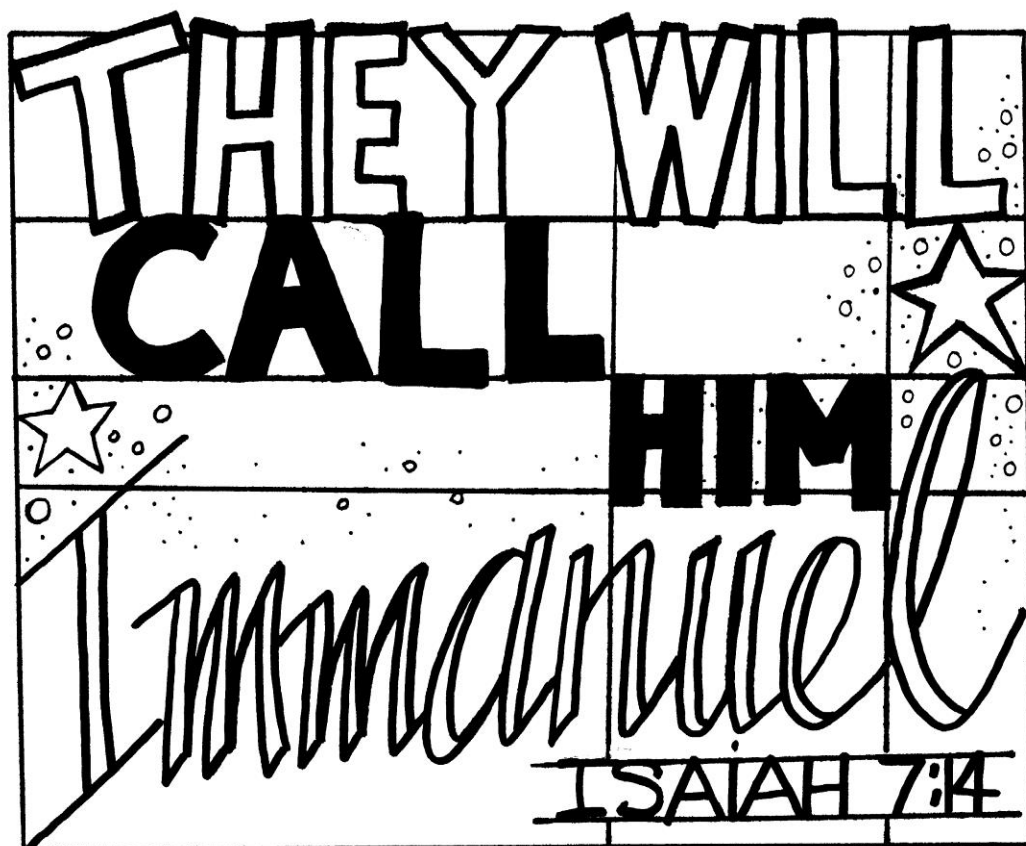


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



4th Sunday in Advent
10:00 a.m.
December 18, 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 Ben Wolff's birthday and Elizabeth Ayers and Madelyn Ayers baptism birthdays.
- **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 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. If you would like to remember a loved one this year or in celebration of a family member, please fill out the sheet on the prayer stand.
- **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 2 Youth

Confirmation Class Pastor and 2 Youth

Thursday service 10 Adults 1 youth

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	857.19	Building Fund	10.00
Benevolence	0.00		
Loose	0.00	1 + 1 + 1	900
Total Offering	876.19	Weekly need	1229.52

Welcome and Announcements

A Candlelighting Litany Insert

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

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

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

**C: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Maker of all things, Judge of all people,
we admit and confess our sinfulness.**

**We have turned away from each other
in our thinking, speaking, and doing.**

**We have done the evil You forbid
and have not done the good You demand.**

We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins.

**Have mercy on us, kind Father,
because of the obedience of our Brother, Jesus
Christ, Your Son.**

**Forgive us all that is past,
and with the power of the Holy Spirit move us
to serve You faithfully.**

**Set our feet upon the new path of life,
and build Your kingdom here through Jesus
Christ, our Lord.**

P: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn "*O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide*" No. 38

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: A virgin is with child.

C: Stir up Your power, O Lord...

P: An angel visits a dreaming son of David.

C: Stir up Your power, O Lord...

P: An ancient prophet's antique visions are becoming a reality.

C: Stir up Your power, O Lord...

P: God is with us!

C: Stir up Your power, O Lord...

P: Flatten sin's roadblocks.

C: Loosen sin's grip.

P: And make Your people ready.

C: Fill us with joy! Make us ready to celebrate Your birth!

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come! For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now...

C: and forever. Amen.

All readings are from the New Revised Standard Version

The First Lesson Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “O You Who the Shepherd of Israel Are” (Psalm 80) Insert

Second Lesson Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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 1:18-23

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. **19** Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. **20** But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22** All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “A Peek at the Promise”

Hymn for the Day **“Come, O Precious Ransom, Come”** No. 24

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: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus
and for all people according to their needs.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in the merits of the Son from David according
to the flesh and the Son of God in power according to
the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead,
we commend all for whom we pray to our eternal God,
through "God with us," Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

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. Gracious and loving God,

C: we offer our prayers and these gifts to You in response to Your great love for us. May these tokens of our love proclaim that the true reason for our joy this Christmas season is the birth of Your love in human form: Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. 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. Thank You, loving heavenly Father, for coming with power to the Virgin Mary and making her the mother of our Lord.

C: **Be with us through the healing gift of this sacrament, so that we receive Your saving word and rejoice in our Savior. For He lives with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sending

P: Go now and live by the hope conceived within you.

Refuse evil and choose good.

Call on the name of the Lord.

Walk with God in faithful obedience, and do not fear public disgrace.

God the Father be with you;

Christ Jesus assure you of your salvation;

the Holy Spirit stir up in you the light of + God's presence.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn *"The Night Will Soon Be Ending"* 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 clearing

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

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

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—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

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

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