

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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Sunday Live Stream: YouTube

Sunday School 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am



December 2024

Christ's Messenger

The Heart of Christ, in the Midst of Greater Mantua

A Message from Pastor Blake...



CHRIST *Lutheran* CHURCH

2024 Officers

Council:

Melisa Pozwick	President
Anna Lee Heint	Vice-President
Diane Lottig	Secretary
Tim Snodgrass	Treasurer
John Heint	Financial Sec

Committee Chairpersons

Katherine Flynn	Head Deacon
Brian Pozwick	Head Trustee
Christina Eaton	Education Director

In Advent we focus on the three advents ("arrivals") of our Lord Jesus. The first advent we focus on is His becoming human being (Christmas). The second advent we focus on is His coming to us now through the Gospel written, preached, and poured (Holy Baptism) and the Lord's Supper where He is bodily present. The third advent of Jesus is His coming in Glory on the final day as the Son of Man. This final advent is the one we focus on at the end of the Church Year in November.

To be honest, I don't like referring to our Lord's coming in Glory as His "second coming." The phrase second coming to me gives the false impression that Jesus is not really present with us today. This would contradict our Jesus' promise given to us in Matthew 28:20: "I am with you always until the end of the age." The only difference between our Lord's presence on the final day and His presence now is that then He will be visible to our eyes ("in Glory") and now is hidden to our eyes within His Word.

We might properly understand the phrase second coming in

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Pastor's Message Continues

this way: The second coming means that the Lord comes where He already is. Yeah, it sounds strange, but its faithful to what the Scriptures teach. Jesus arrives where He already is. I can't wait for the Lord's "second coming." It will be a wonderful day when we see the Lord with our own eyes because then we will become as He is without loss, pain, sickness, fear, and uncertainty (1 John 3:2). This second coming, the final advent, is the destination of our earthly lives as Christians. Yet, in the meantime, we wait for our Lord's appearance suffering the ills of this world. Not suffering alone, however, for the Lord is with us. Blessed Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Blake



MEMORY CHALLENGE VERSE FOR DECEMBER

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel' (which means God with us)."

Matthew 1:23

Worship Schedule

"Serving With a Heart Like Jesus"

DATES TO REMEMBER

Lectionary Studies
Tuesdays
@ Christ
10 AM

Catechism
Saturdays
1 PM

Midweek Advent

December
4th, 11th, &
18th

Dinner 6 PM
Service 7 PM

Cookie Walk
December 14th
3 – 5 PM

Christmas Pageant
December 15th
11 AM

Loaves & Fishes
December 18th
5 – 6:30 PM

Council Meeting
December 22nd
After church

Christmas Eve Service
December 24th
7 PM

	December 1 st Communion	December 8 th	December 15 th SS Pageant	December 22 nd	December 24 th Christmas Eve	December 29 th
Greeter	Pat South	Barb Lange	Lexi Ballard	Kat Flynn	Melisa Pozwick	Linda Hobson
Acolyte	Logan Ballentine	Natalie Goodell	Abigail Flynn	Jameson Flynn	Makenna Ballentine	Natalie Goodell
YACA	Ryan Goodell	N/A	Evan Goodell	N/A	Jon Pozwick	N/A
Reader	Ron Stamm	Rebecca Goodell	Jon Pozwick	Tim Snodgrass	Jameson Flynn	Tracy Stamm
Ushers	Joanne Q	Melisa Pozwick	Kat Flynn	Brian Lottig	Joanne Q	Kat Flynn
	Larry Q	Jon Pozwick	Jameson Flynn	Lexi Ballard	Larry Q	Jameson Flynn
Media	Christina Eaton	Christina Eaton	Melisa Pozwick ?	Melisa Pozwick	Christina Eaton	Melisa Pozwick
Power Point	Amy Toothman	Lexi Ballard	?	Jon Pozwick	Lexi Ballard	Jon Pozwick
Deacon	Nathan Goodell	Tracy Stamm	Larry Q	Joanne Q	Kat Flynn	Laura Cleavenger
Elder	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn	Corey Flynn

4 C's Local Food Pantry

December donations being collected are
Cereal

Canned Fruit

Chicken Noodle Soup

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



For Your Information...



Poinsettias orders will be accepted until December 15th. Please note, these will be used to decorate the church for our Christmas Eve Service then you are more than welcome to take them home. They are \$12.50 a plant and order forms can be found in the narthex.



We will be hosting a **Cookie Walk** on December 14th, from 3 – 5 PM. Proceeds will benefit the pavilion project. We need cookie donations. If you are willing to donate some cookies there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or see Kat Flynn. Thanks!



During our **midweek Advent** services we will be offering a **Soup Supper** before the service. We are in need of donations and volunteers. Sign-ups can be found in the narthex.

Youth Education

Christina Eaton
Christian Ed Director

Sunday School

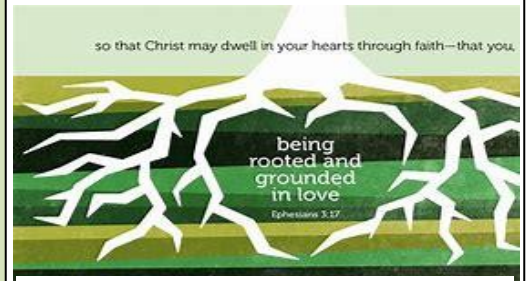
We are adopting two local Crestwood families. An Amazon wish list is being prepared, it will be posted soon. Please take a tag, wrap gifts, and return to church by Dec. 22. We are also collecting cash to purchase a holiday meal for each family. Place your donation in the silver coffee can with an angel on it.

Caroling at Anna Maria Dec 10th.

All Sunday School Students, Youth, Parents, and member of CLC are invited to join us. We will meet at CLC at 4:30 travel to Anna Maria in Aurora. Caroling from 5:15 to 6:00 pm. Enjoy some favorite Christmas songs and share the joy of the season. Please sign up and indicate if you need a ride. We will car pool if needed.

Pageant practice is Sat. Dec. 14th - 11am to 1pm - lunch will be served.

Christmas Pageant is Dec. 15th - Titled Three Questions for Christmas. We will have a luncheon after. You are invited to bring an appetizer or side dish to share. Roasted turkey will be the main dish. Mashed potatoes and green beans are accounted for.



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.

2023-2024 Sunday School Theme

“Rooted in Christ’s Love”

Ephesians 3:17



Youth News

← Youth night at **Gloria Dei** we had two youth attend and they each brought a guest. This time they had prayer stations around the church. Then we had a worship service with a live band. Looking forward to the next event.

NOLA News- We estimate we are approximately \$5000 short on the cost of the trip. Stay tuned for more fun fundraiser! If you wish to make a direct donation please out NOLA on your donation.

Women's Ministry

All Women in the
Congregation

LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

December 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 Diane Lottig at (330) 274-2868 for what is needed.

Please be advised:
Monthly Women's Guild Meetings have been moved to every 3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM.
Thank you.



Cost
\$12.50
Per plant
Red with
Gold foil

If you would like to order a poinsettia to beautify the church for Christmas, please complete this form and place in the offering plate with your check made out to Christ Lutheran Church. You may pick up your plant after the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve worship service.

I/we would like to purchase a poinsettia plant (please print):

In Honor of _____

In Loving memory of _____

Given by _____

**If you are purchasing more than one plant, please fill out a separate form for each plant.

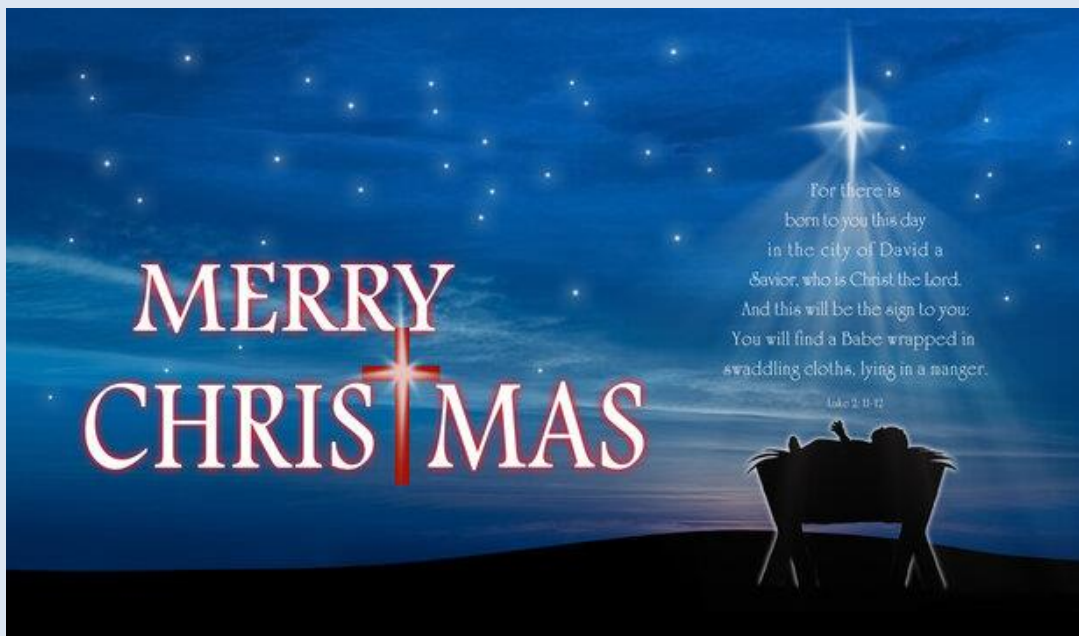
←Poinsettia Orders:
These will be used to beautify the church this holiday and you can take them home following our 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. The cost is \$12.50 and the money will need to be turned in by **Sunday, December 15th**.
Thank you.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

As we enter the blessed holiday, I want to reflect on the transition of our church. We have made more improvements and changes to our church but we are moving in the right direction. I know it is hard to change, we have done it with minimal complaints. I am very grateful to have such a loving church family as we do here at Christ. I look forward to seeing what the next year will bring. I want to extend a very blessed and safe Holiday season.

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 **December 22nd** after service. We welcome anyone who would like to attend the meeting.

TRUSTEES:

The pavilion is on its way. We started grating and working on getting the placement secured. If you would like to donate to this cause, please send in your donation stating it is for the pavilion fund. Also look for more fundraising activities to support this effort.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE:

Following is our financial data from the past 3 months:

Month	Income	Expense	Net Income	YTD Net
Aug 24	\$9,360	\$10,838	-\$1,478	-\$1,073
Sept 24	\$14,357	\$13,115	\$1,242	\$169
Oct 24	\$9,558	\$11,756	-\$2,198	-\$2,029
YTD Oct	\$113,848	\$115,877	-\$2,029	

Based on preliminary figures, our Net Income will be approximately **-\$1,400** for November, bringing our YTD (thru Nov) net to **-\$3,400**.

Tim Snodgrass

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:

Our next Evangelism meeting will be January 26, 2025, after church. Below are items we have discussed at our last meeting.

1. The updated **Picture Directory** will be sent to the printer during November and will be ready shortly after for distribution.
2. If you have not done it yet, please fill out the **medical form** and get it to Kayla. If anything, please supply us with an emergency contact. This will help get your help quickly.
3. Kat is organizing a **Financial Peace** event. She is currently working on getting the information and is planning for it to take place February 2025. So be on the lookout for more info to come.
4. We will be hosting a **Cookie Walk, December 14th** after the Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal. Funds will go towards the pavilion fund. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who would like to donate batches of cookies.
5. Pastor is planning a **White Elephant/Spaghetti Dinner** event to be held at St. Thomas. This will occur sometime in December. More info to come.
6. Christ Lutheran will be having another **Spaghetti Dinner**, January 12th after church. Funds will go towards the pavilion.
7. A **Family Movie Night** is planned for January. More info to come.
8. **Martin Luther King Event** – Pastor is working on setting this up. Will possibly be held at St. Thomas in February.
9. **Chili Bar and Game Night** – February 22nd. Will possibly be held at St. Thomas.
10. **Family Bowling Night** – Planned for February. More info to come.

Look for more exciting items as they unfold.

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 Heint	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!

Timothy Bodnar	12/1
Lisa Blunk	12/2
Ryan Goodell	12/2
Kat Flynn	12/5
Ron Stamm	12/6
Jennie Swires	12/9
Nic Borling	12/14
John Heint	12/14
Jake Ballard	12/15
Jill Kravcisin	12/15
Barb Lange	12/23
Linda Clark	12/25

Prayers for Hope, Healing, Comfort & Guidance

Members

Eva Flynn, Corey Flynn, Kayla Ballentine,
Fred Myers, Donna Snider

Young Families

The Ballard/Eaton Family, The Ballentines,
The Flynn's, The Goodells, The Goodrichs,
The Koerlins, The Martzowkas, The Owens,
The Pozwicks, The Rickseckers, The Sandricks,
The Swires, The Toothmans, The Tutwilers

Shut-ins

Linda Koerlin, Tom Briggs,
Kay & Jill Kravcisin, Becky Krichbaum

Friends & Family

Steven Blunk, Patty & Denny Pesecky,
Linda Havener, Lisa Bey, Rick Kilpatrick, Sam Weise

Military Service

Caleb Dean Pete, Robert South, Owen Heint
Monte Stamm

Baptismal Birthdays

Ryan Goodell – Dec. 27

Wedding Anniversaries

December: None