

The Parish Voice

December 2025



With the advent of modern technology and COVID-19, many Christians have fallen into the bad habit of not gathering together with other Christians in-person for worship. This habit is problematic because God teaches us in the Holy Scriptures, gathering publicly together to hear God's Word is essential to the health and well-being of our faith in Christ Jesus as Christians.

First, God commands us to gather together with other Christians: **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some...”** (Hebrews 10:25). We should gather together with other Christians regularly because God commands us to do so.

Second, God has made you a member of the body of Christ Jesus through Holy Baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13). This promise of union with Christ means that you are not only united to the Son of God, who has died for the forgiveness of your sins and conquered death that you might have eternal life, but you are united to His other members, namely, His Church. By uniting you to other Christians through Holy Baptism, God reminds us that He intends for us to live together in community with our Christians. We live in community with the body of Christ by gathering with them publicly and regularly for the hearing of God's Word as Christians have done since the beginning: **“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”** (Acts 2:42)

Third, God has divinely established the office of pastor to oversee and shepherd His Church on earth by teaching His Word. As St. Paul tells the pastors of Ephesus: **“Pay close attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which He obtained with His own blood.”** (Acts 20:28) He ordained pastors in order that we might hear His Word publicly proclaimed and be strengthened and preserved in saving faith in Christ Jesus. So, the Lord says: **“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ”** (Romans 10:17), and He commands pastors: **“Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”** (2 Timothy 4:2)

Fourth, God commands us to gather publicly to celebrate the Lord's Supper. When our Lord Jesus instituted His supper, He said: **“Do this in remembrance of me.”** (1 Corinthians 11:24) We can't see this in the English, but the word “do” in the Greek is plural, meaning that

we can only celebrate the Lord's Supper with other Christians. Because our Lord commands us to do so, and because He promises great things therein, namely, His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, we come together regularly to celebrate His Supper.

Finally, God promises to be with us in a special way in the public gathering of His people. **"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."** (Matthew 18:20) What a great blessing the Lord Jesus, God made man, has promised us!

The Incarnate One has entered into the immediate presence of God the Father, but this does not mean that He is not really present amongst us today. Just as He dwelled among us when He took on our human nature by being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary thousands of years ago, He continues to dwell among us in His glorified flesh. As the one who is true God and true man, seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty (who is everywhere), He now fills all things in heaven and on earth (read Ephesians 1:23).

However, He is not present everywhere for the same reason. He is present throughout all creation as the one preserves all things by His Word of Power. He comes to us in worship in the proclamation of His Word and the celebration of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper to be our Savior, delivering the gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation that He merited for us all those years ago by being conceived, born, living, dying, and rising as a human being.

Immanuel continues to be with us then as the One who saves in worship. Every Divine Service (service of God) is a little Advent. Please join us and encourage those around you to come and see Christ Jesus the Lord! Blessed Advent and Christmas!

Pastor



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

We will be celebrating Christmas Eve with a service of lights on Wednesday, Dec. 24th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Thomas. We would love to see everyone at this special service. If you miss this service you can join Christ Lutheran at 8:00. Have a very merry and blessed Christmas!

BIBLE STUDIES are on hiatus till after the Christmas Season. See you in January.

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Please join Pastor Blake on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for devotions, prayer, coffee, and fellowship. Pastor will lead devotion and prayer followed by fellowship.

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The Women of St. Thomas are meeting before the worship service in the nursery at 8:30 a.m. to pray for people on the prayer list, God's ministry at St. Thomas, and our brothers and sisters in Christ. This gathering is a time devoted to prayer. Please join us this Sunday.

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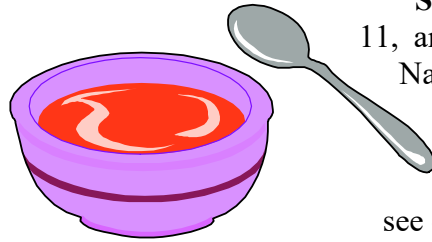
Be on the lookout for your Stewardship Letter/Pledge sheet to be arriving soon.

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POINSETTIAS

Please see the order forms on the desk by the church door to place your orders for poinsettias. See Marla for more information.

SOUP SUPPERS AND WORSHIP SERVICES



Soup Suppers will be held on December 4, 11, and 18. Please see sign up sheets in the Narthex to sign up to be a Soup Maker, Bread, Salad and whatever else you would like to bring. Soup will be at 6:00 and Worship will be at 7:00. Can't wait to see everyone for some great fellowship.

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DECORATING PARTY

On Sunday, Dec. 14 after the worship service we will be putting up the Christmas tree and any other decorations we think are needed. Snacks will be served. Would love to have everyone stay to help us out!



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COUNCIL INSTALLATION

On Sunday, Dec. 7 we will be installing our new council members during the service. They are Steve Hlava, Stephanie Maniak, Lynn Kanengeiser, Del Groff, Guy Jeanblanc, Joyce Torres and Deb Wolff.

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Jan. 11 we will be having a congregational meeting after the worship service to nominate a Synod President. More details to follow.

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"A Manger for All Seasons"

New Testament Baptist Church on 3583 S.R. 59 in Ravenna will be presenting "The Nativity- A Manger for All Seasons" on Sunday December 14 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. directed by Ruth Dennison. They always do a great job presenting these meaningful dramas. Hopefully you will be able to attend one of these presentations.

CHRIST LUTHERAN EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL LIGHT OF PEACE

Please join us on Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00 PM at Christ Lutheran Church as we receive the Light of Peace all the way from Bethlehem! This event will be celebrated in conjunction with the Scouts of America. Christ Jesus is our peace with God and the one who will bring perfect peace on earth. May the Light of Peace help us to remember the very real peace we have on account of our Lord's advent in the flesh, even in the midst of a world of violence and turmoil.

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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children will be presenting a Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 11:00 during the worship service. All are invited.

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ANGEL GIVING TREE

Christ is helping out 2 families this Christmas season. I placed the information on these families on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you can help out with any donations for these families you can give the items to Pastor or Ruth and they will get them to the church.

They are also collecting Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Cleaning supplies, Dishwasher Tabs, Dish Soap, Hand Soap, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste, Tall Garbage Bags, Kids Snacks such as Pretzels, Cookies, Granola Bars, Juice boxes and fruit snacks. Any donation is appreciated! Don't want to shop? Donations of cash are also welcome. Thank you for your giving spirit!



LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEAL

This meal will be served the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the fellowship hall downstairs. This month it will be held on December 17 from 5:00-6:30 pm. If you would like to help out, contact Diane Lottig at 330-274-2868.

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BIBLE STUDY

Bible Studies are on hiatus until after Christmas. See you in January.

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YOUTH GROUP

Attention all youth and guardians! Beginning this September please join us at Christ every fourth Sunday of the month from 6 to 8 for Youth Group for all youth 6th grade and up. They will have food, games and Bible study. The next meeting will be December 28th.

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CATECHISM CLASSES

Attention all Catechism students and parents! Catechism classes are every Tuesday from 4 to 5 at Christ Lutheran Church.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill & Sharon Crile
Dave Kanengeiser
Carol Poston
Lynn Arnett
Denise Bender
Sherry Clark
Nick Gailey
Jim
Kevin
Al Maze
Monica
Denise Nicely
Tina

Palagia Hlava
Lorene Kozar
Heather Poston
Bridget
Margie Bowers
Gloria Coleman
Trudy Gollmer
Kathy
Bernie Kozar
Dan Meenach
Nana
Susan
Bennie Wegener

Pastor Just
Marla Manijak
Aaron
Doris Adams
Lana Carnes
Courtney
Janice
Kenny
Larry Kraus
Meg
Nancy
Suzanne Polkov
Zack

Kristine Just
Stephanie Manijak
Andrea
Isabella Andrews
Cameron Beck
Carl Dorris
Jazmine
Daniel Gump and wife
Emmett Matulac
Logan & McGowan family
Amanda Nicely
Jeanne Sutton's daughter

Our College Students—Corey Hautmann, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Ben Wolff and Carl Dorris

The world/USA—racism and lack of love outside of God's words

Our military veterans

All Natural disaster victims

Hurricane victims

Gaza & Israel victims

Ukraine refugees

All Non-believers

**The power of prayer is so miraculous that we would love to hear good news about someone on this list!
Please let the church know or call Marla at 330-472-3045. Thank you!**

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

Carole Poston
12790 Chamberlain
Aurora, OH 44202

Lorene Kozar
8460 Westport Dr. #225
Mentor, Oh 44060

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

2-Pastor Just
13-Robin Hoffman
17-Vicki Weber
21-Ben Wolff

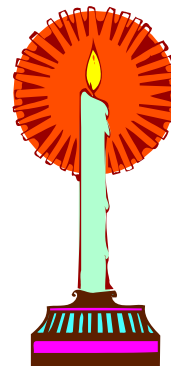
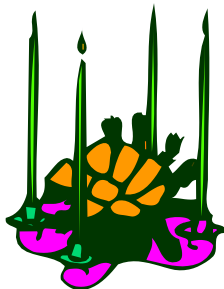


DECEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

19-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Madelyn Ayers
27-Linda Hautmann
Lynn Kanengeiser
Richard Kanengeiser

Happy Anniversary to...
8-Anibal & Joyce Torres



OUR SERVICE PROJECTS

We remember all those who are facing a crisis in their lives. Lutheran Missions Ministry is our main organization that we donate to. Mark on your envelopes "Lutheran Mission Ministry". We are especially remembering those who have been affected by Hurricane Melissa.

Please remember the families of Streetsboro by donating to the Streetsboro Community Pantry with a monetary donation or food donation. You can do this through the church through your offering or placing food items in the basket in the Narthex especially through this holiday season. Help is needed!.

Church Council will be meeting after the worship service on Dec. 21st. If there is something you would like the council to work on, please let one of the council members know. They are Steve Hlava-president, Del Groff-Vice President, Joyce Torres-Secretary, Deb Wolff-Financial Secretary, Guy Jeanblanc, Gilbert Ayers and Stephanie Manijak.

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Blake Martzowka at the church on Thursdays from 9-3 at 330-626-4945 or on his cell phone 989-372-5318 for emergencies or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions.

Deb Wolff would like us to save white paper towel rolls and toilet rolls to be given to her daughter Becky Larkins to be used at her work for crafts. Please place them in the basket in the narthex. Also if you would like more pickles or relish Deb needs your jars to be refilled. Thank you!

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Our new weekly budget need is \$1,306.73. Please help us meet this goal through your stewardship giving. Thank you!



**P.O. Box 2247
9042 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241**

Change Service Requested

**THE PARISH VOICE NEWSLETTER
Office: 330-626-4945
Web Site: www.stthomasstreetsboro.com**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.**

**PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE OR
LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

SOUP SUPPERS AND WORSHIP 6:00 AND 7:00 THURSDAYS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 TOPS 9:30 Catechism 4-5 Light of Peace service at Christ 7:00	3	4 Office hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Soup Supper 6 Worship 7:00	5	6
7 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship	8	9 TOPS 9:30 Catechism 4-5	10	11 Office hours 9-3 Coffee Time 10-11 Soup Supper 6 Worship 7:00	12	13
14 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship 10:15 Decorate Tree	15	16 TOPS 9:30 Catechism 4-5	17 Loaves & Fishes Dinner 5- 6:30 at Christ	18 Office Hours 9-3 No Coffee Time Soup Supper 6 Worship 7:00	19	20
21 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship 10:15 Brief council mtg. 11:00 Childrens Program at Christ	22	23 TOPS 9:30 Catechism 4-5	24 Christmas Eve Services 6:00 St. Thomas 8:00 at Christ	25 Happy Birthday Jesus and Merry Christmas to everyone!	26	27
28 8:30 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 Worship 6-8 Youth group at Christ	29	30 TOPS 9:30 Catechism 4-5	31 Happy New Years!			

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

6-Joanna Nicely
6-Gabe Manijak
12-Deb Wolff
21-Nicole Manijak
22-Sam Nicely
28-Logan Hagen
29-Rory Wolff
30-Becky Larkins



JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

11-Kathy Brashear
13-Ben Wolff
25-Grace Rohaley
31-Amy Rohaley

Anniversaries

24-Jim & Jeanette Doerfler—Jeanette passed

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

10-Tina Hagen
16-Kristine Just



FEBRUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Bob Earle
23-Marla Manijak

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Jen Jones
4-Joyce Torres
9-Samantha Weber
9-Kari Earle
12-Trudy Ayers
13-Tim Nicely
21-Tom Beuck
24-Palagia Hlava
25-Pastor Martzowka
25-Ian Phillips
31 Aaron Fuldauer



MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism birthdays

7-Becky Larkins
11-Abigail Ayers
23-Ken Nicely III

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

8-Peter Malherek
16-Wendy Weber
18-Jodi Earle
19-Haley Rohaley
19-Aggie Blankenship



APRIL BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Mike Phillips
20-Stephen Nicely
24-Kari Earle
30-Haley Rohaley

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

4-Leona Corban
6-Lorene Kozar
14-Mike Phillips
24-Deb Earle



MAY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

1-Deb Wolff
13-Nicole Manijak
14-Ian Phillips
19-Tim Nicely
23-Jen Jones

Happy Anniversary to...
1 Steve & Marla Manijak
12 Steve & Sherry Crile
13-Blake & Ruth Martzowka
18 Del & Donna Groff
26 Guy and Judith Jeanblanc

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

17-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Stephen Nicely
25-Del Groff
26-Ruth Martzowka
27-Gilbert Ayers
29-Corey Hautmann
30-Diane Lee



JUNE BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

10-Deb Earle
18-Jim Doerfler
24-Logan Hagen
24-Gavin Hagen
24-Samantha Weber
24-Vickie Weber
24-Jillian Earle

Happy Anniversary to...
8-Tina & Russ Hagen
21-Rocky & Kim Kinder
29-Save & Palagia Hlava

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

4-David Kanengeiser
10-Save Crile
11-Bill Crile
12-Diane Reynolds
13-Keith Larkins
20-Bob Earle
23-Sharon Crile



JULY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

2-Diane Lee
20-Jodi Earle
21-Pete Malherek

Happy Anniversary to...
21-Bob & Carole Earle
30-Rory & Deb Wolff

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

8-Denise Nicely
11-Steve Manijak
12-Lynn Kanengeiser
21-Anastasia Martzowka
23-Marla Manijak
27-Lori Ludeman
30-Marcy Harrison
31-Tracy Fuldauer



AUGUST BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

20-Ruth Martzowka
25-Anastasia Martzowka

Happy Anniversary to...
2-Tom & Jen Jones

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

5-Cathy Fairchild
9-Gavin Hagen
9-Jenna Zimmerman
9-Jacob Zimmerman
10-Noah Paskett
10-Nick Phillips
15-Amanda Nicely
17-Save Hlava
19-Jillian Earle
20-Jarid Phillips
21-Patty Phillips
27-Carole Earle
29-Anibal Torres



SEPTEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

4-Gabe Manijak
16-Corey Hautmann

Happy Anniversary to...
5-David & Lynn Kanengeiser
6-Tom & Linda Beuck
18-Gilbert & Trudy Ayers
26-Bill & Sharon Crile

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Kim Kinder
3-Kathy Brashear
7-Joe Earle
9-Jim Doerfler
15-Stephanie Manijak
17- Abigail Ayers
20-Madelyn Ayers
24-Linda Beuck
27-Linda Hautmann
31-Brianne Wolff
31-Richard Kanengeiser



OCTOBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

9-Trudy Ayers
13-Joanna Nicely
13-Gilbert Ayers
13-Thomas Ayers
20-Nick Phillips
Steve Hlava
David Kanengeiser

Happy Anniversary to...
4-Keith & Becky Larkins

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Levi Just
9-Ken Nicely III
12-Dusty Basmagy
17-Grace Rohaley
24-Amy Rohaley
29-Thomas Ayers



NOVEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

4-Stephanie Manijak
14-Jarid Phillips
29-Sam Nicely

Happy Anniversary to...
9-Sam & Denise Nicely
29-Pastor & Kristine Just

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

2-Pastor Just
13-Robin Hoffman
17-Vicki Weber
21-Ben Wolff



DECEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

19-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Madelyn Ayers
27-Linda Hautmann
Lynn Kanengeiser
Richard Kanengeiser

Happy Anniversary to...
8-Anibal & Joyce Torres