

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



January 2026

Christ's Messenger

The Heart of Christ, in the Midst of Greater Mantua

A Message from Pastor Blake...

Epiphany is one of the oldest seasons of the Church Year. Originally, Epiphany marked the celebration of our Lord's birth, the visit of the Magi, His baptism in the Jordan, and the wedding at Cana. Epiphany is a Greek word meaning "the appearance of a god." All of these events were associated with the Lord's divinity: the miraculous nature of Jesus' birth indicated His divine sonship, the Magi came to worship Jesus as God, God the Father declared Jesus to be His Son at His baptism and God the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and at the wedding at Cana Jesus transformed water into wine, identifying Himself as the One true bridegroom of Israel, namely, Yahweh Himself.

Some people abused the season of Epiphany. While they were willing to confess the Lord's divinity, they were unwilling to confess His humanity. How can Jesus be fully God and fully man? They tried to explain away a complex reality that transcended their limited and faulty human understanding. The answers to "how" Jesus is fully God and fully man must always be recognized as a human description of a divinely revealed truth. Just because we don't understand something doesn't mean it isn't true. When we fail to adequately describe this truth, it does not mean that the truth itself comes into question, rather it reflects that as brilliant as we are, our human understanding is always developing and oftentimes limited.

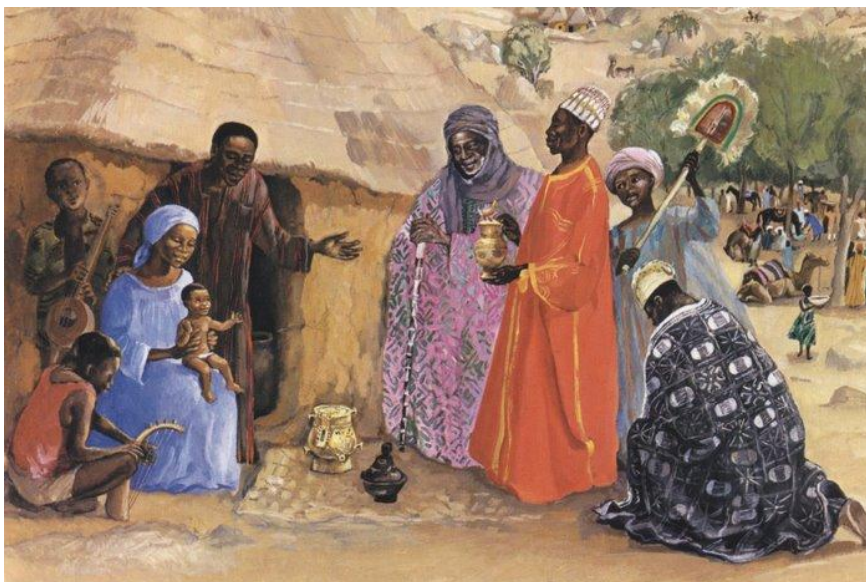
That Jesus is fully God and fully man has been revealed once and for all. Jesus is fully man: He was born of a woman; He ate and drank; He rested; He wept; He suffered; He died. Jesus is fully God: the angel Gabriel declared so to his mother when he called Him the "Holy One" (God is holiness); another angel told Joseph that He would be called "Immanuel," that is, "God with us," and He would be named Jesus, that is, "Yahweh saves"; Jesus did things

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that only God could do such as forgive sins; Jesus taught that He is the Son of Man who would sit on God's throne and appear in God's Glory; God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating everything that He had said and done as God. The examples of Jesus' divinity and humanity are many.

Rather than seeking to explain it away, on Epiphany we rejoice with the Church throughout the ages that for us and for our salvation God is man. Being man, the Image of God in whose image all humanity is created is the one human being who represents us all. Being man, the Holy One is a human born in perfect righteousness and who in obedience lived a righteous life to cover us with His righteousness. Being man, He was baptized into the Jordan to identify Himself with our sin and He suffered separation from God on behalf of all humanity that we would not bear the consequence of sin. Being man, He who is Life in Himself has conquered death for those He represents and gives us an eternal share in His life. Epiphany is the unfolding of the mystery confessed at Christmas: The Word became flesh.

Pastor Blake



DATES TO REMEMBER

Family Movie Day

Jan. 3rd
9:45 AM

Special Voters Meeting

Jan. 4th
After church

More than a Mom

Jan. 17th
9:30-11:30 AM

Council Meeting

Jan. 18th
After church

Loaves & Fishes

Jan. 21st
5-6:30 PM

Women's Guild Meeting

Jan. 22nd
6:30 PM

Worship Schedule

"Serving With a Heart Like Jesus"

	January 4 th Communion	January 11 th	January 18 th Communion	January 25 th
Greeter	Pat South	Kat Flynn	Lexi Ballard	Barb Lange
Acolyte	Lily Kanengeiser	Jameson Flynn	Logan Ballentine	Natalie Goodell
YACA	Lexi Ballard	N/A	Evan Goodell	N/A
Reader	Jameson Flynn	Jon Pozwick	Tracy Stamm	Nathan Goodell
Ushers	Melisa Pozwick	Brian Lottig	Kat Flynn	Katie Toothman
	Jon Pozwick	Evan Goodell	Jameson Flynn	Ryan Goodell
Media	Brian Swires	Becca Goodell	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton
PowerPoint	Lucas Swires	Natalie Goodell	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard
Deacon	Laura Keen	Jake Ballard	Nathan Goodell	Kat Flynn
Elder	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm

4 C's Local Food Pantry

January donations being collected are

-Instant Mashed Potatoes (box)

-Tuna Skillet Dinners

-Hamburger Skillet Dinners

*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:

"Arise, shine, for your light has
come, and the Glory of the
LORD has risen upon you."

(Isaiah 60:1)

For your information...

SCOUT SUNDAY- On **February 1st** members of the local Scouts troop will be helping lead service. Be sure to be there and show your support.

SUPER BOWL SUBS- The Youth will be selling Super Bowl Subs again this year as a fundraiser for the LCMS Youth Trip in 2028. Order forms will be available soon. Please see Christina with any questions. Pick up will be **February 8th**.

LENT IS COMING- Plans for Ash Wednesday and Lent are underway, including our tradition of Soup Suppers before the service. Stay tuned for more details.

FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES- Every Sunday, we provide children's bulletins filled with fun activities and coloring that follow along with the service. Grab one on your way in!



Very proud of students and the production of a "Little Christmas". Thank you to the moms who helped wrangle students and costumes. And for cooking and making the after celebration meal happen. You are the spirit of giving and I know how hard this season can be with all the other extra things going on.

Thank you for making the pageant a priority.

Love, Christina

Youth Education

Christina Eaton
Christian Ed Director

Sunday School

-Family Movie Day at Garrettsville Cinema

Join us **January 3rd** at 9:45am.

Entry is free just buy your own snacks!

Movie is "The Star"

Please invite a friend!



A generous donation has come in to supply the children's bulletin. Thank you for the donation!

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

Youth Night - January 25th
from 6-8 PM.

Super Bowl Subs ordering coming soon. Pick up will be Sunday, February 8th.

Save the date!
Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 21st!

Women's Ministry

All Women in the
Congregation

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

January 21st 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
January 22nd
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-

See you **January 17th**. 9:30am to 11:30am. All are welcome. Grandmas are encouraged to come and share their wisdom. Babysitting is available.

Sunday School Angel Tree

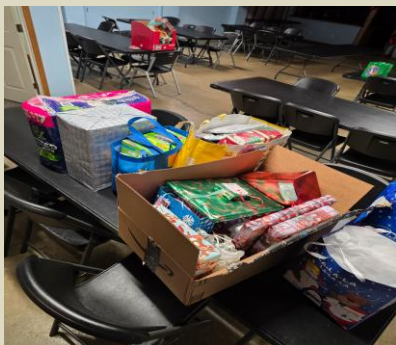
Thank you to everyone who donated to the Angel Tree families.

Family 1-Mom said:

"I can't explain what this means to us. Things have been so, so difficult. Knowing people care and to give so generously to strangers is amazing. Please thank everyone. We really appreciate it."

Family 2-Mom:

"I've been praying to God to help me through. Losing my job has been so hard. I am fearful but know to trust in Him. I just keep praying. And then you showed up and it's beyond my dreams. Thank you. Tell everyone at church thank you for changing my heart to happy. When I get a job and a car I will come visit to say thank you in person. I want to give everyone a hug. From me and my baby. Merry Christmas!"



*Deuteronomy 15:10-11 NIV Remember this:
Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*



Council

Melisa Pozwick: This will be the last newsletter you will receive from me as Chairman. I have been blessed with amazing officers and supporters for my term as Chairman. I want to give everyone my warmest Thank You. We have grown so much and expanded our reach to the community which speaks volume to everyone in our church family. I look forward to the wonderful things that Linda Clark will do during her leadership role in the church and all the new Officers of the church. I wish everyone a Happy and Blessed New Year. 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 **January 18th** after service. We welcome anyone who would like to attend the meeting.

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING:

We will be having a special voter meeting on **January 4th** after service. The agenda for the meeting will be Election of Officers for Treasurer and Evangelism; Amending the Constitution associated to the Office of Financial Secretary and Vice President along with beginning discussions of security at the church.

FUTURES MEETING:

We had the futures meeting, and the new items are posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please reach out to council members.

YOUTH GATHERING:

The next youth gathering is in San Antonio Texas – July 3rd – 7th. This is for youth entering Freshman and recently Graduated Seniors. If you are interested, please contact Melisa or Christina for any questions. Also, we need to get approximate number of youths to determine how much fundraising we need to do....

We will be selling Super Bowl Subs again this year, look for order forms soon. The proceeds will help with the cost of the Gathering.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE: Tim Snodgrass

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

Month	Income	Expense	Net Income	YTD Net
Sept 25	\$11,836	\$12,546	-\$710	-\$7,695
Oct 25	\$27,444	\$12,050	\$15,394	\$7,699
Nov 25	\$12,610	\$12,573	\$37	\$7,736
YTD Nov	\$145,692	\$137,956	\$7,736	

2026 Officers

Council:

Linda Clark	President
Anna Lee Heinl	Vice-President
Donna Snider	Secretary
Tim Snodgrass	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!

Natalie Goodell	1/2
Robert South	1/4
Brian Pozwick	1/7
George Stamm	1/8
June Zamecnik	1/11
Mike Schneider	1/15
Brian Lottig	1/20
Diane Lottig	1/21
Jaden Slovensky	1/21
Charles Owen	1/27
Diane Perrine	1/27

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 Flynns, 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,
Mary Smith, Andrea Belding, Brenda Elling,
Pam & Bob Maynard, Nancy Lacan, Kelly Oles,
Mart Clark, Dottie Cherry, Keith Goodell,
Kelly Styron, Danielle Breedlove,
The family of Hollie Simpson

Military Service

Caleb Dean Pete, Robert South, Owen Heinl
Monte Stamm

Baptismal Birthdays

Karl Koerlin – January 1st
Larry Quesenberry – January 1st
Rebecca Goodell – January 7th
Anna Lee Heinl – January 7th
Brian Pozwick – January 7th
Mike Schneider – January 15th
Carley Kerkhoven – January 22nd

Wedding Anniversaries

Rob & Erin South – January 3rd