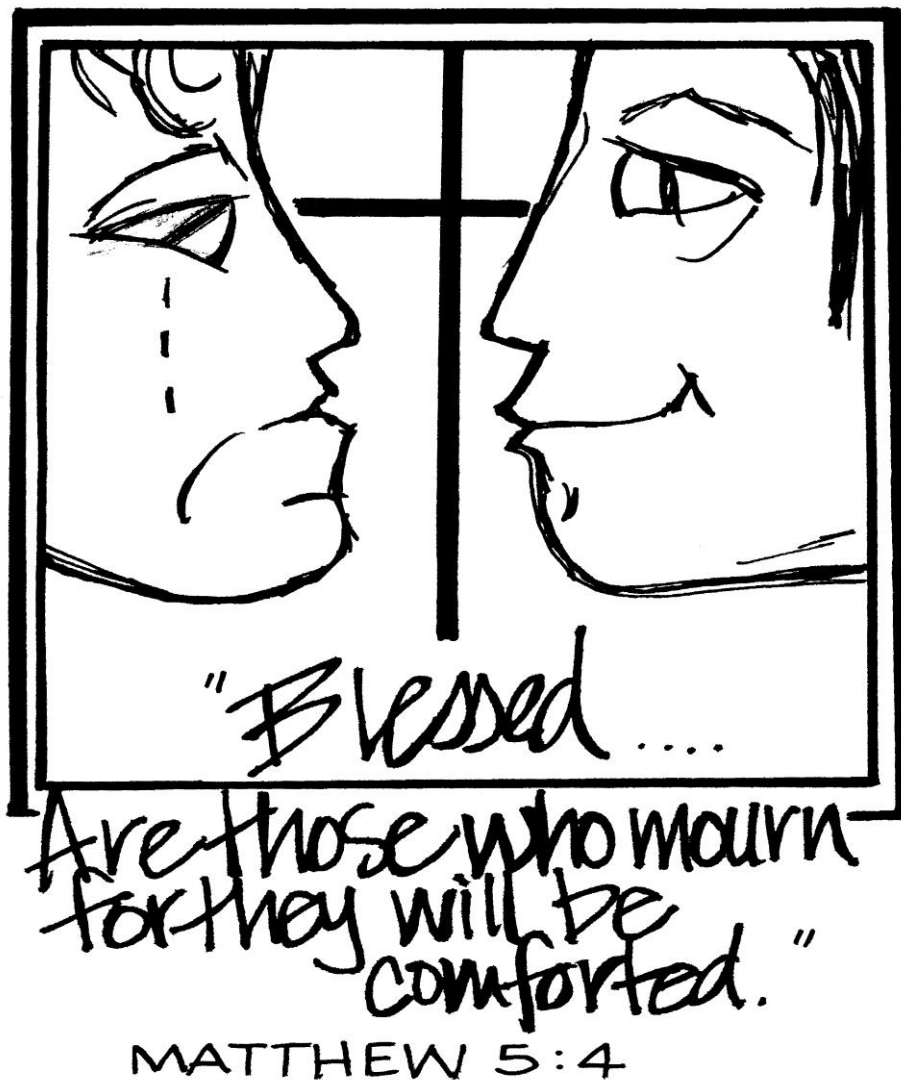


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



Epiphany IV
10:00 a.m.
January 29, 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 Rory Wolff and Becky Larkin's birthdays and Amy Rohaley's baptism birthday.
- **The Altar Flowers** are given in celebration of Deb and Rory Wolff and Becky Larkins 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 signup sheet in the Narthex. **Our lay reader today is Guy Jeanblanc.**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The January-March Portal of Prayers** are available now.
- **The newsletter** is available today. Steve is passing them out if you didn't get yours yet.
- **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.
- **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 23 Adults 3 Youth

Confirmation Pastor and 2 students

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	6,957.19	Building Fund	515.00
Benevolence	505.00	Candle Fund	500.00
<u>Advent Night</u>	<u>10.00</u>	<u>1 + 1 + 1</u>	<u>30.00</u>
Total Offering	8,516.19	Weekly need	2,138.36

Thank you to our generous donor!!

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: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

C: If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true.

P: But if we walk in the light as God himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C: and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Almighty God,

C: You dwell in light unapproachable. Unprotected, we perish in your presence, for our hearts are darkened, our minds beclouded; we have loved darkness rather than the light; we call for night to cover our deeds. The darkness of death awaits.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

C: For his sake we beg forgiveness.

P: For his sake God hears your prayer. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in your hearts, to give you the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: We have seen the Lord's glory; we have heard the Lord's voice.

P: Walk, then, as children of light—in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn "Hope of the World" No. 493

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.**

**The Hymn of Praise—This is the feast pg. 60*

C: **Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain**
2. **Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. Refrain**
3. **Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**
4. **Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain**
5. **For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Refrain**

Prayer for the Day

P: You have chosen what is foolish in the world, O God, to shame the wise—

C: **“See how honored the poor in spirit are? Heaven’s kingdom is theirs!”**

P: You have chosen the weak, O God, to shame the strong—

C: **“And how honored are the mourners—for the comfort is their lot.”**

P: You have chosen the low and despised things, to reduce the lofty things to nothing—

C: **“Those hungry and thirsty for righteousness are filled with more than what they desire—they are filled with joy.”**

P: For Your foolishness is wiser than our wisdom, O God—

C: **“The merciful are happy. The pure in heart, joyful. The peacemakers are filled with mirth!”**

P: And Your weakness is stronger than human strength.

C: **“Those who are persecuted are honored—the kingdom’s gates await them.”**

P: Grant us Your strength. Shore us up with Your wisdom. Assure us of Your promises:

C: **“For great is your reward in heaven.”**

P: Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. 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 Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,

and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab
devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “*Lord, Who May Dwell in Your Sanctuary?*” (Psalm 15) Insert

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the

strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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

Holy Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon *“Learning to Live” Getting Our Bearings”*

Hymn for the Day *“Blest Are They”* WOV No.764

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,

**who made the world and reaches out to it
with a love fierce and passionate, tender and kind.**

We believe in Jesus the Christ—God revealed in a human life.

**He touched the untouchable,
pardoned the unforgivable and
unmasked the powers that enslave us.**

**In fear and arrogance we cast him, lifeless, into the grave,
and with him went our hopes of salvation.**

**Raised by God, he is parting the sea of evil and despair
and leading us across into the land of freedom and promise.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit—God’s mysterious presence with us—
who breathing gives life;
whose fire purges and renews;
whose wisdom surprises, prompts and questions,
awakening courage, humor and hope.**

**We believe that we ourselves are made in the image of God
and growing to wholeness in Christ.**

**Gathered by the Spirit, we have been baptized into a common life;
a life laid open to all;
overflowing with love and mercy;
richer than mind can measure,
but appearing foolish to the world.**

**And we trust that the foolishness of God will prove wiser
than the wisdom of the world,
and that the suffering of God will heal the earth
and fulfil our hopes of justice and peace. Amen.**

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Prayers of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people 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: Almighty God, You have taught us to do justice, love kindness, and practice humility before You; make our faith active in love, that Your name may be praised and Your people served throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: and also with you.

All those present greet one another with a word or 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: Heavenly Father. You have made us happy with Your multitude of gifts.

C: We are truly honored.

P: We bless Your name, O Father, as we offer You these gifts—

C: knowing that, in the wisdom of Your kingdom, our giving will return to us.

P: Through Jesus 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, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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, that 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.

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 Canticle

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia Alleluia.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: What sort of meal is this, O Lord? What banquet do You prepare for us?

C: The feast consists of Your body...Your blood.

P: Through Your wisdom—foolish in the eyes of the world—You offer Yourself to us.

C: Make us hunger for Your righteousness.

P: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go out into the world. Walk with integrity.

Do only what is right. Speak the truth with courage.

God reward your mercy with divine mercy;
Christ Jesus allow you to see God;
the Holy Spirit lead you into righteousness and peace
and fill you with all the blessings + of God's children.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn "*We Are Called to Follow Jesus*" 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

Kathy Brashear—not feeling well

Jim Doerfler—on the passing of Jeannette

Del Groff—heart surgery recovery

Palagia Hlava—complications from MS

Robin Hoffman—back injury and toxic neuropathy

Jill Earle—broken ankle/foot, healing—niece of Bob and Carol

Lorene Kozar—strength and peace

Becky Larkins—successful adoption of Holly-Praise God-and for successful adoption of 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

Carmen—health and depression—friend of Robin

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

Jeff—double knee surgery, healing—friend of Bob and Carol

John Cowling—leukemia—brother-in-law 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

Heather Hendrix—acute onset leukemia—family friend of Amy

Bob Hudson—successful open heart surgery-continued healing—co-worker of Deb

John Johnson—heart surgery recovery—friend of Robin

Naomi Just—fell and broke hip—Pastor's sister

Linda Kuzniakowski—brain cancer—co-worker of Deb Earle

Lance—dementia—friend of Joyce

Laurance Jeanblanc—withstand malignant tumor, anemia and weight loss—brother of Guy

Mary Lott—diagnose with cancer—great-granddaughter of Pastor and Kristine

Steve Mamber—bone marrow transplant mid February—Amy's brother-in-law

Sam Mamber—son who is donating bone marrow to dad

Frank Manijak—failing health—Steve's Dad

Mike Menhart—under hospice care—Epiphany member

Amanda Nicely—strength and peace—Trudy's sister-in-law

Delilah Nicely—recovery from pneumonia—granddaughter of Joyce

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

Joan Rupp—suffering pain from gallstones—good friend of Amy

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—pituitary tumor-benign-pressing on optic nerve—friend of Robin

Tom—oral surgery and hip surgery—friend of Robin

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

Kim Weiggart—bacterial endocarditis—co-worker of Deb

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