

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



September 2026

Christ's Messenger

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

A Message from Pastor Blake...

We practice the anointing with oil in the name of the Lord Jesus and prayer for healing by the pastor at both St. Thomas and Christ. Such a practice is commanded by St. James, the biological brother of our Lord, in the fifth chapter of his epistle. He writes: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." (James 5:14-16)

The "elders" referred to in this text are the early church's term for what we call pastors. These elders were certain Christian men who were appointed by the Church and ordained through the laying on of hands by other elders for the public teaching and proclamation of God's Word in all its forms (i.e., Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, preaching, the Lord's Supper, etc.) within the gathering of the saints (see Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 4:6-16; Titus 1:5-6). That women are not given to serve in this office is clearly indicated in St. Paul's declaration in 1 Timothy 1:11-12 that he does not permit a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man within the context of the Church's corporate gathering (i.e., roles of the pastor in a congregation). (On a side note: It's unfortunate that many Lutheran churches have adopted the Reformed practice of referring to pastoral assistants as elders because it causes much confusion when interpreting the Bible.) Consequently, James specifically commands Christians to call the pastor when they are sick and in need of healing.

The healing is neither dependent upon any magical substance, such as a specific kind of oil, nor the power of the pastor. It is solely dependent upon the prayer offered with trust in the Lord's promise to hear and answer our prayers in accordance with His good and gracious will. Elsewhere in the Holy Scripture Jesus tells us the confidence we have when praying: "Ask, and it will be given

Pastor's message continues on page 2...

to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8) Our confidence in prayer for healing or any prayer is that the Lord has commanded us to ask (meaning that He wants to hear from us!) and has promised to answer. The Lord like a loving father delights in hearing his children and desires to help them. The One to whom we pray works mightily; not the one who prays. Sometimes what we pray for, such as healing from an earthly malady *now*, might not be in accordance with the good and gracious will of God (1 John 5:14). If it isn't, then the Lord's answer might very well be “Not right now.” As He once told St. Paul: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:9) Even then, however, we know that the Lord will answer our prayers for healing, even if it is in the world to come when He raises us bodily from the dead.

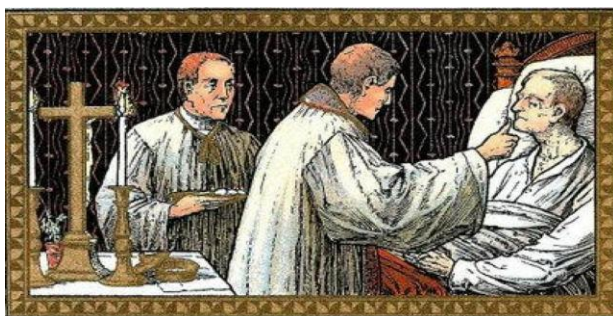
Moreover, James' statement that the prayer of a righteous person “has great power as it is working” throws us once again upon the grace of God. No one is righteous in himself, not even the pastor (Romans 3:10). God declares us righteous and makes us righteous through faith in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:22). For on account of His death and resurrection, He has made all people righteous in the sight of God, and this gift of righteousness is given personally to us through the Word of God and received from Him in God-given faith in His promise (Romans 3:28; 5:19). Even when we do not know what the Lord's hidden will is for our present illness, we can be confident that our prayers have power because God has made us righteous through faith in Christ Jesus and He commands us to pray, promises to hear us, and is able to do all things. In summary, the pastoral anointing with oil in the name of the Lord Jesus with prayers for healing is grounded in Scripture, and we can have confidence in such a practice, because the Lord has commanded us to do this through His servant James and He has attached a great promise to prayer.

Sadly, as with many gifts of our Lord, sinful Christians (i.e., all of us) are apt to abuse them. Many treat the gift of healing as a power they have within themselves rather than as something given by God and dependent upon His will and power. They treat healing like an obligation, something that God must do. Others make healing dependent upon the strength of our faith rather than the promise, faithfulness, and power of God. Sometimes earthly healing eclipses the gospel itself, namely, the promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation from every evil given to us on account of Christ Jesus and through the written, spoken, and visible Word of God. The gift of the gospel is truly the one thing needful for every human being, because only this gift can overcome not only the physical ailments we encounter in this life, but even death and the greater enemy, eternal death, separation from the Lord and Giver of life. Beware of preachers and teachers on TV and online who have healing ministries. I have yet to find one who has a scriptural understanding of this practice.

We should remember, then, that healing or any answered prayer or earthly blessing in this life is only a penultimate, imperfect, and partial glimpse of the new life that are ours now hidden with God in Christ Jesus and waiting to be revealed at the end of the age (Colossians 3:3; 1 John 3:2). Pray for healing. Call for the pastor to anoint you with oil and pray for you as God commands.

And keep your eyes on Jesus and the gift of salvation given to you on account of Him, as presented and given to you in the Holy Scriptures, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, the preaching of God's Word, the Lord's Supper, and Christian conversation. Amen.

-Pastor Blake





Corn & Brats / Church Picnic 2026!



Worship Schedule

"Serving With a Heart Like Jesus"

	September 6 th Communion	September 13 th	September 20 th Communion	September 27 th
Greeter	Kat Flynn	Linda Hobson	Pat South	Melisa Pozwick
Acolyte	Abigail Flynn	Makenna B	Natalie Goodell	Jameson Flynn
YACA	Ryan Goodell	N/A	Jon Pozwick	N/A
Reader	Becca Goodell	Anna Lee Heinl	Tim Snodgrass	Jon Pozwick
Ushers	Joanne Q	Evan Goodell	Kat Flynn	Ryan Goodell
	Larry Q	Katie Toothman	Jameson Flynn	Brian Lottig
Media	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	Brian Swires	Becca Goodell
Power Point	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard	Lucas Swires	Natalie Goodell
Deacon	Nathan Goodell	Larry Q	Laura Keen	Kat Flynn
Elder	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm	Ron Stamm

4 C's Local Food Pantry

September donations being collected are

-Peanut Butter

-Grape Jelly

-Boxes of Instant Mashed Potatoes

*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:

"Let love be genuine. Abhor
what is evil; hold fast to
what is good."

Romans 12:9

Message from the Deacons:

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 if you'd like to sign up.

ALTAR GUILD- Help is needed to help set up communion every Sunday. Anyone wanting to help please see Kat Flynn and she will train you.

FARMERS MARKET- Our annual Farmer's Market has returned! Sales are on Saturdays, 9 AM – 1 PM. Season runs from **now – September 12th**. To become a vendor please give Kat Flynn a call at 561-292-8127. Be sure to follow our new Facebook page – "Christ Lutheran Mantua Farmers Market" for updates.

Youth Education

Christina Eaton
Christian Ed Director

Sunday School Kicks off Sunday **Sept 13th**.
Rally Day! We are also hosting the coffee hour
after church!

We are changing snacks this year and will be
going forward with a dye free and less sugar
approach.

We begin with unit 1 as we have completed
Concordia's Enduring Faith that goes up to Unit 9.
I have not taught 1 yet so we are looking forward
to exploring!

Please Note

Sunday school classrooms are NOT for storage. If
you have an item and wish to donate it to the
church please give it to the person in charge of
that area, deacon, trustee...This includes craft
supplies, books, and food. If it's in the Sunday
School room without a note or a name, I'm free
to throw it away and I will pitch it. It breaks my
heart to come into prepared to teach and spend
45 minutes cleaning up random things shoved
into the room.

We are refreshing the church busy bags with left
over Sunday School Supplies.

MORE THAN A MOM

Returns to CLC on Saturday, **September 19th**
from 9:30-11:30 AM. Potluck breakfast and
childcare provided. Bring a dish to share!
Moms will be in 1 space and kids in another.
Lap babies welcome! There will be devotion,
food, and discussion.

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

- Next fundraiser is selling
pumpkins at the Fall
Festival. Spread the word!
Planning meeting for Fall
Festival will be on
Sept 13th after service.

-Next Youth Night is Sun.
Sept 27th 6-8pm. Please
bring a friend! Our last
youth night was met with
a taco bar and games. See
what we come up with
next!

-We are asking for youth
volunteers for "More than
a Mom" and to save the
date Friday, **Nov. 27th**.
We want to offer a drop
off babysitting day for
parents. Youth will lead
children in games, crafts,
and we will provide
lunch/snacks.

Women's Ministry

All Women in the
Congregation

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

September 16th 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:
September 17th
6:30 PM

FALL FESTIVAL

Our annual Fall Festival/Car & Tractor Show will be held here at church on **October 3rd** from 11 AM – 3 PM. To register a vehicle, please fill out the form below. Along with the car show, there will be pumpkins for sale, kid activities and games, a costume parade, raffle baskets, and our famous potato pancakes! Any questions please see Christina Eaton.

We need your help! We are collecting raffle basket items for the fall festival! Please ask your regularly visited business for a donation. Letters of donation request are posted in the narthex with a tax-exempt form.

Please invite your friends with tractors and classic cars to the car show!

Also, we have some cookbooks left. Consider purchasing for the hard to buy for person in your life or as a teacher gift. Proceeds benefit the Youth.

Pre-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.



Council

2026 Officers

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

CHAIRPERSON: Linda Clark

Save the date for the Fall festival Car and Tractor Show which is **October 3rd** from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. For full details see flyer.

Our next council meeting will be **September 20th** following church services. The Vice-Chair, Anna Lee Heinl will be conducting the meeting as John and I will be on vacation.

TREASURER: Tim Snodgrass

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

Month	Income	Expense	Net Income	YTD Net
Apr	\$12,068	\$11,585	\$483	\$1,171
May	\$13,096	\$12,685	\$411	\$1,582
Jun	\$10,263	\$10,968	-\$705	\$877
Jul	\$11,090	11,405	-\$315	\$562

EVANGELISM: Melisa Pozwick

Coming up...

- Fall Festival/Car Show – Christina has done a great job in getting the signs up. Please look for opportunities to help with this event – We will need donation items for the raffle baskets. Another good opportunity to use our wonderful Pavilion.
- Trunk n Treat – we will need bags of candy and some volunteers to help pass out candy and information on the church on Halloween.

Any ideas on how to improve Evangelism and any outreach ideas, please let me know. Thank you.



"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 & Kat Flynn, Tim Toothman,
Fred Myers, Marla Bellar, Briggs Family,
Miriam Wagner

Shut-ins

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, Dwight & Dottie Cherry,
Keith Goodell, Jim Kilroy, Debbie Bujak,
Gina Hunter, Jetson Laurence,
Melba Elling, Addie Lawrence, John Bellar

Military Service

Caleb Dean Pete, Robert South, Owen Heinl

Baptismal Birthdays

Viktoria Pozwick – September 1st
Jeremiah Clark – September 11th
Elisabeth Owen – September 21st
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