

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



December 2025

Christ's Messenger

The Heart of Christ, in the Midst of Greater Mantua

A Message from Pastor Blake...

With the advent of modern technology and COVID-19, many Christians have fallen into the bad habit of not gathering together with other Christians in-person for worship. This habit is problematic because God teaches us in the Holy Scriptures, gathering publicly together to hear God's Word is essential to the health and well-being of our faith in Christ Jesus as Christians.

First, God commands us to gather together with other Christians: **"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some..."** (Hebrews 10:25). We should gather together with other Christians regularly because God commands us to do so.

Second, God has made you a member of the body of Christ Jesus through Holy Baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13). This promise of union with Christ means that you are not only united to the Son of God, who has died for the forgiveness of your sins and conquered death that you might have eternal life, but you are united to His other members, namely, His Church. By uniting you to other Christians through Holy Baptism, God reminds us that He intends for us to live together in community with our Christians. We live in community with the body of Christ by gathering with them publicly and regularly for the hearing of God's Word as Christians have done since the beginning: **"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."** (Acts 2:42)

Third, God has divinely established the office of pastor to oversee and shepherd His Church on earth by teaching His Word. As St. Paul tells the pastors of Ephesus: **"Pay close attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which He obtained with His own blood."** (Acts 20:28) He ordained pastors in order that we might hear His Word publicly proclaimed and be strengthened and preserved in saving faith in Christ Jesus. So, the Lord says: **"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ"** (Romans 10:17), and He commands pastors: **"Preach the Word;**

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be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

Fourth, God commands us to gather publicly to celebrate the Lord’s Supper. When our Lord Jesus instituted His supper, He said: **“Do this in remembrance of me.”** (1 Corinthians 11:24) We can’t see this in the English, but the word “do” in the Greek is plural, meaning that we can only celebrate the Lord’s Supper with other Christians. Because our Lord commands us to do so, and because He promises great things therein, namely, His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, we come together regularly to celebrate His Supper.

Finally, God promises to be with us in a special way in the public gathering of His people. **“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”** (Matthew 18:20) What a great blessing the Lord Jesus, God made man, has promised us!

The Incarnate One has entered into the immediate presence of God the Father, but this does not mean that He is not really present amongst us today. Just as He dwelled among us when He took on our human nature by being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary thousands of years ago, He continues to dwell among us in His glorified flesh. As the one who is true God and true man, seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty (who is everywhere), He now fills all things in heaven and on earth (read Ephesians 1:23).

However, He is not present everywhere for the same reason. He is present throughout all creation as the one preserves all things by His Word of Power. He comes to us in worship in the proclamation of His Word and the celebration of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper to be our Savior, delivering the gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation that He merited for us all those years ago by being conceived, born, living, dying, and rising as a human being.

Immanuel continues to be with us then as the One who saves in worship. Every Divine Service (service of God) is a little Advent. Please join us and encourage those around you to come and see Christ Jesus the Lord! Blessed Advent and Christmas!

Pastor



DATES TO REMEMBER

**Advent @
St. Thomas**
Dec. 4,11,18
6 PM– Soup
Supper

7 PM-
Service

**Light of
Peace
Service**
Dec. 9
7 PM

**Council
Meeting**
Dec. 14
After church

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

**Women’s
Guild
Meeting**
Dec. 18
6:30 PM

**Christmas
Pageant**
Dec. 21
11 AM

**Christmas
Eve Service**
Dec. 24
8 PM

Worship Schedule

"Serving With a Heart Like Jesus"

	December 7 th Communion	December 14 th	December 21 st SS Pageant	December 24 th Christmas Eve	December 28 th
Greeter	Kat Flynn	Barb Lange	Lexi Ballard	Linda Hobson	Melisa Pozwick
Acolyte	Jameson Flynn	Logan B	Natalie Goodell	Abigail Flynn	Makenna B
YACA	Jon Pozwick	N/A	Amy Toothman	Jameson Flynn	N/A
Reader	Jenny Clemens	Ron Stamm	Becca Goodell	Tim Snodgrass	Anna Lee Heint
Ushers	Joanne Q	Melisa Pozwick	Kat Flynn	Brian Lottig	Joanne Q
	Larry Q	Jon Pozwick	Jameson Flynn	Ryan Goodell	Larry Q
Media	Brian Swires	Becca Goodell	Melisa Pozwick		Christina Eaton
PowerPoint	Lucas Swires	Natalie Goodell	Jon Pozwick		Lexi Ballard
Deacon	Tracy Stamm	Laura Keen	Larry Q	Nathan Goodell	Kat Flynn
Elder	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn
Cross Bearer				Evan Goodell	

4 C's Local Food Pantry

December donations being collected are
Instant Mashed Potatoes (box)
Peanut Butter

Grape & Strawberry Jam
Tea Bags (black tea)

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:

"But when the fullness of time
had come, God sent forth His
Son, born of woman, born
under the Law..."
(Galatians 4:4)

ADVENT- You are invited to join us on Thursdays for our Advent Services this holiday season! They will be held at **St. Thomas** in Streetsboro. Soup Supper at 6 PM and service at 7 PM on **December 4th, 11th, and 18th**.

LIGHT OF PEACE- Join us **December 9th** at 7 PM as we welcome the International Light of Peace.

POINSETTIAS- These will be used to beautify the church this holiday season and you can take them home following our Christmas Eve Service. The cost is \$12 per plant and the money will need to be turned in by **Sunday, December 21st**. If you do not wish to take them home, please let Kat Flynn know by December 30th. She will be taking any left over and donating them to a local nursing home. (Order forms can be found in the narthex or attached to your newsletter email).

CHRISTMAS EVE- Our Christmas Eve service will be held on **December 24th** at 8 PM.

Youth Education

Christina Eaton
Christian Ed Director

Sunday School

We are wrapping up unit 8 and will start Unit 9 of Concordia's Enduring Faith Sunday Program.

We have adopted 2 families for Christmas. There are sign up lists in the narthex to provide them items requested for their holiday meal. Food items need to be to church by Sunday **December 21st**.

December 20th

11am to 1pm

Pageant practice. Lunch will be provided. A few extra helping hands are always welcome. We do need someone to assist with sound on that Sunday.

December 21st

Christmas Pageant "Just a Little Christmas"
A luncheon after will be provided by the Sunday School Families.

December 27th

Christmas Caroling at Longmeadow Nursing Home,
Ravenna

Students will help with a skit, sing songs, and devotion.

Met at CLC 1pm.

Save the date!

Family Movie Day

Movie - TBD

January 3rd at 9:45am

Garrettsville Cinema 8001 State St, Garrettsville

Buy your own refreshments.

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

December 13th- Youth needs your support in baked goods donations for the Christmas Tour of Homes. A few helping hands to help sell items that day from 11:30-2:30pm.

Thanks!

Youth Group Event scheduled for **January 25th** - 6 to 8pm.

See Pastor for details.



Women's Ministry

All Women in the
Congregation

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

December 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 Pat South at 330-257-0948 for what is needed.

Women's Guild
Meeting:
Join us
December 18th
6:30 PM

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY-

Called "Women of the Word" this new bible study is led by Jenny Clemens. They will meet every second Saturday of the month at 10 AM and will be studying The Book of Ester. All women of the congregation are welcome!

Next meeting: **January 10th**

MORE THAN A MOM-

No meet up in December. Enjoy your holiday season. See you **January 17th**.
9:30am to 11:30am. Please invite a friend.

Sunday School Angel Tree



We have adopted 2 families for Christmas. There are sign up lists in the narthex to provide them items requested for their holiday meal.

Food items need to be to church by **Sunday, December 21st.**

I asked for each family member to provide 3 wants and 3 needs. These items were put on tags and labeled family 1(green tags) family 2 multicolor tags. Please return gifts to Christ Lutheran by **December 21st.** It's a bonus if you wrap them. For convenience an Amazon shopping list has been made. You do not have to buy those specific items - it is a guide. If you find a deal at Target, get it!

Amazon Registry Link: https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/5YT2KQTPQ181?ref_=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnav-share_HJC855WWP6K98ENXFJP5
Don't want to shop? Donations can be put in the Angel Tree collection can.

Council

COUNCIL MEETING:

Our next council meeting will be held on **December 14th** after service. We welcome anyone who would like to attend the meeting.

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
Aug 25	\$15,162	\$12,482	\$2,680	-\$5,485
Sept 25	\$11,825	\$12,546	-\$721	-\$6,206
Oct 25	\$26,178	\$12,044	\$14,134	\$7,928
YTD Oct	\$133,305	\$125,377	\$7,928	

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. 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!

Ryan Goodell	12/2
Kat Flynn	12/5
Ron Stamm	12/6
Jennie Swires	12/9
Jack Parr	12/11
John Heinl	12/14
Jake Ballard	12/15
Derek Blunk	12/15
Jill Kravcisin	12/15
Barb Lange	12/23
Linda Clark	12/25

Prayers for Hope, Healing, Comfort & Guidance

Members

Corey Flynn, Kat Flynn, Tim Toothman, Fred Myers,
Gay & Bob Wetshtein, Marla Bellar

Young Families

The Ballard/Eaton Family, The Ballentines,
The Flynn, The Goodells, The Goodrichs,
The Koerlins, The Martzowkas, The Owens,
The Parrs, 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, Oke Meyer,
Holly Simpson, Mary Smith, Brenda Elling,
Andrea Belding, Virginia Goodell,
Pam & Bob Maynard, Nancy Lacan, Kelly Oles,
Mart Clark, Dottie Cherry, Keith Goodell,
Kelly Styron, Danielle Breedlove

Military Service

Caleb Dean Pete, Robert South, Owen Heinl
Monte Stamm

Baptismal Birthdays

Ryan Goodell – December 27th

Wedding Anniversaries

NONE