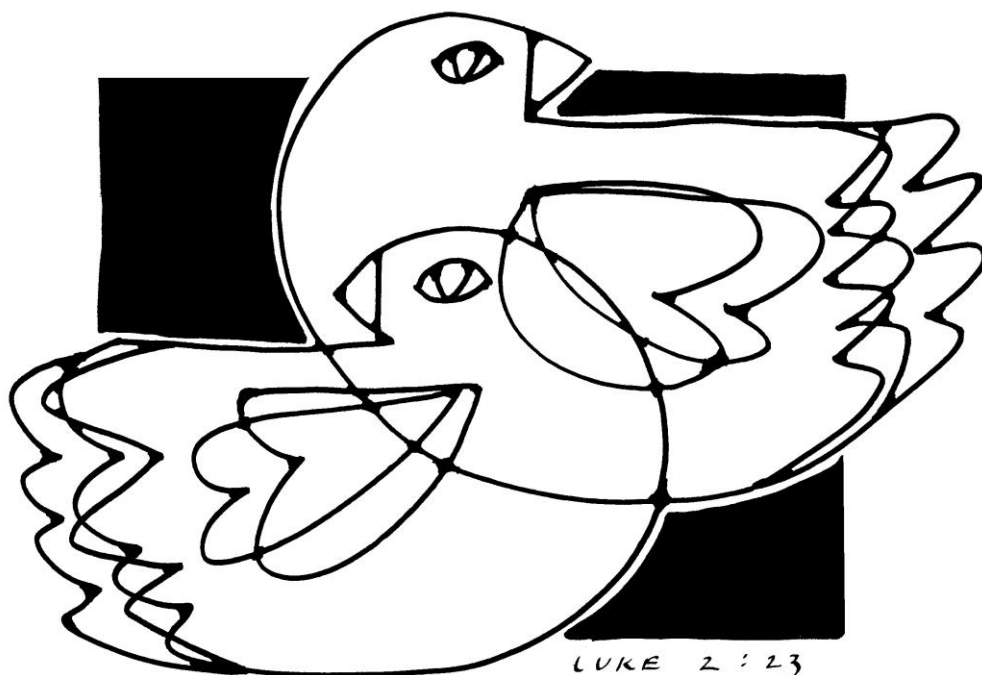


# Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



**HE SHALL BE  
DEDICATED**  
*to the* **LORD**

**Circumcision and Name of Jesus**

**10:00 a.m.**

**January 1, 2023**

**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 Joanna Nicely and Gabe Johnson's birthdays.
- **The Prayer book** is on the music stand by the door.
- **The Lay Reader** list is available for volunteers for the month of January. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex. **Our lay reader today is**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The January-March Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **The beautiful poinsettias** have been given in loving memorial to all of our departed loved ones who are never far from our hearts and in celebration of our church family, our families and friends and all those who are special to us.
- **A special congregational meeting** is being planned for Sunday, January 15 after our worship service to discuss the possibility of calling a seminarian student. Please mark your calendar for this important meeting.
- **We wish everyone** a blessed New Year!
- **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.
- **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](mailto:pastort@gloriadeihudson.org).
- **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 December 18** 18 Adults 2 Youth

**Thursday service** 8 Adults 0 youth

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	795.00	Building Fund	10.00
Benevolence	10.00		
Loose	0.00	1 + 1 + 1	6.00
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>821.00</b>	<b>Weekly need</b>	<b>1229.52</b>

**No service Christmas Eve or Christmas Day**

## Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

P: We are here.

**C: We are here because we are human—but we deny our humanity. We are stubborn fools and liars to ourselves. We do not love God nor other people as we ought. We war against life. We hurt each other. We are sorry for it and know we are sick from it. We seek new life.**

P: Giver of life, heal us and free us to be truly human.

**C: Holy Spirit, speak to us. Help us to listen, for we are very deaf. Come, fill this moment.**

*A time for silence.*

P: God has revealed His grace for the salvation of all people. Jesus Christ is given to us to redeem us from all wickedness and make us a pure people who belong to Him and are eager to do good.

Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Entrance Hymn “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”** No. 328

### 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: Let us pray. Eternal God, You gave Your Son the name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation.

**C: Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

All readings are from the New Revised Standard Version

### The First Lesson Numbers 6:22-27

<sup>22</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup> “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying: Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them:

<sup>24</sup> The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

<sup>27</sup> “So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.” This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm Hymn: “Lord, O Lord, How Majestic Is Your Name”** (Psalm 8) Insert

### Second Lesson Philippians 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. 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 2:13-23**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.” This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Sermon “How to Have a Perfect Church”**

Hymn for the Day *“The Church of Christ in Every Age”* No. 433

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God,  
the creator and giver of life,  
who brought all creation to birth,**

**who mothers us and fathers us,  
protecting, nurturing,  
and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ:**

**God born among us as a fragile baby,  
embodying both love and the need for love,  
and calling us to rest in God  
as trustingly as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**breathed into us at our birth,  
always drawing us on to be born again,  
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,  
nourishing our growth  
and inspiring our living.**

**We believe in the reconciliation**

**of the world to God, through Christ.  
Hunted at birth  
and humiliated at death,  
Christ entered our fearful darkness  
so that we might enter his glorious light  
and share the life of his resurrection.**

**And we believe that each new child**

**is a glimpse of the face of God,  
a sign of the life to come,  
and a call to live in peace  
and celebrate living together.**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church**

**P:** As we enter a new year, let us pray for the Church and the world, imploring our gracious God to have mercy and hear us.

*(After each petition)*

**P:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Immortal and invisible God, in Your presence there is no need for sun and moon, for You are the Light. We thank You for the faith You granted to those who have gone before us in the long procession of saints. When it pleases You, bring us with them into Your nearer presence to join the feast of victory for our God, the feast that has no end, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Peace**

P: When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24)  
*Those present share with each other a word and gesture of peace.*

P: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 1:1-2)

**Offering and Offering Song “Lord, I Will Bow to You”**    Insert

## **Offering Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Receive, O Father, these fruits of the earth, and the products of our labors, which we offer you in token of the sacrifice of our lives. Accept them, please, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks for His glory.

**C: We give thanks; we rejoice in His presence.**

P: Thanks and praise be to You, O Father, who sent Your only Son into the world to be a man, born of a woman, to die for us on a cross that was made by us.

**C: He came for us. Help us to accept His coming.**

P: He walked among us, a man on our earth, in our world of conflict, and commanded us to remember His death, His death which gives us life; and to wait for Him until He comes again in glory.

**C: We remember His death; we live by His presence; we wait for His coming.**

P: On the night when He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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. Do this as often as your drink in remembrance of Me.”

Therefore, remembering His death, believing in His rising from the grave, affirming His presence, now, in this place, we obey His command; we await the gift of Himself.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

P: Send down on us, O Father, the spirit of life and power, glory and love, that in this Holy Communion we may be made one with Him, and He with us, and that we may remain faithful members of His body until we eat with Him in His heavenly kingdom.

**C: Come, risen Lord, live in us that we may live in You.**

P: Now with all the faithful who ever were, are, and will be, with all creation in all time, with

joy we say:

**C: Holy, holy, Lord God almighty. All space and all time show forth Your glory now and always. Amen.**

P: And now, in the words of our Lord, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

P: *(holding the bread and wine before the people)* The gifts of God for the people of God.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **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: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**C: And His steadfast love lasts forever.**

P: My soul, give thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless His holy name.

**C: My soul, give thanks to the Lord, and never forget all His blessings. It is He who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion, who fills your life with good things, renewing your life like an eagle's. My soul, give thanks to the Lord! Give praise to the Father almighty, to His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord, to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts, both now and forever. Amen.**

### **Sending**

P: Go now in the Name of Jesus.

Live now in the Name of Jesus.

Serve now in the Name of Jesus.

God smile upon you and make you strong and wise;  
Christ Jesus share his inheritance with you freely;  
the Holy Spirit open your eyes to the presence + of God's Messiah.

**C: Amen.**



**The Closing Hymn “*Lift High the Cross*” No. 377**

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 and toxic neuropathy**

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

**Grace Rohaley—graduation from Kent State**

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

**Matt—moving to New Mexico—family friend of Amy**

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

**Todd—diagnosed with Cushings—friend of Robin**

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**