

## Christ Lutheran Church

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Rev. Blake J. Martzowka

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Sunday Live Stream: YouTube

Sunday School 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am



## August 2025

## Christ's Messenger

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

### A Message from Pastor Blake...

Many of us know about the disciple Thomas. We know him as “doubting Thomas,” because he refused to believe that Jesus had appeared to His disciples risen from the dead without seeing and touching the risen Lord Himself. Because of his refusal, St. Thomas is a sympathetic figure. How many people claim that they would believe in God if only they saw God for themselves? Some people who refuse to believe that God exists and trust in Him do so because they believe there to be a profound lack of evidence for His existence. Some think that God is merely a human idea used to explain the unexplainable. How did the universe come into existence? “God.” How do I know what is right and wrong? “God.” How did Aunt Susan recover from her stage 4 cancer against all odds? “God.” This “god” whom we merely use to answer the unanswerable is a “god of the gaps.” If there’s a gap in human knowledge, use “god” to fill it.

The one true God, the Triune God, is not a god of the gaps. Christians do not believe, teach, and confess the Triune God because He is the only way to explain the otherwise unexplainable. Christians do not propose that the Triune God exists as a necessary conclusion of human reason or because He’s the best explanation for the information set before us. Christians believe, teach, and confess the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – to be the one true God because He has revealed Himself. As 2 Peter says: **“For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made know to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and Glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” we ourselves heard this**

Pastor’s message continues on page 2...

**very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain.” (2 Peter 1:16-18)**

If you asked the ancient Israelites why they believed in Yahweh the God of Israel, they would have said: “Because Yahweh called our forefather Abraham out of Ur to the land of Canaan. Because Yahweh delivered us from slavery in Egypt with His mighty hand. Because Yahweh appeared in Glory on Mt. Sinai when He gave us the Law of Moses.” Similarly, if you asked the earliest Christians why they believed Jesus, His Father in heaven, and the Holy Spirit to be the one true God they would have said: “Because God has raised Jesus from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus – He who was crucified, dead, and buried – has appeared risen bodily from the dead to many of us. Because the risen Jesus has poured out the Spirit of the Father on us with miraculous signs and wonders as He promised He would.” All this to say, God’s people believe, teach, and confess the Triune God to be the one true God because He has *revealed* Himself to us.

We are Christians today precisely because the Triune God continues to reveal Himself. As Martin Luther once wrote: *“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.”* (Small Catechism, Explanation to the Apostles’ Creed, Article 3) We have not come to believe in the Triune God “because of our reason or strength,” that is, through necessary proofs of fallen human reason, evidence that demands a verdict, or simply to explain the apparently unexplainable. Rather, we believe in the Triune God because of what God has done. The Holy Spirit has *called* us. He has *enlightened* us with *His gifts* – the promise of salvation in Christ Jesus given in God’s Word, Holy Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper. As St. Paul says: **“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”** (Romans 10:14-15)

The Triune God continues to reveal Himself today, hidden in His Word, in the baptismal waters, in the bread and wine, in our neighbor, and in all creation as He continues to preserve it with His mighty arm. We might not see His Fiery Glory as the ancient Israelites once did on Mount Sinai. We might not see the risen Jesus with our eyes as the Apostles did and witness the work of the Holy Spirit in miraculous signs and wonders. He has not promised to reveal Himself to us in these ways today. And what the Lord has not promised we should not expect to see (though we might see such things even today). What the Lord has promised is to be with us and reveal Himself to us through His Word and Sacraments (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus speaks to us through the apostolic and prophetic word of Holy Scripture (Luke 10:16). He clothes us with Himself in Holy Baptism (Galatians 3:27). And He gives us His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine to eat and drink in the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 10:16).

Our problem today is not that the Lord does not reveal Himself. It is that the Lord does not reveal Himself in the way that we would like. We want to be like the Israelites who saw the fiery Glory of the Lord, and we will not believe until we do. We want to be like the Apostles, who heard, touched, and saw the risen Lord with their own ears, hands, and eyes, and we will not believe until we do. Our problem is not that the one true God fails to make Himself known; it is that we desire to be the one true god. We want God to be God on our terms, not His. We want Him to reveal Himself in the way that we desire, not the way He has promised. In turn, we sinful human beings refuse to let God be the Sovereign One who does things as *He* wills. And it is precisely His revealed will that He is with us in hiddenness that He might be grasped by all. Grasped by the ears in simple syllables, grasped by the mind in the prophetic and apostolic word, and grasped with our hands and our hearts in the promises given to us in the water of our baptisms and the bread and the wine of the Lord's Supper.

"He comes to us as one unknown," as the famous New Testament scholar and humanitarian Albert Schweitzer once wrote. Just as the Lord came to Abraham in the appearance of an ordinary man, so too does He come to us in the forms we are used to. Just as He came to Mary and Martha as a simple, unassuming Galilean preacher, so too does He deign to make Himself known to us in simple, unassuming ancient texts and in simple unassuming water, bread, and wine. Only with faith that trusts that the Triune God is faithful and will be where He has promised to be can we declare with Abraham when we receive the Lord's Word and Sacrament: **"O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant... and after that you may pass on – since you have come to your servant."** (Genesis 18:3-5) It is only with faith in the Lord's promises that we like Mary are willing to forsake everything else that demands our attention to hear and to receive the one thing needful, the teaching of the Lord. In His mercy, the Triune God has revealed Himself to you through His Word, the waters of Holy Baptism, and His Holy Supper to forgive you all of your sins that you may be His and He may be yours unto everlasting life. This one thing is necessary. Amen.

-Pastor Blake



Worship Schedule			“Serving With a Heart Like Jesus”			DATES TO REMEMBER
	August 3 <sup>rd</sup> Communion	August 10 <sup>th</sup> Church Picnic	August 17 <sup>th</sup> Communion	August 24 <sup>th</sup>	August 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Greeter	Kat Flynn	Lexi Ballard	Melisa Pozwick	Linda Hobson	Barb Lange	Goodell Party August 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1-4 PM
Acolyte	Jameson Flynn	Logan B	Natalie Goodell	Lily K	Makenna B	
YACA	Lexi Ballard	N/A	Jon Pozwick	N/A	N/A	Corn & Brats August 9 <sup>th</sup> 5-8 PM
Reader	Rebecca G	Ron Stamm	Tim Snodgrass	Anna Lee Heinl	Nathan Goodell	
Ushers	Ryan Goodell	Evan Goodell	Lexi Ballard	Melisa Pozwick	Kat Flynn	Church Picnic August 10 <sup>th</sup>
	Joanne Q	Larry Q	Brian Lottig	Jon Pozwick	Jameson Flynn	
Media	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	Brian Swires	Becca Goodell	Melisa Pozwick	More than a Mom August 16 <sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30 AM
PP	Jon Pozwick	Amy Toothman	Lucas Swires	Natalie Goodell	Jon Pozwick	
Deacon	Larry Q	Laura Keen	Kat Flynn	Nathan Goodell	Joanne Q	Loaves & Fishes August 20 <sup>th</sup> 5 - 6:30 PM
Elder	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Sunday School Rally Day August 24 <sup>th</sup> 9:45 AM

### 4 C's Local Food Pantry

August donations being collected are  
Tomato Soup  
Chicken Noodle Soup  
Jello  
Individual Mac & Cheese Cups  
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:**  
"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."  
**Colossians 3:16**

*A note from Head Deacon Kat Flynn:*

-Don't forget: Our annual Corn and Brats Roast will take place **August 9<sup>th</sup>** from 5-8 PM. Please check out the sign-up sheets in the narthex for volunteer positions and some items we still need. Thank you!

-We are in need of more greeters, ushers, readers, and acolytes. If you are interested in serving, please see Kat.

Council Meeting  
August 24<sup>th</sup>  
After church



# Youth Education

**Christina Eaton**  
Christian Ed Director

## Sunday School

Rally Day is Sunday, **August 24th** at 9:45am - 10:45am  
Join us for food and fun as we kick off the first day of  
Sunday School.

We are collecting school supplies for Crestwood schools.  
Please bring your donations to the church lobby.  
All are welcome to join us!

## 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.**

## Youth News

The next youth gathering is in San  
Antonio, Texas –  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2028. This is for youth  
entering Freshman and recently  
Graduated Seniors. If your youth is  
interested, please contact Melisa or  
Christina for any questions and get  
approximate number for  
fundraising.



-A special thank you to our drivers  
Brian & Tori Pozwick, Nathan  
Goodell, and Jake Ballard for  
bringing the trailer to haul all of  
the luggage.  
-Unfortunately, I (Christina) caught  
Covid-the Nimbus strand and it's  
spread a bit through our group.  
Please pray for us all to have swift  
recovery as we have already  
missed too much work and then  
being out sick is causing havoc!  
THANK YOU for helping us get to  
NOLA. It was a wonderful  
adventure and I hope students  
hold the gifts God gave us in their  
hearts forever.

Some photos from the Youth Trip 2025!





## **YOUTH GATHERING:**

We had a blast at NOLA. There were 20,000 people at the gathering. We had 5 kids from our church and 11 kids from Valley Lutheran in Chagrin Falls. They had so many opportunities to listen to God's word based on topics they enjoyed. Look for the Guidebook in the narthex to see all the opportunities that were offered. We had daily bible study each day. Ours was more sports themed which was fun. The Ohio District event was a late-night river cruise. We had food and brass band playing. The days were steamy, and walks were long but it was enjoyable to spend that time with the kids and really discuss how to Endure. I believe we will be hosting a discussion on our adventures at the gathering.

*Next LCMS Youth Gathering is scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2028 and will be held in San Antonio, Texas. If you have a child who is of age and would like to attend, please see Christina or Melisa. Thank you.*



# Women's Ministry

All Women in the  
Congregation

## LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

**August 20<sup>th</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.

Women's Guild Meeting:  
Will resume **September 18<sup>th</sup>**

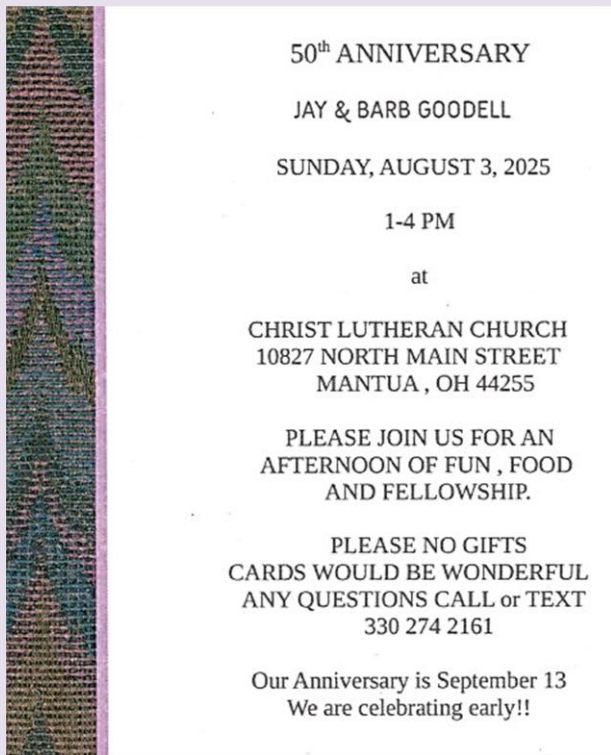
Have a great summer!

### **MANTUA VARIETY MARKET 2025:**

You can sell anything- produce, bakery, jam, honey, eggs, syrup, plants, flowers, garage sale items- as long as it is legal. Sales are on Saturdays- 9 AM – 1 PM. Season runs from Now -August 23. Vendor fees are only \$1.00 per date. Please consider this opportunity to make some cash for only a \$1.00 fee. Call Diane Lottig 330-274-2868.

***Only a few more Saturdays left!***

**Jay & Barb have invited you all to join in on the fun. Everyone is welcome!**



### **MORE THAN A MOM-**

Our 3rd meet up was held at Christ and we had 4 moms participating. Thank you to Hannah Owen for leading the group while I was with the youth in NOLA. We had a student from the community, Amyah, who helped Jameson with watching the kids so the moms could enjoy their time. Our next meet up is Saturday, **August 16<sup>th</sup>** from 9:30-11:30 AM. Pot luck breakfast and child care provided.



# Council

## **CHAIRMANS MESSAGE: Melisa Pozwick**

We seem to be expanding and opening our church to the community. The pavilion is on its way and hopefully will be ready by the end of August, but we still need some added funds for the last little bit. Look at the thermometer in the narthex to see what we are missing.

The Corn and Brats is coming in August. Sign up is in the Narthex for set up, tear down and a few items that are needed. Bring out your favorite finger desserts.

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 **August 24th** after service. We welcome anyone who would like to attend the meeting.

## **TRUSTEES: John Clark**

Update on the pavilion: Construction has begun! Please note we are still asking for donations to help tie up loose ends on the project. For detailed numbers please see Head Trustee John Clark.

## **TREASURER'S MESSAGE: Laura Keen & Tim Snodgrass**

The following is our financial data for the past 3 months:

Month	Income	Expense	Net Income	YTD Net	Operating Cash
April 25	\$10,439	\$11,869	-\$1,430	-\$9,576	-\$3,034
May 25	\$17,011	\$12,359	\$4,652	-\$4,924	\$1,264
June 25	\$10,490	\$12,070	-\$1,580	-\$6,504	-\$242
YTD Jun	\$69,237	\$75,741	-\$6,504		

We have money in Dedicated accounts (not operating) we have been using to cover operating expenses. Our spending is under budget, but our income is not covering our monthly expenses. Council will be discussing how to address this issue at the next meeting.

# 2025 Officers

## **Council:**

Melisa Pozwick	President
Anna Lee Heint	Vice-President
Diane Lottig	Secretary
Laura Keen	Treasurer
John Heint	Financial Secretary

## **Committee Chairpersons:**

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

## ***"Hearts from Christ"***

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.





We welcome our newest member, Emma Rose Tutwiler, into the church family. She is the daughter of Thomas and Samantha Tutwiler. Her big brother, Levi, and big sister, Lily, joined their parents as Pastor Blake officiated her baptism on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

CHRIST Lutheran CHURCH  
WHO IS HUNGRY?

**Community Corn & Brat Roast**

Christ Lutheran Church  
10827 Main St, Mantua  
Aug. 9 | 5-8pm

FREE GRILLED BRATS & CORN  
BOUNCE HOUSE  
CORN HOLE  
ACTIVITIES FOR KID &  
KIDS AT HEART!

The pavilion progress as of July 29<sup>th</sup>. They are moving fast!  
See Head Trustee John Clark if you have any questions or concerns.



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>

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

Kevin Koerlin	8/1
Levi Tutwiler	8/5
Joshua Parr	8/9
Betsy Borling	8/10
Samuel Heubner	8/13
John Miller	8/13
Nathan Goodell	8/15
Rebecca Goodell	8/16
Timothy Toothman	8/19
Holly Capron	8/20
Anastasia Martzowka	8/21
Lucas Swires	8/26
Jeff Goodrich	8/30

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

### **Members**

Corey Flynn, Dan Meyers, Pat South

### **Young Families**

The Ballard/Eaton Family, The Ballentines, The Flynn's, 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, Linda Havener, Lisa Bey, Rick Kilpatrick, Sam Weise, Dylan Graybeal & Klarissa Schott, Jim Flynn, Dwight Husk, Theresa Higgins, Tommy Barr, Sandy Dills, Oke Meyer, Holly Simpson, Mary Smith, Brenda Elling, Andrea Belding, Virginia Goodell, Pam & Bob Maynard, Nancy Lacan, Kelly Oles

### **Military Service**

Caleb Dean Pete, Robert South, Owen Heinl  
Monte Stamm

### **Baptismal Birthdays**

Jon Pozwick – August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Mitchel Pozwick – August 6<sup>th</sup>  
Daryl Moore – August 8<sup>th</sup>  
Abigail Flynn – August 13<sup>th</sup>  
Jay Goodell – August 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

Ron & Tracy Stamm – August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Scott & Holly Hinzman Capron – August 14<sup>th</sup>  
John & Anna Lee Heinl – August 19<sup>th</sup>  
Brian & Diane Lottig – August 20<sup>th</sup>