

## Christ Lutheran Church

10827 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 737  
Mantua, OH 44255

Rev. Blake J. Martzowka

Kayla Ballentine

Administrative Assistant

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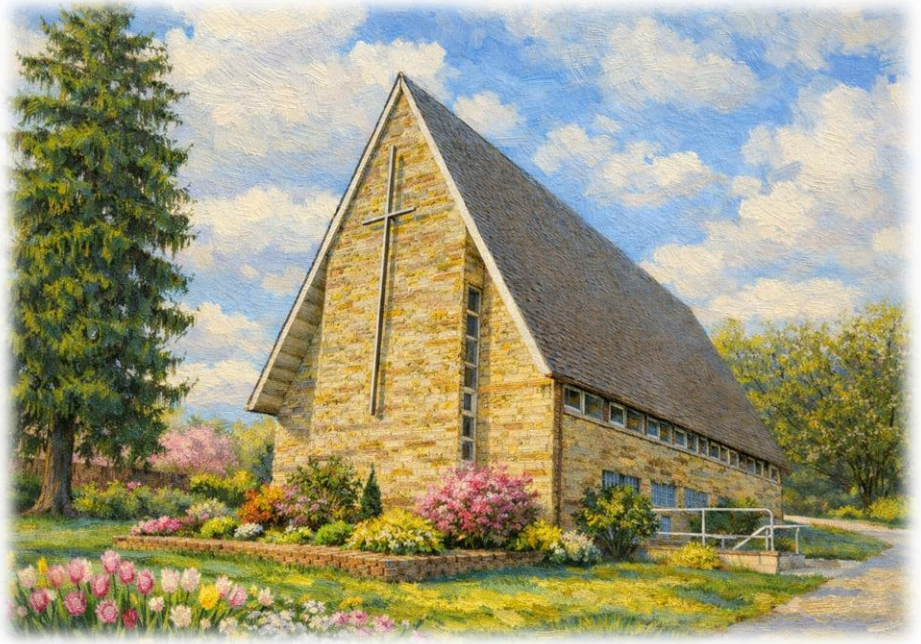
Email: [clcmantua737@yahoo.com](mailto:clcmantua737@yahoo.com)

Website: [christlutheranmantua.org](http://christlutheranmantua.org)

Sunday Live Stream: YouTube

Sunday School 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am



## May 2026

## Christ's Messenger

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

### A Message from Pastor Blake...

Throughout the season of Easter our first lesson each Sunday is from the Acts of the Apostles. Interestingly, Acts of the Apostles is the only example of the genre ancient Greco-Roman history in the entire New Testament. The gospels are ancient Greco-Roman biographies, which were concerned with narrating the life of an individual for the edification of the audience (read John 20:30-31, where the author of John provides the intent for his account of Jesus' life). Ancient Greco-Roman histories were intended to narrate the rise of a movement. Acts of the Apostles is a great example of an ancient Greco-Roman history: it narrates the rise of the Christian Church after the ascension of Jesus; it's structured around speeches by important figures in early Christianity like St. Peter and St. Paul; and the author intentionally copies the styles of other ancient histories such as the ones in the Greek Old Testament.

The first Christians recognized the distinctive genres of the Acts of the Apostles and the four gospels. The authors of these writings follow the conventions of the historiography and biography of their time, just as modern histories follow the conventions of our time. For example, ancient historiographers didn't necessarily care about preserving the exact wording of what someone said at a given time. The ancient historian Thucydides explicitly says that when he did not have an account of what someone said on a given occasion, he would write something that fit the situation and the character of the individual. Hence Paul in the Acts of the Apostles sounds more like its author Luke than he does like Paul as we know him from the Pauline epistles; and the same sayings and events in the life of our Lord Jesus are recorded in very different ways in the Four Gospels. For example, compare the accounts of Jesus' baptism in all four gospels – there are significant differences and significant similarities. Historians and biographies also didn't care about nitty gritty details, like who was there (e.g., the different lists of women at the Lord's tomb) or exactly when an event took place (e.g., Jesus cleansing the Temple).

Pastor's message continues on page 2...

Such differences and conventions are not mistakes, errors, or the result of dishonesty—they are the flavor of ancient history and biography. Imagine people expecting modern historians to write history according to the conventions of people from the future. Good luck! When we expect the Acts of the Apostles to tell us exactly what was said, or when we expect the gospels to tell us exactly when Jesus did something or who was there, we’re imposing our own modern standards upon these writings (that’s called anachronism). What matters for us Christians and what makes these ancient writings binding for us is that they are not only the writings of human beings, they are also the inspired and therefore inerrant Word of God!

Since the Gospels, Acts, the letters of Paul, etc. were either written by or based on the testimony of the Apostles, men appointed by the Risen Jesus to preach God’s Word, we know that these writings aren’t just ancient biographies, histories, and letters, but are God’s Word in their entirety for us. For example, because the author of Acts and the Gospel of Luke was an associate of the Apostle Paul, a man appointed by the risen Jesus to preach His Word, we can be certain that in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles we have an inerrant, inspired, ancient biography and history that tell us what God wants us to know concerning these events, as the author writes: “Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.” (Luke 1:1-4) And indeed, based on modern historical research, it turns out, that Acts and the gospels are very reliable, even from a merely human perspective!

Do the gospels contradict each other? Yep. Do they agree in a lot of details? Yep. Why? All because they’re ancient biographies and that’s what ancient biographies do. But they are God’s inspired and inerrant ancient biographies which belong to us - the Church – that the Holy Spirit might make us wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and equip us for every good work through them. What a blessing! Just don’t impose your foreign standards on them. Amen.  
-Pastor Blake



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Mother’s Day**  
May 10<sup>th</sup>

**Council Meeting**  
May 17<sup>th</sup>  
After service

**Loaves & Fishes**  
May 20<sup>th</sup>  
5-6:30 PM

**Women’s Guild Meeting**  
May 21<sup>st</sup>  
6:30 PM

**Confirmation**  
May 24<sup>th</sup>

**More than a Mom**  
May 30<sup>th</sup>  
9:30-11:30 AM

**Youth Group**  
May 31<sup>st</sup>  
6-8 PM

**Corn & Brats Meeting**  
May 31<sup>st</sup>  
After service

# Worship Schedule

# “Serving With a Heart Like Jesus”

	May 3 <sup>rd</sup> Communion	May 10 <sup>th</sup>	May 17 <sup>th</sup> No Comm/Pastor	May 24 <sup>th</sup>	May 31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Greeter</b>	Kat Flynn	Linda Hobson	Pat South	Lexi Ballard	Barb Lange
<b>Acolyte</b>	Abigail Flynn	Jameson Flynn	Logan Ballentine	Natalie Goodell	Lily Kanengesier
<b>YACA</b>	Ryan Goodell	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Reader</b>	Jenny Clemens	Becca Goodell	Anna Lee Heinl	Tracy Stamm	Jameson Flynn
<b>Ushers</b>	Melisa Pozwick	Joanne Q	Ryan Goodell	Kat Flynn	Katie Toothman
	Jon Pozwick	Larry Q	Brian Lottig	Jameson Flynn	Evan Goodell
<b>Media</b>	Becca Goodell	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	Brian Swires	Becca Goodell
<b>Power Point</b>	Natalie Goodell	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard	Lucas Swires	Natalie Goodell
<b>Deacon</b>	Laura Keen	Kat Flynn	Jake Ballard	Nathan Goodell	Larry Q
<b>Elder</b>	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm

## 4 C's Local Food Pantry

May donations being collected are

-Pasta Sauce

-Canned Pasta

-Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes

-Cereal

-Jello

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 Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

**Acts 2:38**

## *Message from the Deacons:*

**EASTER LILIES-** All leftover lilies were donated to Longmeadow Care Center in Ravenna.

**SERVE WITH US!-** We have several opportunities to get involved every Sunday! We are currently looking for ushers, greeters, readers, etc. If you have a heart for service, we'd love to have you on the team! Please see Kat or Kayla if you'd like to sign up. Note: As many families prepare for summer trips, please be sure to notify the deacons or Kayla so positions can be filled in your absences. Thank you.

**THANK YOU!-** Thank you to Ed and Amy for filling in when needed as Sheila continues her healing journey! Your service has not gone unnoticed. Thank you!



The Flynn and Goodell Families invite you to witness

*Confirmation*  
Of  
*Jameson & Natalie*

SUNDAY      MAY      11:00am  
                         24

Please join us following Service  
for a reception in the Pavilion



Please join us in celebrating Jameson and Natalie as they take this important step in their spiritual journey.

Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:00 am.  
There will be a reception to follow in the pavilion.

All are welcome!

We look forward to celebrating with our church family!



### Welcome New Member

We are overjoyed to announce that our church family is growing!  
Welcome our newest member Miriam Wagner.  
We are so grateful that the Holy Spirit led you to our pews.



### Easter Breakfast 2026

Our hearts (and stomachs!) are full! Thank you to our deacons for their hard work in hosting our Easter Breakfast, and to our congregation for the delicious food donations. Thank you for making our Easter morning so bright!



# Youth Education

Christina Eaton  
Christian Ed Director

## Sunday School

Easter Egg Walk 25-30 participants. Extra supplies were distributed to 2 families in the community. One had 7 children. Thank you for donating candy and small toys. For next year we will need more volunteers to head the stations. Thank you to our sponsors: Raising Canes for donating kids' meals gift cards and Ballard Brother Lawncare for providing hot dogs & chips.

**Last day of Sunday School is May 17th.**



**VBS Planning Meeting** is April 29th at 6:30pm. All volunteers are welcome to attend.

A 2nd meeting will be held in May TBD.

**VBS Decoration Day** is Sunday, June 7th after church.

**VBS** starts Monday, June 8th through Friday, June 12th. Registration is open.

<https://www.myvbs.org/events/6599/dashboard>

Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to bring their students or volunteer!

Sign-up sheets for the daily family friendly meal are posted. Plan to feed 40 people.

Amazon Wish list for needed items:

[https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/owner-view/28HO396536DR1?ref\\_=pe\\_126635110\\_104815384\\_0\\_HI\\_01\\_01\\_IMG\\_99](https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/owner-view/28HO396536DR1?ref_=pe_126635110_104815384_0_HI_01_01_IMG_99)

**Please keep bringing in your gallon milk jugs!**

## 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

-Peterson Nuts are for sale  
Orders are due Sunday, June 7th with estimated delivery day of June 14th. Fathers day is June 21st makes a great gift!

-Youth Night was a success with 8 participants. Students enjoyed Raising Canes chicken, games, and a Bible study lead by Pastor. Join us for our next Youth Night on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

# Women's Ministry


All Women in the  
Congregation

## LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

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

Women's Guild  
Meeting:  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>**  
@ 6:30 PM



SOMEBODY  
*Berry sweet*  
IS ON THE WAY

Please Join Us For A Baby Sprinkle Honoring :


*Ruth*

*Martzowka*

Christ Lutheran Church :  
10827 Main Street, Mantua OH 44255

26

Saturday  
May 30<sup>th</sup>  
At 9:30am



Shhh... It's a Surprise! This will be during the more than a moms group . RSVP Kat Flynn 561-292-8127

We had 8 moms in April and 3 were from outside the church. We appreciate and say thank you to Robin from St. Thomas, Lexi, Jameson, and a friend of Hannah, Miran for babysitting the 11 children who came with the moms.

We are adjusting the schedule based on availability of leadership. Our goal is to stay on the 3rd Saturday. However, for May we moved to May 30th. Future dates: June 20th, July 25th, and Aug 15th.

### **More Than A Mom:**

**May 30<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 – 11:30 AM

Shhhh...it's a surprise!  
During our May meeting we will be hosting a surprise baby sprinkle for Ruth! If you would like to attend, please let Kat Flynn know ASAP.

# Council

## **CHAIRPERSON LINDA CLARK:**

Spring finally here! I want to thank all our committee members for their continued hard work on reviewing the constitution to make updates. I would also like to urge our church members to become more involved in this process to attend the voter's meetings, which are held the 3rd Sunday every month immediately following church services. Everyone's input is welcome.

God's Blessing to ALL.

## **COUNCIL MEETING:**

Our next council meeting will be held on **May 17<sup>th</sup>** 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
Jan	\$10,065	\$12,902	<b>-\$2,837</b>	<b>-\$2,837</b>
Feb	\$10,825	\$11,873	<b>-\$1,048</b>	<b>-\$3,885</b>
Mar	\$18,789	\$13,214	\$5,575	\$1,244

Congratulations to 4 members of our local scout's troop on being awarded their "God and Me" badge on April 26<sup>th</sup>. After service we honored both them and the older scouts who helped repaint our Fellowship Hall with a delicious luncheon.  
Keep up the great work!



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!

Evelyn Arindita De	5/2
Patricia Miterko	5/2
Janet Sandrick	5/3
Gay Wetshtein	5/3
Jenna Bellar	5/7
Sara Humr/Koerlin	5/7
Joshua Toothman	5/7
Carter Swires	5/15
Christina Eaton	5/16
Sherry Ballentine	5/22
Haydn Miller	5/27
Donna Snider	5/27

Prayers for Hope, Healing, Comfort &  
Guidance

#### **Members**

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

#### **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, Jim Kilroy, Debbie Bujak, Lew Ramos,  
Gina Hunter, Jetson Laurence, Melba Elling

#### **Military Service**

Caleb Dean Pete, Robert South, Owen Heinl  
Monte Stamm

#### **Baptismal Birthdays**

Evan Goodell – May 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jaden Slovensky – May 1<sup>st</sup>  
Cricket Snodgrass – May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Levi Tutwiler – May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Shirley Bellar – May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Linda Clark – May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Donna Snider – May 27<sup>th</sup>

#### **Wedding Anniversaries**

Dan & Dorothy Meyers – May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Blake & Ruth Martzowka – May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Corey & Kat Flynn – May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Matthew & Miriam Wagner – May 20<sup>th</sup>