

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

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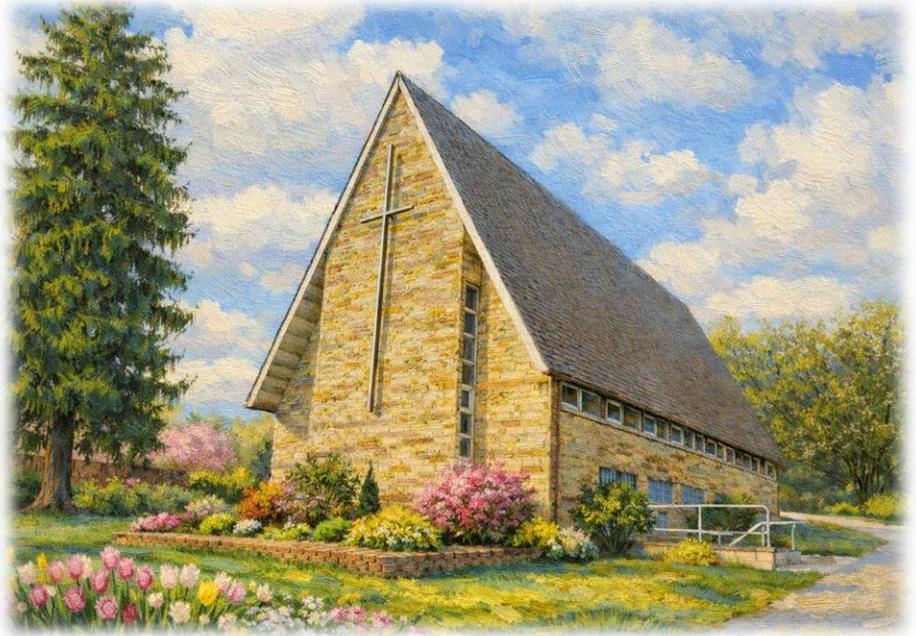
Email: clcmantua737@yahoo.com

Website: christlutheranmantua.org

Sunday Live Stream: YouTube

Sunday School 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am



March 2026

Christ's Messenger

The Heart of Christ, in the Midst of Greater Mantua

A Message from Pastor Blake...

My daughter has a board book with the lyrics to August Rische's hymn "God Loves Me Dearly". She loves this book. Because she loves it so much, I now know this hymn by heart, having sung it to her again, and again, and again, and again... It's become one of my favorites. The hymn itself is great because the tune is catchy and it captures in simple terms the story of our salvation. As with much of our historic hymnody, I think there's something we can learn from this hymn about the teaching of Holy Scripture, how to understand it, and how to express it to others.

The first stanza goes: "God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation, God loves me dearly, Loves even me." Notice that the story of our salvation begins with one thing: the love of God. It is on account of this love for us that God sent His Son into the world to save us from our sin, death, and darkness. As St. John writes: "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10) God has saved us because He loves us. As the three original Reformation solae confess, we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ Jesus as declared in sufficiently (literally alone) in Holy Scripture (Eph. 2:8-9). Grace is just a fancy word for the love that God has for us.

It's because of this love that when God saw us in the miserable situation into which we and our forefathers got ourselves (see Romans 5), He desired and chose to deliver us from it. As the second stanza goes on to say: "I was in slavery, Sin, death, and darkness; God's love was working To make me free." No one had to compel God to do this. No one twisted His arm. He didn't tug on His hair and pace around as He deliberated whether or not He wanted to save us. No. Because He loved us, He knew without hesitation that He would save us even from before creation (see Revelation 13:8).

Since He loves us so much, He decided that He would save us through His Son, as stanzas

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3 and 4 tell us: "He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer, He sent forth Jesus And set me free/ Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer; Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed." Or as St. Paul says it: "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 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 5:6-8) Out of love He sent His Son to die for our sins, and not only for our sins, but for the sins of the whole world. "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:2)

During Lent we are not called to forget that God loves us dearly, that we are redeemed, or that we are His children now and heirs of everlasting life through faith in Christ Jesus. Lent – through its emphasis on repentance and confession of sins – reminds us just how much God does love us. It isn't a fake love, an easy love that can be expressed in easy circumstances. He loved us while we were His enemies, while we scorned Him, and while we hated Him. He still loved us. It wasn't an easy love that required nothing of the person who loves us. God the Father gave His beloved Son to die for us. God the Son suffered and died for our salvation. God the Holy Spirit gives us faith in Christ Jesus through the Gospel and gives Himself to dwell in us that we might be children of God. And God personally gives each and every one of us testimonies that He loves us individually: He baptized you into His Son, He declares in the Lord's Supper that He shed His blood for the forgiveness of your sins, He has called you to faith when He declared to you through His word what His Son has done for you. Lent is a meditation upon the love of God.

In response to this love, all we can do is thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. Once again, as we sing in "God Loves Me Dearly": "Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal; Now I will praise You All my life long." Amen.

Pastor Blake



DATES TO REMEMBER

New Members Class Begins
Mar. 1st
After service

Pancake Meeting
Mar. 8th
After service

Council Meeting
Mar. 15th
After service

Pancake Breakfast
Mar. 21st
8 AM – 1 PM

Midweek Lent Services:
Mar. 4th
Mar. 11th
Mar. 18th
Mar. 25th
Soup Supper
6 PM
Service 7 PM

Palm Sunday
Mar. 29th

Worship Schedule

"Serving With a Heart Like Jesus"

	March 1 st Communion	March 8 th	March 15 th Communion	March 22 nd	March 29 th Palm Sunday
Greeter	Lexi Ballard	Kat Flynn	Barb Lange	Melisa Pozwick	Linda Hobson
Acolyte	Natalie Goodell	Logan Ballentine	Lily Kanengeiser	Makenna Ballentine	Abigail Flynn
YACA	Jon Pozwick	N/A	Jameson Flynn	N/A	Jameson Flynn
Reader	Becca Goodell	Anna Lee Heintl	Tracy Stamm	Jameson Flynn	Nathan Goodell
Ushers	Kat Flynn	Melisa Pozwick	Joanne Q	Brian Lottig	Katie Toothman
	Jameson Flynn	Jon Pozwick	Larry Q	Ryan Goodell	Evan Goodell
Media	Brian Swires	Becca Goodell	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	Melisa Pozwick
Power Point	Lucas Swires	Natalie Goodell	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard	Jon Pozwick
Deacon	Nathan Goodell	Tracy Stamm	Larry Q	Laura Keen	Kat Flynn
Elder	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn
Cross Bearer					Jameson Flynn

4 C's Local Food Pantry

March donations being collected are

-Crackers

-Cereal/Granola Bars

-Dish Detergent

-Sloppy Joe Sauce

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:

"And to the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness..."

Romans 4:5

For your information...

LENT- Wednesday Lenten Services continue in March. A soup supper will be held at 6 PM and service at 7 PM. March dates are: 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th. We **need volunteers** to help with service (acolyte, ushers, elder, etc.) and to help with the meals. Please sign up in the narthex.

EASTER LILLIES- If you would like to purchase a potted lily to help decorate the church for Easter, order forms will be available in the narthex. Cost is \$12.50 per plant. If you do not wish to take it home after service please see Kat Flynn. She has offered to donate any left over plants to a local nursing home.

EASTER BREAKFAST- Easter Sunday is **April 5th**. We will be having a special breakfast before service beginning at 9:45 AM. We are asking for food donations. Please sign up in the narthex if you'd like to help. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP HALL UPDATE – THANK YOU SCOUTS!

Our basement has a brand new look! We are so grateful to Scout Troops 575 and 7575 for their hard work and dedication. They spent hours deep cleaning and painting, giving the space a much needed facelift. Next time you're downstairs, be sure to check out the fantastic results!



Youth Education

Christina Eaton
Christian Ed Director

Sunday School

We will be learning about church etiquette and continuing to study unit 9.

Please keep bringing in your gallon milk jugs!



Huge thank you to everyone who supported the
Super Bowl Sub Sale!
We sold approximately 44 subs!

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

PANCAKE MEETING

March 8th after service

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, **March 21st**!

YOUTH NIGHTS

Will return after Easter



SAVE THE DATE!

VBS will be held June 8th – 12th

Theme: True North

Don't forget to bring a friend.

See you there!

Women's Ministry

All Women in the
Congregation

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

March 18th 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:
**March 19th @ 6:30
PM**

New Member

Please welcome our newest member of the congregation, Crystal Dipietro. She was baptized February 8th, 2026 by Pastor Blake Martzowka. She was surrounded by her family on this joyous day. Welcome Crystal!



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you or someone you know would like to become a member here at Christ or at our sister church, St. Thomas in Streetsboro, Pastor will be having another New Members Class. It will begin March 1st and will be held every Sunday after service here at Christ throughout Lent.

If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Blake as soon as possible. Thank you.

Council

2026 Officers

CHAIRPERSON: Linda Clark

-Our next council meeting will be March 15, 2026 after Church Services. We are continuing to work on any updates we may need to make to the Constitution.

-Remember to support the youth groups upcoming Pancake Breakfast on March 21, 2026.

-A big shout to Scout Troops #575 and #7575 for the great job they did painting the ceiling and walls in the fellowship hall. The Scouts were able to get 95% of the project done to earn their paint merit badges. The rest will be completed in the upcoming weeks as time allows.

“GREAT JOB”

COUNCIL MEETING:

Our next council meeting will be held on **March 15th** after service. We welcome anyone who would like to attend the meeting.

TREASURER: Tim Snodgrass

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

Month	Income	Expense	Net Income	YTD Net
Nov 25	\$12,685	\$12,574	\$111	\$7,305
Dec 25	\$12,513	\$13,799	-\$1,286	\$6,019
Year-End 2025	\$158,279	\$152,260	\$6,019	
Jan 26	\$10,065	\$12,902	-\$2,837	-\$2,837

Council:

Linda Clark	Chairperson
Anna Lee Heinl	Vice-Chairperson
Donna Snider	Secretary
Tim Snodgrass	Treasurer
John Heinl	Financial Secretary

Committee Chairpersons:

Brian Lottig	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!

Chris Bellar	3/6
Kayla Ballentine	3/7
Madison Goodrich	3/9
Emelia Suravi De	3/11
Rebecca Krichbaum	3/11
Jenny Clemens	3/14
Laura Keen	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

Prayers for Hope, Healing, Comfort & Guidance

Members

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

Young Families

The Ballard/Eaton Family, The Ballentines, The Flynn's, 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, Dwight & Dottie Cherry, Keith Goodell, Kelly Styron

Military Service

Caleb Dean Pete, Robert South, Owen Heinl Monte Stamm

Baptismal Birthdays

Jack Parr – March 2nd
Natalie Goodell – March 3rd
William Hanna – March 26th
Amy Toothman – March 27th

Wedding Anniversaries

NONE