

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: christlutheranmantua.org

Sunday Live Stream: YouTube

Sunday School 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am



March 2025

Christ's Messenger

The Heart of Christ, in the Midst of Greater Mantua



CHRIST *Lutheran* CHURCH

2025 Officers

Council:

Melisa Pozwick	President
Anna Lee Heinl	Vice-President
Diane Lottig	Secretary
Laura Cleavenger	Treasurer
John Heinl	Financial Sec

Committee Chairpersons

Ron Stamm	Head Elder
Katherine Flynn	Head Deacon
John Clark	Head Trustee
Christina Eaton	Education Director

A Message from Pastor Blake...

God the Father calls our Lord Jesus His “beloved Son” at His baptism in the Jordan (Matthew 3:17). In the Old Testament, the term beloved son often refers either to the first-born son or/and the heir apparent. This phrase denotes favor as it does in the case of Isaac, the son whom Abraham loved (Genesis 22:2). St. John uses a similar phrase in his gospel to denote Jesus’ special status as the son of God. He uses the Greek term *monogenes*, which means “only-begotten” or “unique” to denote Jesus’ divine sonship (see John 1:18; 3:16). Like the beloved sons of the Old Testament, Jesus is the unique, one-of-a-kind son of God the Father. He alone is the Son who has existed with the father from eternity (John 1:18), who has life in Himself as the Father does (John 5:26), who shares one divine essence with the Father (John 10:30). These things are true of no other person.

To give up one’s beloved son to death is the greatest form of love in both the Old and New Testament. Even today, parents understand the great tragedy of losing a child. In the Ancient Near East, the death of the beloved son had other repercussions as well. The death of the beloved son would leave a father without an heir apparent, his property and his future relegated to the limbo of an uncertain future as a result. Moreover, as a patriarchal society that did not mind showing favoritism among one’s offspring, the beloved son was closest to his father. As Jesus says, “No one knows the father except the [unique] son...” (Matt. 11:27)

Pastor’s message continues on page 2...

Pastor's Message Continues

For this reason, the willing sacrifice of one's beloved son for another is the greatest sacrifice and display of love possible in the Old Testament (see Genesis 22:16-17; Micah 6:7)

The New Testament picks up on this image and uses it as the ultimate display of God's love for us. God the Father loves us so much that He handed His beloved Son, His only Son, over to death for the forgiveness of our sins (John 3:16; Romans 8:32). As St. Paul proclaims: "For one will scarcely die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:7-8) If God loves us so much that He suffered the death of His Son for us, what good will He withhold from us? He will withhold nothing from us and work all things for our good out of unconditional love, the same unconditional love He showed by sending His Son to save us.

Moreover, delivered from sin on account of Jesus' death on the cross, we are now made the beloved children of God through Christ Jesus (John 8:34-36; Galatians 3:26). Through Christ, God His Father has now become God our Father in heaven. His love for Christ, His beloved son, is now His love for you. As the beloved child of God, the inheritance of Christ is now our inheritance as well. What a blessing it is to be God's beloved child!

Join us for our midweek services at St. Thomas this Lent as we go throughout the Old Testament and learn from the beloved sons of the Old Testament what it means for Christ Jesus to be God's beloved son and what His identity as the beloved son means for us.

Pastor Blake



Worship Schedule			“Serving With a Heart Like Jesus”			DATES TO REMEMBER
	March 2 nd Communion	March 9 th	March 16 th Communion	March 23 rd	March 30 th	
Greeter	Kat Flynn	Barb Lange	Melisa Pozwick	Lexi Ballard	Linda Hobson	Catechism Tuesdays 3:30 PM
Acolyte	Natalie Goodell	Makenna B	Abigail Flynn	Jameson Flynn	Logan Ballentine	
YACA	Evan Goodell	N/A	Amy Toothman	N/A	N/A	Midweek Lent @ St. Thomas March 5 th Supper 6 PM Service 7 PM
Reader	Jameson Flynn	Ron Stamm	Jon Pozwick	Anna Lee Heint	Tracy Stamm	
Ushers	Melisa Pozwick	Kat Flynn	Brian Lottig	Joanne Q	Melisa Pozwick	
	Jon Pozwick	Jameson Flynn	Katie Toothman	Larry Q	Jon Pozwick	
Media	Christina Eaton	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	
Power Point	Lexi Ballard	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard	Scouts Spaghetti Dinner March 8 th 4-7 PM
Deacon	Larry Q	Joanne Q	Kat Flynn	Laura Cleavenger	Nathan Goodell	
Elder	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	New Members Class March 9 th Pancake Breakfast March 15 th 8 AM – 1 PM Council Meeting March 16 th After church Loaves & Fishes March 19 th 5 - 6:30 PM Women’s Guild Meeting March 20 th 6:30 PM

4 C's Local Food Pantry

March donations being collected are
Mac & Cheese Cups
Bar Soap
Canned Fruit
Black Tea Bags
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

MEMORY CHALLENGE VERSE:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."

Romans 3:23-24

Midweek Lent Services will be held at St. Thomas this year. There will be a soup supper at 6 PM and service begins at 7 PM. Please note, there will be **NO** weekly bible study during Lent. Services begin Ash Wednesday, **March 5th**.

Pastor Blake is hosting another **New Members Class** for anyone who would like to join the church. Classes begin **March 9th**. Sign-up sheet in the narthex or speak with Pastor Blake.

The Youth are hosting their annual **Pancake Breakfast** on **March 15th** (new date) from 8 AM to 1 PM at Shalersville Town Hall. This fundraiser benefits the Youths trip to New Orleans.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

March 8 2025
4-7pm

Help Pack
3575



TO GO OR DINE IN



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**10827 MAIN ST
MANTUA OH**



**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST
SAT. MARCH 15, 2025
8AM TO 1PM**



thrivent

\$12



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shalersville Town Hall
Corner of Rt 303 & OH-44,
9090 OH-44, Ravenna, OH 44266

Youth Education

Christina Eaton
Christian Ed Director

Youth News

Super Bowl Subs was a success despite the weather including lots of ice. We used a Thrivent card that covered most of the supplies. Profit estimate \$340 Thank you purchasing and sharing outside of church.
My work alone purchased 9 subs!
We look forward to doing it again next year.
(See photos on the next page!)

Endure Bible Study

Sunday February 23rd the youth group met. Melisa led a Devotional from the Endure conference. Valley Lutheran was invited but was unable to participate. Pizza, salad, cookies and games were enjoyed by all. Next Youth Endure Bible Study- March 30th right after church. Invite a friend!

Want to help the Youth without the fuss? We are approximately \$5000 from our goal. Donation envelopes are on the blessing board. Pick one up and return in the offering or in the box by the display.

Updated: Pancake Breakfast is on 3/15/25!

There was a mix up with the town hall confirmation. Please keep inviting and updating with the correct date.

Tickets are now available through prepurchase here-
<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/pancake-breakfast--31525-2>



Sunday School

9:45-10:45 am

3 classrooms

Ages 3-6yrs Hannah Owen
Ages 7-12yrs Christina Eaton
Youth 13+ Melisa Pozwick

Snack sign up posted on Sunday School board.

Sunday School

Hosted a Valentine's Day Party. Left over treats were distributed throughout the community via random acts.

Family Bowling was a success. We ended up with 44 from church. We upped the count to 55 and had some call off for illness. We blessed 2 families that came to the bowling alley by having them join our group and pay for them. Both were invited to church and the pancake breakfast.

Tentative Date for Community Easter Egg Hunt- Sat- April 12th waiting for police dept to confirm partnering. We will be collecting candy starting mid-March. A stuff the egg day will be announced soon!

Save the date for VBS - week of June 16th.



Women's Ministry

All Women in the
Congregation

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

March 19th 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.

Women's Guild Meeting:
March 20th at 6:30 PM

All women of the congregation are welcome.

Council

Melisa Pozwick
President

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

-We are starting to plan and meet with the teens that will be going to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The outreach from our church community is extremely grateful. Look for more information on activities in the next few months.

-The church is full of events, please make sure you get with Kayla, fill out the new forms, get both the Trustee and Pastors approval before you move forward with planning your event.

-Please coordinate with Kayla or a Trustee on any deliveries to the church. We need to make sure there is someone in the church to receive the delivery as we had some issues with flowers for a funeral and some other packages not being delivered.

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

COUNCIL MEETING:

Our next council meeting will be held on **March 16th** after service. We welcome anyone who would like to attend the meeting.

ELDERS:

Hearts from Christ – "Little children, let us love not in word or talk but in deed and truth." (1 John 3:18)
With this admonition in mind, the Elders at Christ are starting a new charitable fund to assist members and friends of Christ Lutheran Church who find themselves in need. This fund will be called "Hearts from Christ." It is established to provide financial assistance for active members of Christ Lutheran Church who are in need as well as to purchase a memento of care for active members of Christ Lutheran Church and friends of the congregation going through difficult times. If someone needs assistance, they should contact Pastor Blake and the elders. Any request will be kept strictly confidential. This fund will be completely dependent upon free-will offerings given by the congregation. We will be collecting these funds after church for the month of March for any who are interested in giving. You can donate to the Hearts from Christ fund anytime of the year by marking an envelope dedicated to "Hearts from Christ" and placing it in the offering plate.

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

Birthday Blessings on your special day and throughout the year!

Chris Bellar	3/6
Kayla Ballentine	3/7
Madison Goodrich	3/9
Emelia Suravi De	3/11
Rebecca Krichbaum	3/11
Laura Cleavenger	3/16
Oliver Koerlin	3/17
Blake Martzowka	3/25
Jonathan Pozwick	3/27
Morgan Huebner	3/28
Evan Goodell	3/30
Valeri Nuti	3/30
Dan Esala	3/31

Prayers for Hope, Healing, Comfort & Guidance

Members

Corey Flynn, Rebecca Goodell, Dan Meyers

Young Families

The Ballard/Eaton Family, The Ballentines, The Flynns, The Goodells, The Goodrichs, The Koerlins, The Martzowkas, The Owens, The Pozwicks, The Rickseckers, The Sandricks, The Swires, The Toothmans, The Tutwilers

Shut-ins

Linda Koerlin, Tom Briggs,
Jill Kravcisin, Becky Krichbaum

Friends & Family

Steven Blunk, Patty & Denny Pesecky,
Linda Havener, Lisa Bey, Rick Kilpatrick,
Sam Weise, Dylan Graybeal & Klarissa Schott,
Kathie Havener, Sandy Dills, Jim Flynn, Dwight Husk,
Jerry & Theresa Higgins

Military Service

Caleb Dean Pete, Robert South, Owen Heinl
Monte Stamm

Baptismal Birthdays

Natalie Goodell – March 3rd
William Hanna – March 26th
Amy Toothman – March 27th

Wedding Anniversaries

None