

Christ Lutheran Church

10827 N. Main Street

P.O. Box 737

Mantua, OH 44255

Rev. Blake J. Martzowka

Kayla Ballentine

Administrative Assistant

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

Phone: (330) 274-2849

Email: clcmantua737@yahoo.com

Website: mantualutheranchurch.org

Sunday Live Stream: YouTube

Sunday school 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am



February 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 Heint	Vice-President
Diane Lottig	Secretary
Tim Snodgrass	Treasurer
John Heint	Financial Sec

Committee Chairpersons

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

A Message from Pastor Blake...

Lent is the liturgical season leading to Easter. It is a time of self-reflection on one's sin in preparation for the celebration of Good Friday, the feast day the Church commemorates Jesus' death for the forgiveness of our sins. It is fitting then that we meditate upon the Lord's death in preparation for our celebration of Easter in March. When Jesus died, He died for both the perpetrators of sin as well as the victims of sin. In this world, we find ourselves in both camps. At times, we sin against God and others; and at other times, people sin against God and us.

Jesus experienced death on the cross as a perpetrator of sin

and as a victim of sin. Jesus, the one born without sin, suffered the consequence of sin: death. He died at the hands of sinful men who viewed Him as a religious and political threat, and so devised trumped-up charges to get rid of Him. The Father turned His face away from the righteous one who lived a life according to His will and went to death accordingly just as He would someone deserving His wrath. Friends and enemies who saw Jesus' suffering neither pitied nor comforted Him. Instead, they heaped burning coals upon a painful situation by abandoning Him and mocking Him.

Pastor's message continues on page 2...

Pastor's Message Continues

On the cross, Jesus identified Himself with perpetrator and victim alike. He died as a sinner so that the sins of humanity would not be counted against them. He died as a victim of sin so that anyone who suffers violence and trauma at the hands of others would not be alone. They have an advocate with the Father who understands their pain and suffering. A profound and offensive truth is revealed in the cross: God is with us, both the victimizer and the victim. He dove deep into the muck of human sin so that He might raise us all out of it. Jesus cried out for victimizer and victim from the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Easter is God's answer to that call. Life beyond death. Forgiveness of sins. Freedom from suffering. Dignity restored to the humiliated. God the Son has identified Himself with your situation, and God the Father has heard and delivered Him from it, meaning that He will do the same for you.

On this side of eternity, God has established His Church for both. Here God invites the perpetrators of sin to confess their sins and turn away from them in repentance. In response, He forgives their sins and gives them new life. For the victims of sin, they have a family of brothers and sisters of Christ on earth, who are there to support and listen to those who have been wronged. The victory of the victim in this life also takes the form of the forgiveness of sins. When the victim forgives their perpetrator, they take control of their situation by refusing to let their victimizer rule over their mind and emotions with thoughts of hate and revenge.

During Lent and throughout the Christian life, death and resurrection take the form of repentance and forgiveness. Repentance and forgiveness are both painful and liberating. They recognize that there is new life beyond the fallenness of our world, for both sinners and victims of sin, as the Father has shown us by raising the Crucified One from the dead.

Pastor Blake

MEMORY CHALLENGE VERSE FOR FEBRUARY

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45

DATES TO REMEMBER

Confirmation

Saturdays @ 1 PM
At Parsonage

Scout Sunday

February 4th

Pancake Breakfast Planning Meeting

February 4th
After Church

Evangelism Meeting

February 7th
6 PM

Family Bowling Night

February 10th
Saturday @ Skylane
1:00 PM

Game Night

February 10th
6:30 PM - ?

Midweek Lent Services Begin

February 14th
Ash Wednesday
6 PM Supper
7 PM Service

Community Meal

February 21st
5-6:30 PM

Women's Guild Meeting

February 27th
6:30 PM

Worship Schedule

“Serving With a Heart Like Jesus”

	February 4 th Communion/Scout	February 11 th	February 18 th Communion	February 25 th
Greeter		Linda Hobson	Pat South	Lexi Ballard
Acolyte	Jameson Flynn	Logan Ballentine	Abigail Flynn	Natalie Goodell
YACA	Lexi Ballard	N/A	Ryan Goodell	N/A
Reader		Ed Seigerst	Rebecca Goodell	Eric Chism
Ushers		Lexi Ballard	Jon Pozwick	Amy Toothman
	Brian Lottig	Kat Flynn	Melisa Pozwick	Katie Toothman
Media	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton
Power Point	Lexi Ballard	Jon Pozwick	Amy Toothman	Lexi Ballard
Deacon	Nathan Goodell	Joanne Q	Larry Q	Kat Flynn
Elder	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm
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

February donations being collected are

Canned Potatoes

Granola Bars

Coffee (any kind)

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

*Please sign up to be coffee steward. I can't keep doing it by myself. It's simple, tear down and dump out left overs. Put the cream away. You can handle it. Many hands make light work. Feb 18th I will not be available at all. Be a sport and sign up for a Sunday. Thanks, Christina

Feb 4th- Pancake Breakfast Planning Meeting

Stay after service and help us plan the youth pancake breakfast fundraiser. Lunch will be provided.

Feb 7th 6pm-Evangelism Committee Meeting

Evangelism is a new committee. All are invited! What is it? It is types of outreach to the community. Examples include: have a booth at Potato Festival, make a church picture directory, reach out to visitors who have come and follow up with them. WE NEED YOUR THOUGHTS! Reminder 1 representative from each church committee is needed. Pastor Blake will be heading this committee with quarterly meetings.

Feb 10th- 1pm Family Bowling Night

@ Skylane in Garrettsville. \$5- per person includes, shoes, slice of pizza, and soda. Please sign up by Feb 4th.

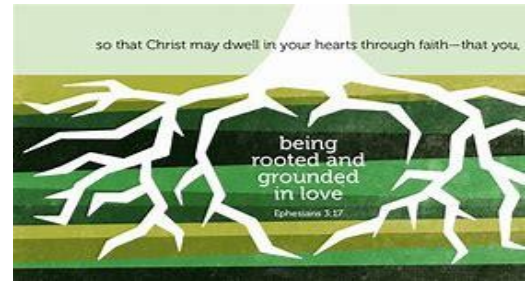
Coming Soon! -Picture Taking for a picture directory! Watch the bulletin for details! We would like to include a section in memorial of loved ones who have passed. Please attend the Evangelism meeting for more details.

Save the date for All You Can Eat Pancakes

March 23, 2024 8am to 1pm

At Shalersville Town Hall please invite coworkers, friends, and neighbors!

This benefits the 2025 Trip to NOLA.



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

Youth Group News:

Last month we had a visiting leader Tori Pozwick help caravan 3 of our youth members with 3 friends from the community to Gloria Dei Youth Worship Night. Thank you to all who participated and thanks to Tori for helping!

Coming up!

Youth Worship Night at Gloria Dei
2113 Ravenna Rd, Hudson Sun
2/4 6-8pm, the theme this time will be GLOW. Wear neon or white to glow with our black lights! Hope to see you there!!

Need a ride? Please sign up in church lobby. Meet at CLC 5:15pm -Depart by 5:30pm Its FREE! and dinner is included.

You are welcome to invite friends!
Arrive back at CLC estimate 8:30ish pm.

Sunday School

We have started Unit 4 follow along with us on Facebook and bulletin updates.

-Sunday school will be sharing the LOVE of God to our friends in nursing homes. We are collecting:

Large Print books, crosswords, word search...

Diabetic socks

Lip balm/chapstick

Body wash

Shampoo

Conditioner

Sugar Free treat

Healthy non-perishable snack

-The classes will be making homemade cards and then delivering to area nursing homes. Our goal is to make 50 kits including 1 of each item! Collection ends Feb 18th.

-Mrs. Owen has been updating and organizing the classroom areas. Please refrain from dumping in the room or moving items from their new home.

-We need snacks and drinks for the month of February. Please sign up or just bring some goodies to share.



YOUTH: Collecting Favorite Recipes - Cookbook Fundraiser coming soon!

Please start recruiting family and friends for their favorite recipes. They can submit them to you and/or directly to our online portal. Their name will be included with the recipes. We want to collect 200-300 recipes. The goal is to be published and printed so they can be Mother's Day gifts! The estimated cost for a book is around \$10. We will have a features section on each youth member! I would like a good picture of you and 2-3 paragraphs of information about you.

Example questions you could answer are: What is your confirmation verse? What do you like most about youth group? What is your favorite dessert? Where do you go to school? What grade are you in? What do you want to do after high school? Who is your favorite Sunday school teacher? j/k!

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.

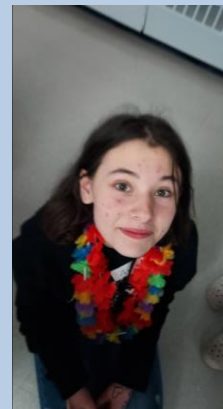
Adult Sunday School?

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.



Sunday
School &
Youth Group
fun!



Women's Ministry

All Women in the
Congregation

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

February 21st 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.

Last December, the Women's Guild continued its tradition of supporting charitable groups with a "Love Gift" donation. These groups were the recipients for 2023:



4 C's

Ablelight Lutheran Home
American Bible Society
Appalachian Service Project
Building Hope in the City
Center of Hope
Children's Advocacy Center
Concordia Food Bank
Concordia Theological Seminary
Habit for Humanity
Haven of Portage County
Jake Tillett – CMA church missionary
Kids Weekend Meals
LAMP – missionary pilots
Portage County Clothing Center
Safer Futures
Senior Center of Portage County
LCMS World Relief
Lutherans For Life
Lutheran Bible Translators
Lutheran Braille Workers
Lutheran Family Services
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry



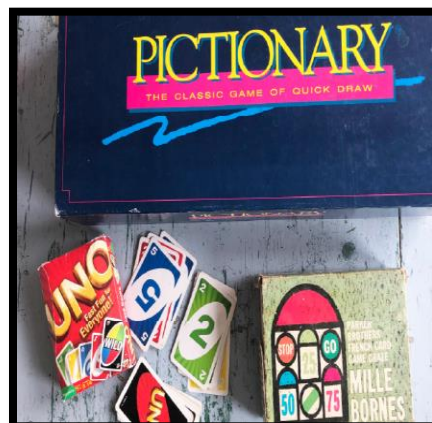
The Women's Guild Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 6 PM. Please look at the sign-up chart on the easel if you would like to make soup or bring cheese, vegetables, or bread/crackers.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Rummage Sale: July 26 & 27
9 AM to 1 PM

Mantua Farmers Market 9 AM to 1 PM
Plant and Misc. Sales – May 18 & 25
Regular Season – July 13 – September 21

All dates are Saturdays
More info to come!



GAME NIGHT

Plan to have some fun with
2 Game Nights sponsored
by the Women's Guild

February 10 6:30 PM - ?
March 16 6:30 PM - ?

Please bring snacks and
games to play!

Chairman's Message:

The first month is done and we are in our second month. I would like to welcome Laura Cleavenger and Mike Zamecnik into Council. Laura is our new Deacon and Mike is our new Trustee. With the new year and after approving the current officers, we will update the information and get it to everyone in the next few weeks. I am looking forward to all the exciting ways of helping this year and look forward to working with all of you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 440-547-3027 or send an email to clcmantua737@yahoo.com.

Council Meeting:

The next council meeting will be Saturday, February 17th at 9:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend and hear what is going on with the church.

Treasurer's Message:

Financial Summary:

Month	Income	Expense	Net Income	YTD Net
Oct.	\$14,036	\$13,605	\$421	-\$6,021
Nov.	\$8,744	\$10,626	-\$1,881	-\$7,902
Dec.	\$14,105	\$9,976	\$4,129	-\$3,773
2023	\$126,159	\$129,932	-\$3,773	

-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 Heinl	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!

Maureen Ballentine	2/3
Frankie Bowman	2/4
Carley Kerkhoven	2/4
Mike Snodgrass	2/16
Amy Toothman	2/17
Katie Toothman	2/25
Ellen Pridemore	2/28

