

## Christ Lutheran Church

10827 N. Main Street

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Mantua, OH 44255

Rev. Blake J. Martzowka

Kayla Ballentine

Administrative Assistant

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Sunday Live Stream: YouTube

Sunday School 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am



## August 2024

## Christ's Messenger

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

### A Message from Pastor Blake...

Suffering is only a problem if God exists. If there is no God, then suffering is just a part of existence like atoms, water, and air. It is neither good or bad. Suffering just happens. There are no valid grounds for the organism to complain about the life they have. Therefore, the argument against God's existence on the basis of suffering only works if God actually exists. Whenever we experience suffering, we have a sense that things are not the way that they should be. We are convinced that suffering is not just a part of existence but that it is *wrong*. Some people try to overcome this natural response to suffering through meditation or by tricking themselves into believing that there is not right and wrong. This sense of wrongness in response to suffering testifies to the fact that the life we experience in this world is disordered, which is only true if there is a God, a personal being who created all things and hence has a will for His creation not yet fully realized in the world.

Scripture testifies that out of love God created all things and that He made them *good*. Suffering came into the world through the sin of man which alienated him from his Creator. By willfully rebelling against his Creator, man rejected the good order created by the Creator and opened himself to the disorder, death, and suffering experienced in our world today (Romans 5:12). And since God had given man responsibility to care for creation, now all creation suffers and reaps the fruit of its negligent steward (Genesis 1:26; Romans 8:20). The suffering we experience in the world, then, stands as a testimony against man's waywardness and the fact that we are born alienated from our Creator (the source of all life and goodness) without any fear, love, or trust in Him. Yet things in the world could be a lot worse than they are. Complete separation from the Creator means non-existence. So, the question we should ask is why do things continue to exist and why is there any good in the world as opposed to perpetual suffering?

The world continues to exist because God, our creator, continues to love His creation and desires to save it. For this reason, He continues to sustain creation by giving us air to breath, food to eat, clothes to wear and children to love. He preserves this creation instead of starting all over because He loves *this* creation and

# Pastor's Message Continues

not another. He continues to create new generations of human beings because He loves wayward Adam and all of His rebellious descendants. He loves you. "[God our Savior] desires all people to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4) Moreover, God wills that this "creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:21) God preserves this creation for the time being in its brokenness because He intends to repair it. It is this God of love who uses all things, even suffering, for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

In order to save us and creation, God has even become one with this creation by assuming our humanity and becoming man in the womb of the Virgin Mary (John 1:14). As part of our creation, He willingly lived the highs and lows of our present existence. He partied with family, friends, and strangers. Out of love, He helped the poor, healed the sick, and sought the wayward. He suffered rejection, isolation, insults, the death of loved ones, and even an excruciating and ignominious death on a cross. God became fully human and a part of creation in person and deed so that He might redeem creation. It is this individual who fully God and fully man conquered suffering and the grave as the first fruits of a new creation through His bodily resurrection from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:23). This individual is none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has reconciled the wayward creation to Himself through His incarnation, life, death, and resurrection so that we have the sure hope of eternal life and the restoration of all the good creation He dearly loves (1 Peter 1:3).

Suffering is a problem in this life, a problem resulting from human sin, yet a problem that God has and can use for a greater good, and a problem that God has promised to deliver us from on that day when we shall see Him face to face. God loves this creation and so He preserves it for the time being – imperfections and all. He has preserved this creation to redeem and restore it through Christ Jesus. He is not done sharing the news and hope of this salvation with humans in this creation, so people continue to be born into this world. Whatever suffering comes our way, we remember that a loving and good God is in control of all things and He has given us and all creation victory through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. We can even rejoice in our suffering knowing that what we experience is what our Lord experienced and because we share in His suffering we shall also share in His resurrection (Romans 8:17-18). Amen.

Pastor Blake



## **MEMORY CHALLENGE VERSE FOR AUGUST**

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

Romans 8:19

# Worship Schedule

“Serving With a Heart Like Jesus”

	August 4 <sup>th</sup> Communion	August 11 <sup>th</sup>	August 18 <sup>th</sup> Communion	August 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Greeter</b>	Kat Flynn	Barb Lange	Linda Hobson	Pat South
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jameson Flynn	Natalie Goodell	Jameson Flynn	Natalie Goodell
<b>YACA</b>	Lexi Ballard	N/A	Ryan Goodell	N/A
<b>Reader</b>	Anna Lee Heint	Ed Seigerst	Rebecca Goodell	Tim Snodgrass
<b>Ushers</b>	Amy Toothman	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard	Joanne Q
	Katie Toothman	Melisa Pozwick	Brian Lottig	Larry Q
<b>Media</b>	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton
<b>Power Point</b>	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard
<b>Deacon</b>	Laura Cleavenger	Kat Flynn	Nathan Goodell	Tracy Stamm
<b>Elder</b>	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm

**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](mailto:clcmantua737@yahoo.com)

## 4 C's Local Food Pantry

**August** donations being collected are

**Sloppy Joe Mix**

**Jello**

**Crackers**

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*



# UPCOMING EVENTS


A poster for a community event. It features a red heart with a white cross, a sausage on a fork, and a blue "Free!" sticker. The text reads: "CHRIST Lutheran CHURCH WHO IS HUNGRY? Community Corn & Brat Roast Christ Lutheran Church 10827 Main St, Mantua Aug 10 | 5-8pm FREE GRILLED BRATS & CORN BOUNCE HOUSE CORN HOLE ACTIVITIES FOR KID & KIDS AT HEART!".

**CHRIST Lutheran CHURCH**  
**WHO IS HUNGRY?**  
**Community Corn & Brat Roast**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**10827 Main St, Mantua**  
**Aug 10 | 5-8pm**  
**FREE GRILLED BRATS & CORN**  
**BOUNCE HOUSE**  
**CORN HOLE**  
**ACTIVITIES FOR KID &**  
**KIDS AT HEART!**



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Lectionary Studies

Tuesdays  
@ Christ  
10 AM

### Christian Education Night @ Christ

Wednesdays  
6 PM

### Christian Education Night @ St. Thomas

Thursdays  
6 PM

### Farmers Market

Saturdays  
9 AM - 1 PM

### Potato Festival Planning Meeting

August 1<sup>st</sup>  
6:30 PM

### Voters Meeting

August 4<sup>th</sup>  
(Pavilion)

### Declutter Event

August 8<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 - 3:30 PM

### Community Meal

August 21<sup>st</sup>  
5 - 6:30 PM

### Cookbook Party

August 25<sup>th</sup>  
After church

# Youth Education

Christina Eaton  
Christian Ed Director

## Sunday School News

Rally Day will be September 15th.  
Thank you again for a great VBS!

## Youth News

Cookbooks for sale \$12

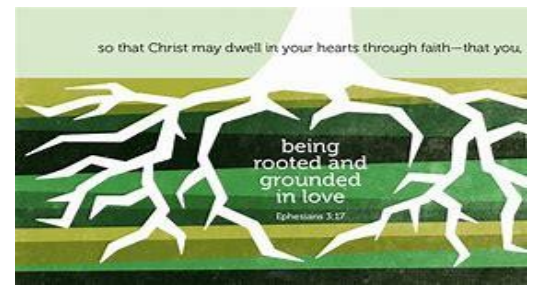
Reminder to ask friends, neighbors, and family they  
make great gifts!

The bake sale earned \$60. Thanks for participating.

Regional Youth Gathering at Redeemer, North  
Royalton. It's the same day as the church picnic-  
we will meet at CLC at 3pm.

Book launch party Sun. Aug 25th. Make a dish from  
the youth cookbook potluck after service. Invite a  
friend to join us and sample the tasty recipes.

Save the date for Youth night Sept 21st. Join us for  
games and a Bible study. Invite friends.



## 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.**

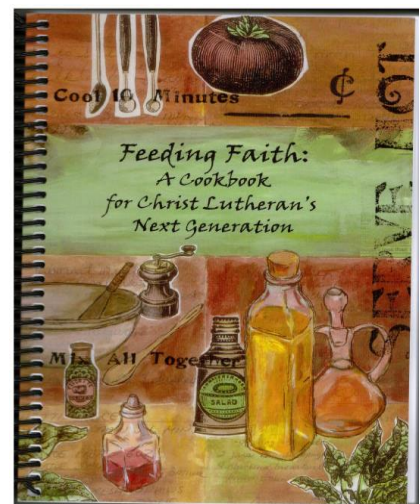
2023-2024 Sunday School Theme  
**"Rooted in Christ's Love"**  
Ephesians 3:17

If you have a child 11 years or  
older whom you would like to  
enroll in Confirmation for the  
following year, please speak to



The left over Bible  
Buddies from VBS  
were donated to  
both the Mantua  
Police Station and  
Fire Station for  
them to hand out to  
children they may  
encounter while on  
calls. Tags were  
added with the  
church's name on  
them.

## COOKBOOKS





# Evangelism Committee:

## **Our next Evangelism meeting will be Oct 6th. Below is the detail:**

- 1.) Update Picture Directory – We need memorial pictures of our members. Please get these to Kat Flynn.
- 2.) If you have not done it yet, please fill out the medical form and get it to Kayla. If anything, please supply us with an emergency contact. This will help get you help quickly.
- 3.) We are updating the handouts with all our information along with Mission Statement. We can use these for all our activities.
- 4.) We are updating information on various online platforms. Please contact us if you have any information you would like to include.

## **Upcoming Activities:**

- 1.) Family Camp Outing is **August 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 6:00 pm. Bring your tent. – Bible Study by fireside -Main Dish provided – bring a side
- 2.) Corn & Brats – **August 10<sup>th</sup>** 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. We have a sign up for help and some donation of food needed. Please sign Up and help. We are putting the tents and tables up on Saturday morning at 9:00 am. Helpers for the evening need to be there around 3:30 – 4:00 pm.
- 3.) Women's Mini Retreat is **August 24<sup>th</sup>** – Paint and Sip \$20.00 fee to cover the painting supplies – Painting taught by Jackie McGee
- 4.) Youth Retreat – **September 21<sup>st</sup>** 6-10 PM
- 5.) Men's Mini Retreat – **October 12<sup>th</sup>** from 1:00-5:00 PM. Join us for God's Word, BBQ, and a movie. Topic: God's Call for Men: What does God call us as men to do?

**We hope to see you all soon!**

# Women's Ministry

All Women in the  
Congregation

## LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

August 21<sup>st</sup> 5:00-6:30 pm

The free meals are served the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



The Rummage Sale offered lots of great finds last weekend. Thank you to everyone who donated, helped set up/work, and came to shop!

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

### MANTUA FARMERS MARKET

*Regular Season : Now – September 21*

*9 AM to 1 PM*

*All dates are Saturdays!*

Join us as a vendor or buyer at the church's Mantua Farmer's Markets. Reg. season being July 13 to Sept. 21- 9 AM to 1 PM- at \$5 per date for vendor. Money will go towards church projects. Pre-season sales went well- an extra Saturday was added June 1- so we hope to add more vendors during the summer. Remember- any items can be sold so it is really a Variety Market. Call Diane for info- 330-274-2868.

### POTATO FESTIVAL

*Meeting TBA*

*There will be a sign-up sheet coming soon where you can volunteer to help either in the kitchen or the booth or to help with supplies.*

This is our 50<sup>th</sup> year doing the pancakes for the festival!

50

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:**

We are growing and expanding which is nice to see. We do appreciate everyone's willingness to help in all our opportunities in our plan to grow our church. We are putting together a church calendar that Kayla will be updating so we do not overbook the church. Please send Kayla all your meetings and activities. If your activity needs a week before and after, please also give her those dates as well. This way we do not have competing request. All request for non-church activities needs to be vetted to the Trustee and Pastor before committing. Kayla will make sure to get approval and let you know if the church is available. Please allow at least 5 business days to get an answer.

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 **Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome to attend and hear what is going on with the church.

## **SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING:**

We are having a special voter meeting on **Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup> after church** to approve the building of a Pavilion on our grounds. Please come to get information about it. We have a member who is willing to donate \$60,000 to get this building built. We need to come up with \$15,000 to cover some of the cost of the pavilion.

## **TRUSTEE:**

The Pavilion estimates have been given to us. There is a lot of things that we need to start getting done. We do need our voters to come out and approve the building of the pavilion. Please come **August 4<sup>th</sup> after church** to vote.

## **TREASURER'S MESSAGE:**

Following is our financial data from the past 3 months:

Month	Income	Expense	Net Income	YTD Net
Apr 24	\$15,230	\$11,205	\$4,025	\$5,775
May 24	\$9,781	\$11,615	-\$1,833	\$3,942
Jun 24	\$9,279	\$10,547	-\$1,268	\$2,674

Tim Snodgrass



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**

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

## **Prayers for Hope, Healing, Comfort & Guidance**

### **Members**

Becky & Dan Krichbaum

### **Shut-ins**

Linda Koerlin, Tom Briggs,  
Kay & Jill Kravcisin

### **Friends & Family**

Steven Blunk, Michelle Paul, Patty & Denny  
Pesecky, Bob Havener, Clair Havener,  
Lisa Bey, Gary Edler

### **Military Service**

Caleb Dean Pete  
Robert South  
Owen Heinl

## **Birthday Blessings on your special day and throughout the year!**

Kevin Koerlin	8/1
Levi Tutwiler	8/5
Betsy Borling	8/10
Samuel Heubner	8/13
John Miller	8/13
Nathan Goodell	8/15
Rebecca Goodell	8/16
Timothy Toothman	8/19
Lynette Huebner	8/23
Lucas Swires	8/26
Jeff Goodrich	8/30

