

Christ Lutheran Church

10827 N. Main Street

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Mantua, OH 44255

Rev. Blake J. Martzowka

Kayla Ballentine

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: M-F 10:30 am-2:30 pm

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Sunday Live Stream: YouTube

Sunday school 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am



January 2024

Christ's Messenger

The Heart of Christ, in the Midst of Greater Mantua"



CHRIST *Lutheran* CHURCH

2024 Officers

Council:

Melisa Pozwick	President
Anna Lee Heinl	Vice-President
Diane Lottig	Secretary
Tim Snodgrass	Treasurer
John Heinl	Financial Sec

Committee Chairpersons

Nathan Goodell	Head Deacon
Brian Pozwick	Head Trustee
Christina Eaton	Education Director

A Message from Pastor Blake...

After the twelve-day celebration of Christmas and before the 40-day celebration of Lent, we observe Epiphany. "Epiphany" in classical Greek refers to the revelation of a god. Christians have used this term for the season following Christmas and preceding Lent because during this time we meditate upon the fact that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. The baby born of the Virgin Mary more than 2,000 years ago is the eternal Second Person of the Trinity, God the Son (John 1:14). For a time His divine majesty was hidden beneath the lowly form of a human being. During much of His earthly

ministry, our Lord Jesus Christ looked no different than any other human. For this reason, many of the religious authorities and people during Jesus' day rejected Him as a blasphemer for teaching that He was equal to the God of Israel (John 5:18). Jesus was rejected, among other things, for preaching the truth about who He is. Jesus is equal to the God of Israel because He is the God of Israel in human flesh (Colossians 2:9). When people saw the man, Jesus, they were seeing none other than the Lord of Hosts.

Our Lord's divine majesty (i.e., Glory) was revealed at

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Pastor's Message Continues

points throughout His ministry. The readings for Epiphany focus on times when our Lord revealed His Glory, such as when the Father proclaimed His identity as His "beloved Son" at His baptism or when our Lord revealed Himself to be the Bridegroom of Israel (i.e., God) by providing wine at a wedding in Cana. Above all else, our Lord's divinity was revealed and confirmed in His resurrection, as St. Paul writes: "He was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord..." (Rom. 1:4 ESV) The feast day of the Transfiguration concludes our celebration of Epiphany how our Lord shines forth His divine light to Peter, James, and John before going to the cross (Mark 9:2-13). The Transfiguration revealed His identity as both God and man while also foreshadowing our Lord's glorified appearance after His resurrection (2 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 1:14).

Yet our Lord revealed His Glory above all in His death on the cross. There, Jesus Christ says, the Father glorified Him (John 13:32). Jesus even refers to His crucifixion as the moment when He would be enthroned as the glorious Son of Man (see Mark 14:62, "from this moment on you will see"). The cross is where the Lord of Glory was crucified (1 Corinthians 2:8). The cross revealed the very heart of God, His love for us. As St. John the Elder, thinking about the cross, writes: "God is love" (1 John 4:8-10). The God of the universe through whom all things were made gave up His imperishable and priceless life for your sins so that you now have eternal life in His name. The cross is the Glory and Wisdom of God because in it we learn who God is. We learn about our loving Father who would send His only begotten Son to die for us. We learn about the love of the only begotten Son who laid down His life for us. And we come to know the love of the Father and the Son on account of the love of the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts and causes the Glory of the Lord to shine within through the proclamation of the Gospel. Through our Lord's cross, we see an epiphany of the Triune God: God is love.

Pastor Blake

MEMORY CHALLENGE VERSE FOR JANUARY

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Confirmation
Saturdays @ 1 PM
At Parsonage

Community Meal
January 17th
5-6:30 PM

Council Meeting
January 18th

Voter's Meeting
January 21st
After church

Worship Schedule

“Serving With a Heart Like Jesus”

	January 7 th Communion	January 14 th	January 21 st Communion	January 28 th
Greeter	Lexi Ballard	Kat Flynn	Barb Lange	Melisa Pozwick
Acolyte	Natalie Goodell	Makenna B	Jameson Flynn	Lucas Swires
YACA	Amy Toothman	N/A	Jon Pozwick	N/A
Reader	Jon Pozwick	Eric Chism	Tracy Stamm	Ruth Martzowka
Ushers	Lexi Ballard	Melisa Pozwick	Katie Toothman	Larry Q
	Brian Lottig	Jon Pozwick	Amy Toothman	Joanne Q
Media	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton
Power Point	Amy Toothman	Lexi Ballard	Jon Pozwick	Amy Toothman
Deacon	Tracy Stamm	Larry Q	Kat Flynn	Laura Cleavenger
Elder	Brian Lottig	Brian Lottig	Brian Lottig	Brian Lottig
Coffee Steward				

Have you thought about Serving? We have several ways for you to serve Christ that don't require any additional time other than what you are already doing – during each worship service we have ushers, readers, greeters & worship tech. None of these require any special skills other than a heart for giving. Schedules are posted on the bulletin board, weekly bulletin, and monthly newsletter. Please contact the church office to be put on the schedule, at (330) 274-2849 or email at clcmantua737@yahoo.com

4 C's Local Food Pantry

January donations being collected are

Dish Soap

Canned Pasta

Canned Fruit

Please place donations in the basket in the narthex marked “4 C's”

Christ Lutheran Church is a drop-off location for the 4C's

-Sunday School adopted 2 families for the holidays. Thank you to everyone who helped support this cause. Both families received their wrapped gifts in time. They were the only gifts under the tree. When we all come together it can make a big difference! Both moms expressed such gratitude. Thank you.

-The Jesse Tree pageant was a success!
(see pages 5 & 6 for more information...)

Youth News-

Parent Night Out. 12/8

Lexi and Melisa did 1st night had total of 5 kids. Kids made reindeer crafts and had a story time reading. Games included- bean bag tic tack toe, "Shoveling snow" - picking up cotton balls with a spatula, and watched a Christmas movie.

2nd night 12/16 was Christina w/Jon and Lexi- Total kids 7- two were nonmembers from community!

The weather was nice so we started outside with kickball. Then we played reindeer game- (like hungry hippos with solo cups on hands and pick up various size marshmallows.)

Craft- Made popsicle stick reindeer- painted them, googly eyes, and cloths pin for antlers.

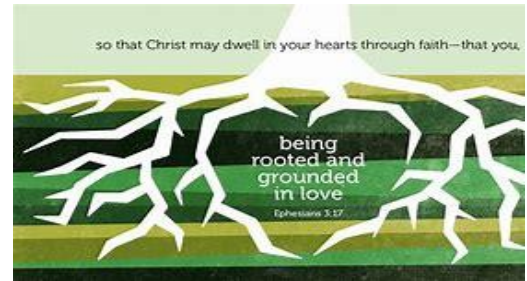
Fundraiser Earned Total \$208.14

\$169 cash

\$39.14 (Venmo \$40-fee)

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser-

3 Dates advertised Sundays from 9am to 2pm - 0 takers. Returned items purchased minus Angel Tree Gifts wrapped. Maybe next year we will try it at a store?



Sunday School

9:45-10:45 am

3 classrooms

Ages 3-6yrs Hannah Owen

Ages 7-12yrs Christina Eaton

Youth 13 and up Melisa Pozwick

Snack sign up posted on Sunday School board.

2023-2024 Sunday School Theme

"Rooted in Christ's Love"

Ephesians 3:17

Sunday School is hosting a family movie night 1/1/24 at the Garrettsville Cinema at 6pm. All are welcome to attend! Free tickets, buy your own snacks.



Things to look forward to:

Feb- Family Bowling Day- date TBD

March- Pancake Fundraiser- date TBD

The Jesse Tree

A Sunday School Production

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our Jesse Tree Christmas Pageant!

Participants included:

Youth - Jon, Amy, Lexi, Ryan, and Evan

Natalie, Logan, Makenna, Jameson, Abby, Eva, Emmett, Clara, Ben, Zeke, Carter, and Lucas.

After the pageant a meal was served for approximately 40 people. Kids got goodie bags with color your own manger bookmarks, Happy Birthday Jesus stickers, notebooks, and candy.

A Thrivent card bought the turkey, ham, and fixings. (Thank you, Celia!) Our meal was Bethlehem theme so we had naan bread, hummus, olives, feta cheese, and fresh veggies. Kat donated a cake. Others provided pie/cookies.

We got a phone call at the beginning of the meal a local family in need of food. They are in Garrettsville. We packed them left overs to feed them a few days and some supplies we had on hand. Corey took it to them and took them some gas in a gas can. We invited them to the community meal on 12/20 and gave info on 4C's. How blessed we are to help our neighbor.

Kayla made the Jesse Tree and repurposed the manger to a foldable one! Both are AMAZING!

Also thanks to the Snodgrass' for letting us borrow your Ficus tree!

Thank You!



Angel Tree Gifts!



Parent's Night Out!



Adult Bible Studies

These bible studies will be open to both Christ and St. Thomas and anyone you might invite. You may see a new face or two and make a new friend while growing in God's Word!

TUESDAY MORNINGS- Here at Christ, 10am-11am in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Blake will be teaching on the past Sunday text he preached on.

THURSDAY EVENINGS- 6pm-7pm at St. Thomas in Streetsboro. The topic will be "Who is Jesus?"

CONFIRMATION CLASSES- Every Saturday, 1 pm at Pastor Blake's home. These classes are for anyone 6th grade and up whether you are a new student or someone who wants a refresher course. Please contact Pastor Blake at blakemartzowka@gmail.com.

Adult Sunday School?

Are you interested in Adult Sunday school? We are too! I have the curriculum.

Are you willing to step up and be a co-leader? I promise it's simple and you don't have to "have all the answers." Adult lessons will follow the same lessons as the children. Please speak with Christina or call 234-703-9735.



Thank you to everyone who donated to The Tree of Warmth. We received 65 hats and 65 pairs of gloves. The Crestwood Primary School was very happy and appreciative. So, thank you all so much!
-Kat Flynn

Women's Ministry

All Women in the
Congregation

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

December 20th 5:00-6:30 pm

The free meals are served the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the Christ Lutheran Church downstairs Fellowship Hall.

If you and your friends would like to help (you don't have to be a member to help), contact Diane Lottig at (330) 274-2868 for what is needed.

We could use a few more volunteers to sign up for *Coffee Stewards*. This position is simple. Clean up coffee area after service, dispose of any left-over coffee (varies each week!), and general tidying of area. Bring a treat to share if you wish but not required. Many hands make light work. Sign up is in the narthex.

On November 15, 2023 the Loaves and Fishes Fre Community Meal celebrated its 15th anniversary. Due to the pandemic, this ministry was on hold from March 2020 to April 2022. When we restarted it in May 2022 it was on a different day. From the beginning we held the meal on the 3rd Monday of each month but switched to the 3rd Wednesday in 2022. Our 155th meal was served at this anniversary in November. There were 9 helpers: Pat South, Diane Lottig, Barb Goodell, Fran Buxton, Shirley Bellar, Linda Hobson, Joanne Quesenberry, Tracy Stamm, and Brian Lottig. Of these 9 people, 3 were present on our opening date and have been volunteering since then – Pat, Diane, and Barb.

The menu featured turkey breast in gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, Pat's tasty homemade cranberry sauce, and numerous pies and desserts. For the first time in our history, we ran out of food and with apologies we had to turn away a few diners. We planned for 60 people but had 70. In the 18 months since we restarted, we averaged 45-50 people. In September we had 38 people; in October 40, so 60 was a good number to use. We will up our figure for future meals.

At this November meal we received a beautiful Thanksgiving card from Earl Evans and his sister Vera addressed: "For the Ladies at Christ Lutheran Church". Earl and Vera visit area meals and have been coming here for a few months. Earl has kindly helped Diane with dishes several times.

This is what was written on the card:

"We could not just let this Thanksgiving time go by without expressing how thankful we are of your time and effort in preparing such wonderful meals each month. May God bless all who bless others with your charity. Thank you. Earl Evans and Vera."

Hebrews 6:10 was cited:

"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward his name, in that you have ministered to the saints..."

We are grateful for this sincere card of thanks and hope to continue this Loaves and Fishes ministry for years to come.

-Diane Lottig



Happy New Year

Treasurer's Message:**Financial Summary:**

Month	Income	Expense	Net Income	YTD Net
Sep.	\$13,239	\$10,886	\$2,353	-\$5,943
Oct.	\$14,036	\$13,605	\$431	-\$5,512
Nov.	\$9,004	\$10,626	-\$1,621	-\$7,133

-Any questions please reach out to Tim Snodgrass, Treasurer

God answers prayer.
At Christ Lutheran, we know the power of
prayer.

Ezekiel 22:30 says, *"I looked for a man
among them who would build up the wall
and stand before me IN THE GAP on behalf
of the land."*

GAP, (God Answers Prayer), is one of these
prayer ministries. Those who serve in this
ministry serve in the gap that Ezekiel
wrote of as they are available to pray for
people.

Please contact Barb Goodell who will
begin the prayer chain for your need.

GAP MINISTRY

Barb Goodell	330-274-2161
Hannah Owen	330-931-0839
Kelly Britt	330-357-1101
Diane Lottig	330-274-2868
Linda Hobson	330-562-8327
June Zamecnik	330-281-7202
Tracy Stamm	330-571-0304
Shirley Bellar	330-281-8327
Anna Lee Heintz	330-842-2080
Joanne Quesenberry	330-274-2991
Christina Eaton	234-703-9735
Pat South	330-257-0948
Ellen Froelich	330-274-2081

Prayers for Hope, Healing, Comfort & Guidance

Members

Betsy Borling, Barb Lange, Janice Kilroy,
Becca Goodell & Family

Shut-ins

Linda Koerlin, Tom Briggs, June Stein,
Jean Schneider, Kay & Jill Kravcisin

Friends & Family

Steven Blunk, Dennis Reed, Debbie Haylett,
Michelle Paul, Don Dean

Military Service

Caleb Dean Pete
Robert South

Birthday Blessings on your special day and throughout the year!

Natalie Goodell	1/2
Robert South	1/4
Brian Pozwick	1/7
June Zamecnik	1/11
Mike Schneider	1/15
Brian Lottig	1/20
Diane Lottig	1/21
Charles Owen	1/27
Diane Perrine	1/27

