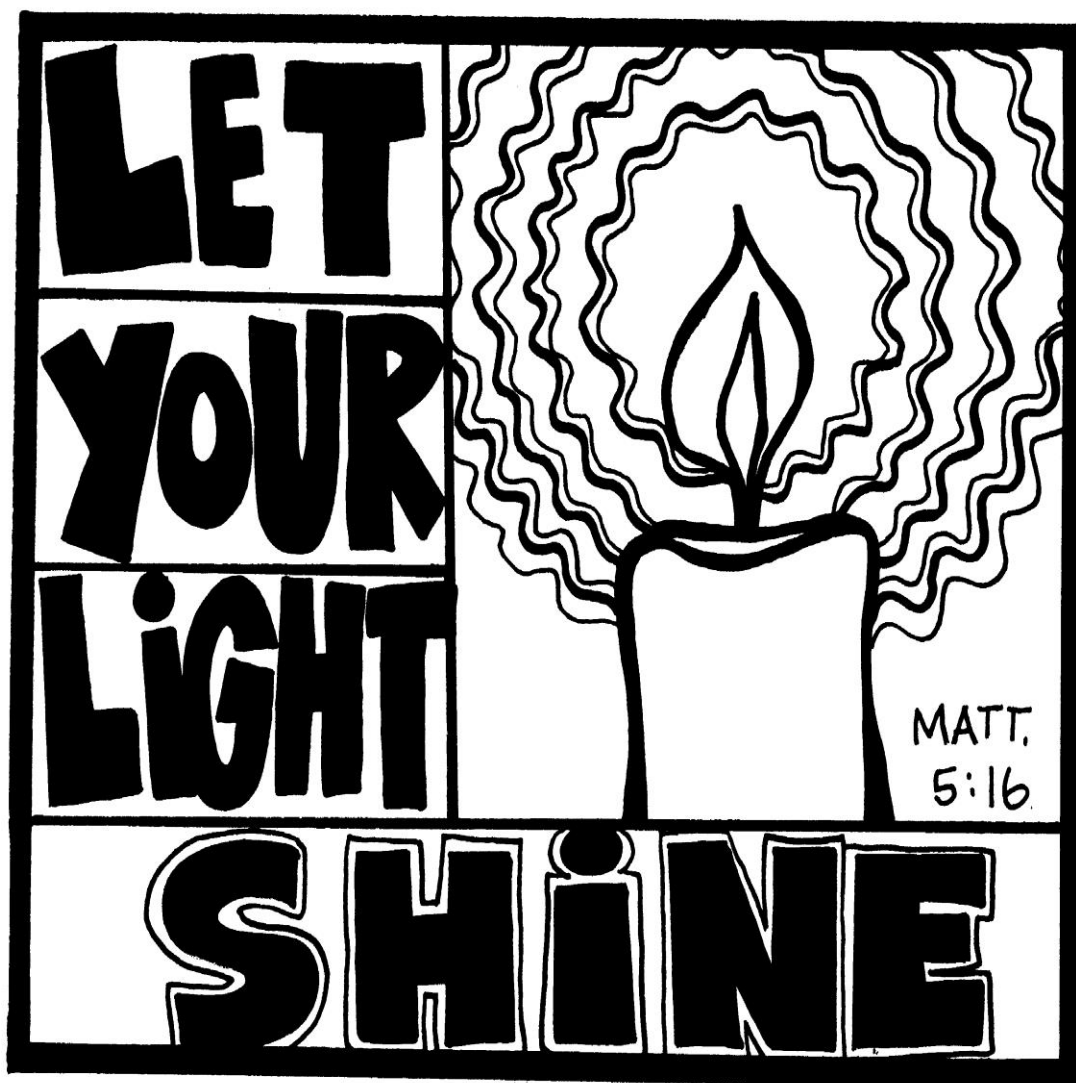


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



Epiphany V
10:00 a.m.
February 5, 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 to the Glory of God!
- **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.
- **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 22 Adults 1 Youth

Confirmation Pastor and 2 students

Towards Budget:

Current Expense	460.00	Building Fund	10.00
Benevolence	5.00	Candle Fund	5.00
<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>1 + 1 + 1</u>	<u>16.00</u>
Total Offering	521.00	Weekly need	2,138.36

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 "*Here in This Place*" WOV No. 718

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: Speak in our hearts Your Holy Spirit's holy fire, O God-

C: fire to warm this icy world...bright fire to lighten the darkness.

P: Electrify Your people, O God, that we may shine—

C: make us beacons, O God—white hot klieg lights of Your love.

P: Then we will show forth Your compassion for all peoples.

C: Then we will attract all nations to Your holy city.

P: Then the world will see our good works...

C: ...as a city on a hill cannot be hid...

P: ...and all people will give glory to You,

C: our heavenly Father.

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 Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “Blessed Are Those Who Love You” (Psalm 112) Insert

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God’s wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. 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 5:13-20

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³“Jesus taught them:] “*You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.*”

¹⁴“*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.* ¹⁵*People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.* ¹⁶*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*”

¹⁷“*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.* ¹⁸*For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.* ¹⁹*Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.* ²⁰*For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.* This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “*Learning to Live: Know Who We Are*”

Hymn for the Day “*Bring Forth the Kingdom*” Insert

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: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: Let us pray. You call us to shine, O God—

C: to shine with Your holiness, to shine with Your perfect love.

P: Yet, we cannot shine without You.

C: So make us mirrors, O God.

P: Use us to reflect the light and love that come only from You.

C: even as these gifts are reflections of our gratitude.

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 Cantic

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: Filled with You, O Christ,

C: we are ready to shine!

P: Strengthen in us, by the power of this holy supper, the
desire to shine with Your own borrowed light.

C: We are a city on a hill. Let us never be hid!

P; We bless You now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth."

C: Send us now to live according to that call.

P: Where life is seen as dull and boring and devoid of any meaning.

**C: use us to bring flavor, excitement, and meaning by spreading
the message of God's love.**

P: where sadness is the rule and people are living in despair,

**C: use us to bring joy of Jesus and the shout of gladness in what
God has done.**

P: Where everything seems ordinary and every day seems the same,

C: speak through us the news that God has made everything new

P: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

C: Send us now to live according to that call.

P: Where people are afraid because of the dark forces at work in the

world,

C: use us to enlighten them with the message that Christ came to heal them.

P: Where people are caught in addictions and habits that are ruining their lives,

C: use us to enlighten them with the message that Christ came to heal them.

P: Where people are huddling in the shadows, unable to move,

C: use us as beacons of hope that lead people to the glory of God.

P: God guide you continually; Christ Jesus satisfy your needs even in parched places, the Holy Spirit keep you strong and well and make your life as rich as a garden whose springs of living water + never fail.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”* WOV No. 649

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—Thank you for all your prayers!—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