I will hear what the Lord God has to say—

C: a voice that speaks for peace.

P: Peace for all people and for His friends

C: and those who turn to Him in their hearts.

P: His help is near for those who fear Him,

C: and His glory will live in our land.

P: Blessed is He who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth. Amen.

Entrance Hymn “*Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding*” Insert

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: Stir up, O Lord...

C: We say the prayer again this Advent season.

P: Stir up, O Lord...

C: For You are a God who stirs things up. You are a God who rocks the boat. You are a God who turns things on end.

P: Stir up, O Lord...

C: And the deserts become jungles...

P: Stir up, O Lord...

C: And the blind man paints a portrait, the lame woman

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dances a jig, the mute tongue sings an aria...

P: Stir up, O Lord...

C: And mountains tumble down, valleys arise, highways are built through impassable terrain...

P: Stir up, O Lord, Your people...

C: Give us the wisdom to hear Your call, to discern Your will, to bear witness to Your Son, and to stir up Your power in this dying world.

P: Stir up, O Lord, Your people to prepare the way for Your Son! For 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 Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD,

the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon

their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath” (Psalm 146) Insert

Second Lesson James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Verse

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

Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “*Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.*”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “*What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,*

*‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’*

¹¹“*Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.* This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “Patience, Children, Patience”

Hymn for the Day “*Sing Praise to the God of Israel*” Insert

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s Son, our Lord.

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the virgin Mary.
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

P: Jesus said that the signs of God's dominion were to be seen in the healing of the sick, the raising of the dead to new life, and the preaching of good news to the poor. Let us pray that our lives may be the instruments of God's work in the world.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We offer our thanksgiving and prayers to You, the one God and the source of light and life, now and forever.

C: Amen.

An Act of Reconciliation

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.

A brief silence for individual prayer and reflection.

A series of biddings is offered. The people respond to each.

P: Our impatience in waiting for the Coming Christ, we confess to the Lord.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: Our impatience with the needs of others, we confess to the Lord.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: Our impatience with what God is doing in our lives, we confess to the Lord.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: Our impatience with those who are at a different level of spiritual maturity, we confess to the Lord.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: Our impatience in dealing with daily frustrations, we confess to the Lord.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

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

C: Amen.

P: We are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ our Lord. Therefore, let us be reconciled with one another and share the peace of the Lord.

All those present share with each other a word and gesture of peace.

Offering and Offertory

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. Lord Jesus Christ, we have heard Your voice. We have seen You in action.

C: And we believe!

P: Accept these offerings—

C: they are signs of our faith!

P: And bring us, at last, to see You face to face. You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving** (spoken)

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 again 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.

P: On the night when He was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ 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, spoke a prayer of thanks over it, and said,

"This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins"

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.

The 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 Prayer

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power in us, O Lord—power made tangible in this heavenly feast.

C: Empower us for lives of service.

P: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now, with good news for the poor and prepare the way for the Lord.

Wait patiently.

Do not grumble against one another, but encourage one another.

Be strong and do not fear.

God come quickly to save you;

Christ Jesus give you everlasting joy and gladness;

the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts and lead you on + God's holy way.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn *"Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"* 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

The Ayers family on the passing of Ken Nicely II

Carol Earle—sinus infection

Del Groff—heart surgery

Palagia Hlava—complications from MS

Robin Hoffman—back injury

Lorene Kozar—strength and peace

Becky Larkins—for successful adoption of Holly and Rowan

Steffen Nicely—doing well at his job in Orlando, Florida

Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS

Rory Wolff—continued improvement

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

Alexa—swollen spleen—granddaughter of Joyce

Ally-Marriage struggles—friend of Joyce
Diane Altier & family—bone issues after surgery—cousin of Bob Earle
Paul Berry—internal bleeding—friend of Joyce
Shirley Blackerby—advanced breast cancer—friend of Robin
Paul Bower—depression after losing wife--friend of Steve and Marla
Archer Bradshaw—fighting leukemia-3 year old family friend of Joyce
Russ & Lana Carnes—need assisted living—the Wolff's
Bryan Corban—continued healing on broken ankle—brother of Marla
Leona Corban—continued healing—Marla's mom
Carlton Dorris—broken clavical—grandson of Bob Earle
Bill Earle Sr.—pneumonia—Bob's brother
Sandy Eicher—stroke—cousin of Amy
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
John Johnson—heart surgery recovery—friend of Robin
Naomi Just—fell and broke hip—Pastor's sister
Lance—dementia—friend of Joyce
Laurance Jeanblanc—withstand malignant tumor, anemia and weight loss—brother of Guy
Nancy Kirkpatrick—in hospital with COVID—dear friend of Wolff's
Steve Mamber—bone marrow transplant Dec. 8—Amy's brother-in-law
Sam Mamber—son who is donating bone marrow to dad
Frank Manijak—failing health—Steve's Dad
Amanda Nicely—strength and peace—Trudy's sister-in-law
Karen Powers—home from hospital after COVID—aunt of Carol Earle
Kathy Peters—breast cancer, is in remission Praise God!—friend of Marla and Deb
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
Sarah—in hospital with meningitis—great niece of the Wolff's
Leslie Slanina—healing—Gilbert's mom
Angela Smith—stage 4 cancer—friend of Robin
John Szabo—multiple myeloma—family friend of Amy
Deacon Robert Szalai—born prematurely—home may have brain issues—grandnephew of Steve Hlava
Dave Tregoning—stroke—family friend of Amy
Tyler—dealing with depression—14 year old grandson of Joyce's friend
Linda Valetta—health and family—friend of Robin
Bennie Wegener—pancreatic cancer—friend of the Wolff's
Darcy Wood—lymphoma diagnosis—cousin of Joyce
Donny Wood—healing from cancer—friend of Joyce
Ukraine refugees
All natural disasters victims
COVID 19 virus patients