

Christ Lutheran Church

10827 N. Main Street
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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



September 2025

Christ's Messenger

The Heart of Christ, in the Midst of Greater Mantua

A Message from Pastor Blake...

How are we saved?

The Scriptures teach us that we are saved by grace alone (God's love for us) through faith alone (trust in Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior). Salvation from sin, death, the wrath of God, the devil, and everything else that ails this fallen creation, comes to us by the love of God as a gift. Out of love, God the Father has sent His Son into the world to become a human being and to fulfill God's righteous will for us, to bear our sin, and to conquer death through His resurrection. Therefore, we have salvation because of God's love as a gift in Christ Jesus. Faith, which is trust in Jesus and what He has done, clings to Christ and receives everything that He has accomplished for us. And even this faith is not a work of human beings, but a gift of God the Holy Spirit who creates faith in us through the preaching of the Gospel, the promise of salvation (see 1 Corinthians 2:14 and 12:3 for faith as a gift of the Holy Spirit). This God-given faith is worked in us through the Gospel in all of its forms – let it be the Gospel as it is proclaimed in Holy Scripture, the Gospel as it is preached by the Pastor, or the Gospel proclaimed to us in the promises of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

"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? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel!'" (Pastor's translation of Romans 10:14-15) Hence from beginning to end we are saved by God apart from anything that we do. As St. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:8-9: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Pastor's message continues on page 2...

All of this should sound familiar to us Lutherans. Yet I would argue that it is easier to hear and say that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone than to actually apply this truth to our daily lives. How tempting it is when we have done something wrong to seek peace and solace through our ability to make things right and to fix the problem (or expect others to do the same when they have wronged us). Rather than finding comfort in reparations (when it is even *possible* to right past wrongs) we confess the sins that burden our consciences to God our Father as the Lord bids us to do in His prayer and find peace and solace for the fact that God has forgiven our sins on account of Christ Jesus. Or how many people search for the certainty of their salvation in the fact that they have received Christ Jesus at a specific date and time (that they have made a ‘decision’ to follow Jesus) or in a burning in their bosom and the strength of their faith rather than to the fact that Jesus has died for them, that Jesus has risen from the dead for them, etc. By seeking the certainty of our salvation in ourselves (let it be the strength of our faith or a decision we made sometime in the past) we look to ourselves for our salvation instead of to Jesus. Yet as with anything having to do with human beings – who are fallible and changeable – there is no certainty when we look within ourselves for comfort. The strength of one’s faith ebbs and flows with the tides of life. A past decision can always be doubted (did I *really* give myself to Jesus back then?).

Rather, when it comes to the certainty of our salvation, that our sins are in fact forgiven before God, that we have eternal life and victory over death, we must look to the one who has accomplished these things, namely, Jesus. Because the forgiveness of your sins according to Holy Scripture is as certain as the fact that Jesus has died (1 Corinthians 15:3). That is to say, the forgiveness of your sins is as certain as an immutable historical reality. That you have eternal life is solely dependent upon the fact that Jesus has power over death (as He has shown us in His own resurrection) and promises you everlasting life (Revelation 1:18; John 6:39-40). And because your salvation is solely grounded on Christ Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection – and unlike you He and what He has done for you will never change – your salvation is certain. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8) So when your conscience is bothering you, look to Jesus who has died for the forgiveness of all your sins! When your body fails you and death draws near, look to Jesus who has promised you everlasting life! And lest you doubt that these truths apply to you, remember that the Lord has promised you these things personally in Holy Baptism where He united you to Jesus’ death and resurrection (Colossians 2:12), that He has promised these things to *you* through His Word (Romans 15:4), and that He has established His Supper to give you His body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-28).

How are we saved? By grace through faith. What does this mean for our lives? At all times and in all places look “to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2).

-Pastor Blake



Worship Schedule

“Serving With a Heart Like Jesus”

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

	September 7 th Communion	September 14 th	September 21 st Communion	September 28 th
Greeter	Pat South	Melisa Pozwick	Kat Flynn	Lexi Ballard
Acolyte	Abigail Flynn	Logan Ballentine	Jameson Flynn	Natalie Goodell
YACA	Evan Goodell	N/A	Amy Toothman	N/A
Reader	John Heinl	Jameson Flynn	Jenny Clemens	Jon Pozwick
Ushers	Joanne Q	Ryan Goodell	Evan Goodell	Katie Toothman
	Larry Q	Kat Flynn	Melisa Pozwick	Brian Lottig
Media	Melisa Pozwick	Brian Swires	Becca Goodell	Melisa Pozwick
Power Point	Lexi Ballard	Lucas Swires	Natalie Goodell	Amy Toothman
Deacon	Tracy Stamm	Larry Q	Laura Keen	Kat Flynn
Elder	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn

**ALL BIBLE
STUDIES
RESUME!**

**Fall Fest
Planning**
Sept. 7th
After church

**Catechism
Meeting**
Sept. 14th
After church

**Loaves &
Fishes**
Sept. 17th
5 - 6:30 PM

**Women's
Guild
Meeting**
Sept. 18th
6:30 PM

**More than a
Mom**
Sept 20th
9:30-11:30
AM

**Council
Meeting**
Sept 28th
After church

4 C's Local Food Pantry

September donations being collected
are

Dish Detergent

Crackers

Canned Corn

Canned Green Beans

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:

"Fear not, little flock,
for it is your Father's
good pleasure to give
you the kingdom."

Luke 12:32

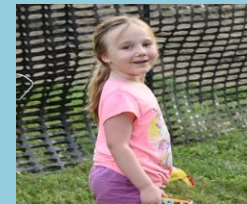
A note from Head Deacon Kat Flynn:

-Thank you to everyone who helped with the Corn & Brats roast this year.
It was a success.

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

-**DIRECTORY**: The church member directory is done! If you would like a
copy please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or see Kat. They are \$20
each. Please sign up by September 10th so we can take advantage of an in
store discount! We are only ordering what is requested.

August was an eventful month...



FALL FESTIVAL: OCTOBER 4TH

A planning meeting is being held **September 7th**. All are encouraged to attend.

We need **RAFFLE BASKETS**! Please consider making a basket. Sample ideas are: lotto tree, food-focused baskets like wine, gourmet food, and chocolate; entertainment baskets such as movie night or gaming; lifestyle baskets like spa, fitness, or gardening; and hobby-specific baskets such as cooking, arts and crafts, or pet care.

Car & Tractor Show - Entries will be by donation. Donations will help the church general fund.

Vendor Spots- We will have a limited number of vendor spots available for purchase. Fees will benefit the general fund. See Christina for details.

A sample schedule:

11am -Opening Pledge of Allegiance - Lead by Scouts

Potato Pancakes are available.

Pumpkins for sale.

Raffle basket sales open.

Kids crafts and games open.

Car & Tractor Show opens.

12pm-Childrens Costume Parade-trick or treat to the cars. Followed by Pet Parade.

Kids pumpkin hunt

1:30pm- PIE THE PASTOR

2pm-Car/Tractor Judging and announcement of winners after

2:30pm-Raffle Basket winners pulled

3pm-Wrap up and head home.

Registration by donation -first 50 get Swag bag Registration Day Of by donation

Venmo @Christ_Lutheran_Mantua

Send a check/cash to: Attn: Fall Festival, Christ Lutheran Church 10827 Main St, Mantua, OH 44255, check payable to Christ Lutheran. Or if you would prefer dropping off -Christ Lutheran office between 10am & 2pm, weekdays and Sundays 9:30am to 1pm

Please print clearly

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Year & Make of Vehicle/s: (anything on wheels: tractor, motorcycle, car, or whatever surprise you want roll in. _____



Youth Education

Christina Eaton
Christian Ed Director

Sunday School

Rally Day was a successful kick off.
Students worked off the lesson John 10:27.

*My sheep hear my voice, I know them,
and they follow me.*

Students practiced being sheep or a shepherd and were blind folded and had to find their way. Then students broke into 2 groups for crafts and dined on summer fixing of hot dogs and chips. We had 10 students and bonus with baby Elisabeth Owens. We look forward to diving into unit 8 studies.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 26th - Reformation Party

December 20th- Christmas Pageant practice
11am to 1pm

December 21st - Christmas Pageant & meal after service.

Random house keeping note: The children's classroom will be kept locked going forward. If you need something in that room please connect with Hannah or Christina for access. The goal is to preserve the classroom set up with minimal destruction. Also the teacher guide was removed from the room. If you happen to see it, we would appreciate having that back.



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 youth gave a presentation of about their NOLA experience on Sunday, **August 18th**. Copies of their notes were given to Diane to keep historical purposes. Guide books are in the lobby to see what options the students and leaders for classes they could attend. Thank you for coming to listen and enjoy some biscuits and gravy!

-We are looking forward to planning for our trip to San Antonio 2028. We will begin our quarterly fundraising with selling pumpkins at the Fall Festival. Fall Festival is **October 4th**.

A planning meeting is being held **September 7th**. All are encouraged to attend.

-**CATECHISM** Please join Pastor for a mandatory orientation on **September 14th** after church services to discuss expectations, schedules, and receive your first homework assignment. Catechism classes begin **October 7th** and will be every Tuesday from 4 to 5 PM at Christ Lutheran Church.

Women's Ministry

All Women in the
Congregation

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

September 17th 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:
Join us
September 18th
6:30 PM

MORE THAN A MOM-

Saturday, September 20th from
9:30-11:30 AM.

Pot luck breakfast and child care provided.

Evangelism

The Evangelism team will be hosting coffee hour on September 14th. The next meeting is November 2nd after church. All are encouraged to attend.
We had a great turn out for Corn and Brats. Thank you to all the volunteers and participants. We were able to get enough donations and money from the 50/50 raffle to cover most of the expenses.

We plan to host trunk or treat when Mantua does their Halloween Trick or Treating. Come join us to hand out goodies and hot chocolate.

Meal Train for Toothman Family- Tim's surgery support

Tim is having a long anticipated shoulder surgery.

Let's support by bringing a meal. Sign up here:

<https://mealtrain.com/w472g1>

Don't a fan of cooking? Gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores welcome.

Surgery is scheduled 9/2. The meal train will run till Sept 3 through 17.

Council

CHAIRMANS MESSAGE: Melisa Pozwick

Reminder: If you would like to reserve the church/pavilion, there is a form with Kayla that the trustee and pastor will need to approve before the event or church can be rented. This is also our way to track fundraising events and report it correctly. That is also with Kayla. We are trying to understand all the activities at the church and make sure our helpers understand what needs to be done.

Please look for our annual sign up for church help. Also, our annual voters meeting which includes voting for our new officers. Anna Lee and I will be asking if you would be interested in the open positions. Look for a list of open positions for 2026. If you have any interest, please contact us.

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 **September 28th** after service. We welcome anyone who would like to attend the meeting.

ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING:

Our Annual Meeting will be held **November 16th** after church. Voter Members qualifications are anyone who has attended a Council, Voter or Special meetings in the past 2 years. These members are the only ones that can vote during this meeting.

TRUSTEES: John Clark

The pavilion construction and concrete are finished! Please note we are still asking for donations to help tie up loose ends on the project like running the electric. If you have any questions please see Head Trustee John Clark.

2025 Officers

Council:

Melisa Pozwick	President
Anna Lee Heinl	Vice-President
Diane Lottig	Secretary
Laura Keen	Treasurer
John Heinl	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. 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!

Evangeline Flynn	9/1
Melisa Pozwick	9/1
Makenna Ballentine	9/2
Tim Snodgrass	9/6
Scott Capron	9/12
Linda Hobson	9/12
Ellen Froelich	9/13
Daniel Meyers	9/16
Hannah Owen	9/21
Shirley Bellar	9/23
Barbara Goodell	9/24
Joanne Quesenberry	9/29
Larry Quesenberry	9/29

Prayers for Hope, Healing, Comfort & Guidance

Members

Corey Flynn, Dan Meyers, Tim Toothman

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

Viktoria Pozwick – September 1st
Jeremiah Clark – September 11th
Nathan Goodell – September 26th
Joshua Parr – September 26th
Sherry Ballentine – September 29th

Wedding Anniversaries

Larry & Joanne Quesenberry – September 1st
Richard & Linda Hobson – September 6th
Tim & Cricket Snodgrass – September 10th
Jay & Barb Goodell – September 13th
Brian & Melisa Pozwick – September 13th