

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church

Good News

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
5566 Chambersburg Road
Huber Heights, OH 45424
Telephone: 937-233-4632

DECEMBER 2022

From the Pastor's Desk
Pastor Kelly W. Reagan



The Time of Christmas

Christmas tells the story of Jesus as the long-awaited King who has finally come to save us. Jesus, God's Son, the King of heaven and earth, is born in Bethlehem – the Son of God is a baby lying in a manger. The Season of Christmas continues after December 25th over a period traditionally known as the twelve days of Christmas. This season includes a number of lesser festivals: The Festival of St. Stephen, the first martyr, occurs on December 26th. St. John, apostle and evangelist, is remembered on December 27th. The death of the babies in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16-18) is observed on December 28th as the Festival of the Holy Innocents. The circumcision and naming of Jesus on the eighth day after His birth (Luke 2:21) is celebrated on January 1st.

May God bless each one of you this Christmas Season as we thank God for one another and the gifts of grace extended to us by God in Christ. Enjoy

the sights, smells, eats, worship and fellowship during this joyous season. Love, Peace & Joy to all our St Matthew families & friends!

Blessed Christmas,
Pastor Kelly



Comments from the President

COMMENTS FROM THE PREZ

Notes from the November 6, 2022 Vestry meeting.

Memorials:

- Jack Wohlman \$34,910.16
- Tracy June \$500.00
- Walt Kaye \$500.00

Ukraine Relief \$1,060.00

Hurricane Relief \$75.00

Adopt-A-Student \$1,559.07

Pastor Reagan announced that he spoke to our new Adopt-A-Student, Andrew Hill. Andrew is a 4th year seminary student. He will continue in STM (Social Theology Ministry) studies for another year or two. Andrew and his wife, Sarah, have three young children and are expecting their fourth on May 5th . They are from the Wyoming district and hope to return to the area as both families are in Wyoming.

A motion was made and approved to send \$1,000 to Andrew. The next check will be sent after the January 2023 Vestry meeting.

Church Properties is in the process of finalizing contracts and scheduling repairs to the ceiling in the Sanctuary and flooring in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

By the time you receive this the Church Bazaar would have already taken place on November 12 th. As reported in the Church Bulletin for 11/20/22, the Bazaar was a huge success. Thanks to all the volunteers for your time and efforts.

On October 18th our phone and internet service was transferred to Metronet from AT&T. We hope this will eliminate the issues experienced in the past. Unfortunately, the issues relative to streaming our church services continues. Bill Wise and Gary Fischer will be meeting with some individuals who are very knowledgeable in the industry and were highly recommended.

Oktoberfest was held on October 15th and was very well attended. Thanks to everyone who participated. A very special thanks to Ron and Jackie Bandelier for organizing this event.

St. Matthews will again attend a Dragons game, this time on Sunday June 25th . Hopefully the weather will be much cooler. Please mark your calendar for now and watch for additional information in the coming months.

Important upcoming dates:

- December 3rd at 9am the church will be decorated for Christmas. With your assistance the work can be done rather quickly.

- December 4th is the next Vestry meeting.
- December 11th is the Voter's meeting. The 2023 budget and slate of officers will be presented and some other minor items discussed. Please plan to attend so you can cast your vote and be well informed.

Please see the attached calendar for other important dates.

Miscellaneous:

- November 13th was Stewardship Sunday and some members turned in their Faith Promise Worksheet and their Time and Talent Worksheet, but many did not. If you have not turned yours in, please do so. The Time and Talent Worksheets are reviewed so we know if you are interested in serving in some capacity.

Pastor Reagan Contact Information

Pastor Reagan: 614-564-7317 (cell)

k_w_reagan@yahoo.com (email)

If you require pastoral assistance in any way and/or are scheduled to go into the hospital or end up there unexpectedly, please contact me so that I/we can include you in our prayers (unless instructed to maintain privacy) and I can visit you. Your health and well-being is important to all of us!

From the Congregation

SOCIAL CONCERNS CHRISTMAS PROJECT – ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SHELTERS

Social Concerns Christmas Project is collecting new underwear and socks for women, men and children who reside at St. Vincent DePaul Shelters. Lots come in with only the clothes on their backs so to them new underwear and socks are a blessing. All sizes are needed.

There is a box under the Christmas Tree in the Narthex to place your gift any time during the month of December.

A CHALLENGE TO EACH MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY TO BRING ONE PACKAGE. That small gift will mean a lot to someone in need.

DECEMBER DIMES

Dimes for Missions collected during the month of December will go to St. Vincent DePaul Shelter.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all of our friends at St. Matthew for the kind words and prayers during this trying time with the loss of my brother, Mark Kirkwood. *Love, The Kirkwood Family*

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT

Next Sunday, November 27, is the first Sunday of Advent. Devotions for Advent are available in large type and regular type in the Narthex for everyone.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Newsletter articles are due the 20th of each month. Articles should be submitted to Kary Ellen Berger, by email, at karyellen.berger@gmail.com

Stewardship Thought

John 1:5 – “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Through all of our hardships, all of our sorrows, all of our pains and loneliness, Jesus’ light shines in the darkness, and we are not overcome. In the face of our sin, in the midst of our pettiness, against all our pride, Jesus’ light shines and illuminates our hearts and changes us, day by day, into a greater reflection of His likeness.

Prayer List

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER: President Kevin Wilson; Nancy Jamerson; Gerda Werner; Tom Lingg; Mary Muller; Fern Babcock; Carol Schroder; Ron Brock; Elizabeth Karns-Poole; John Juergensen; Bill Yorgen; Alisa Quinn; Andrew; Marita Gabler; Ezra Gonzalez; Debbie, Steve Lewis, Don Morrison; Steve Hill, Linda Moncel, Janice Saker, Jay Popkin, Jennifer Muller, Vaughn Pitzer, Joe Smart, Jim Anderson, Tony Brown; Sheila Shapiro, Paul Woods, Kellie Schidecker, Lynn Miller & Edie Spriggs. We ask that you be with those who are away serving our country, especially Logan Rimkus, all absent members, and those suffering from manmade and natural disasters. We continue to pray for the deliverance of your people oppressed around the world.

St. Matthew Shut-Ins

Some of our members are unable to attend church on a regular basis. These members appreciate cards, calls and visits. Here is the current list of shut-ins.

Carol Schroder Hearth to Home 55 Great Hill Road, Room 101 Dayton, OH 45414	Vickie Fennell Koester Pavilion, Room 57A 3232 North County Road 25A Troy, OH 45373

Those Celebrating Birthdays in
December:

Ariel Newman	December 4
Sarah Nehring-Newman	December 17
Mike Sand	December 19
Kimbra Paden	December 21
Tamara Alegria-Dybvig	December 26
Mary Rose Cronian	December 28
Meghan Posey	December 28

Those Celebrating Anniversaries in
December:

Ed & Gerda Werner	December 15
John & Susan Armstrong	December 27
Bill & Kristine Wise	December 31

Special Dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 4, 2022*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 11, 2022*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 18, 2022*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2022*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2022*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2022*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2022*



November 30 – (Wednesday) –
Supper – 6:00 p.m., then Worship –
6:30 p.m.

December 3 – (Saturday) –
Decorate the Church

December 7 – (Wednesday) –
Supper – 6:00 p.m., then Worship –
6:30 p.m.

December 14 – (Wednesday) –
Supper – 6:00 p.m., then Worship –
6:30 p.m.

December 21 – (Wednesday) – Carols, Candles & Cookies – 7:00 p.m. in the Narthex
(Bring cookies to share)

December 24 – (Saturday) - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:30 p.m.

December 25 – (Sunday) – Merry Christmas!
Jesus Birthday Party! (after the Worship Service)

From Trashed to Treasured

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom. They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care.

After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing “this had happened for a reason,” he “took a leap of faith.” Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio. “I’m glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure,” he says.

Likewise, God did not leave humankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we’ve been transformed and are treasured.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

A Prayer for Christmas

The internet reveals little about Wilda English — only that she lived from 1916 to 1997 and once resided in California. No details exist about her family, work or interests. Just this prayer, widely shared online. And it is no small thing. Indeed, the prayer tells much about her faith.

God bless Wilda English for sharing these words with the world. May they continue to inspire many!

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
The warmth of Christmas, which is love;
The radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
The righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
The belief in Christmas, which is truth;
The all of Christmas, which is Christ.

Christmas Crackups

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

It’s Christmas, Eve!

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?

Cookie sheets.

What do you sing at a snowman’s birthday party?

“Freeze a jolly good fellow!”

What is a Christmas tree’s favorite candy?

Ornamints.

What goes “Oh, Oh, Oh”?
Santa walking backward.

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?
Because he went down in history.

What is an elf’s favorite kind of music?
Wrap music!

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
Nothing. It was on the house!

What kind of photos do Santa’s helpers take?
Elfies.

Bible Quiz

Complete this Bible verse: “The (1)_____ (2)_____ in the (3)_____,
and the (3)_____ has not overcome it.”

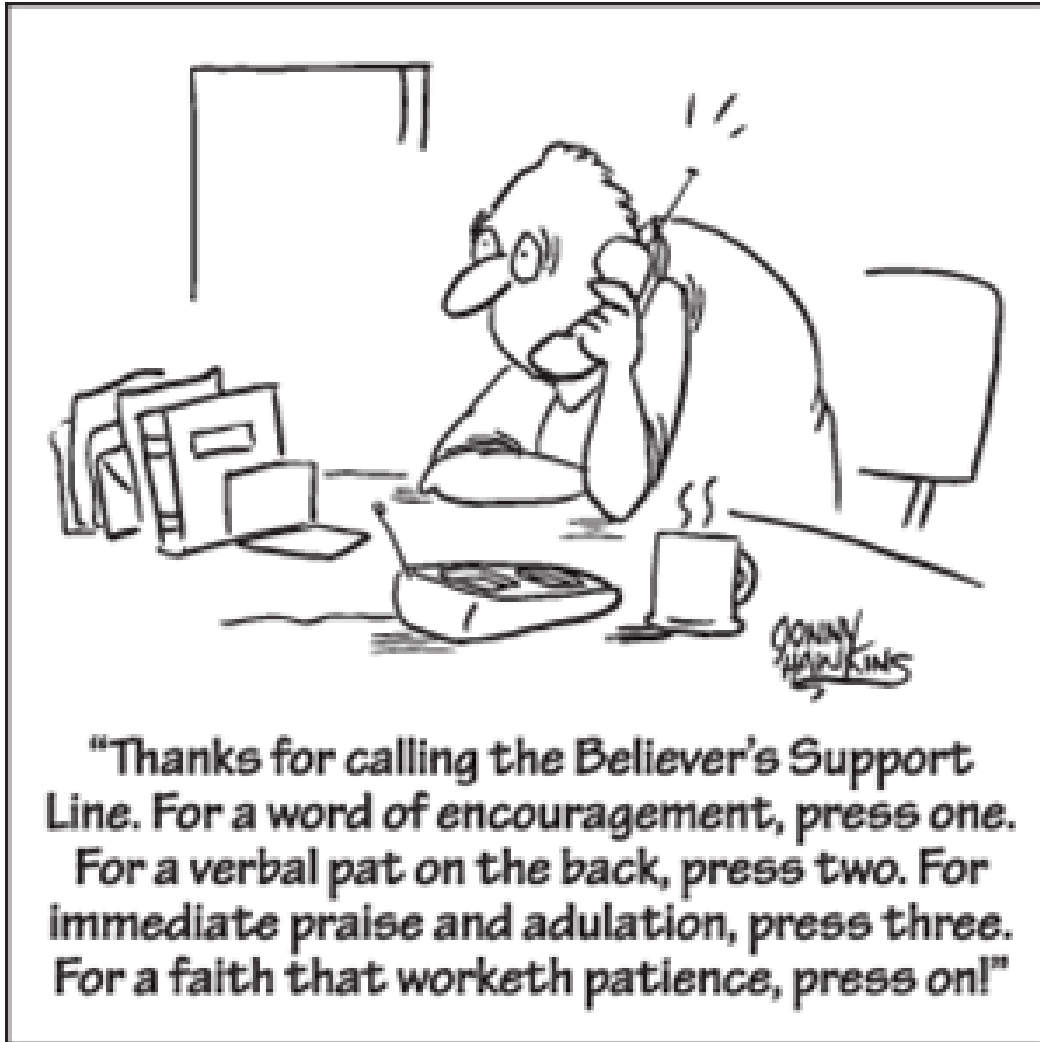
- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above

Answer: B (See John 1:5.)



Christian Symbol

CANDLE—The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14). Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season. Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve, often at midnight.



"Thanks for calling the Believer's Support Line. For a word of encouragement, press one. For a verbal pat on the back, press two. For immediate praise and adulation, press three. For a faith that worketh patience, press on!"

December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	2 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	3 <i>Decorate the Church, 9 a.m.</i>
4 Holy Communion Choir, 9 a.m. Vestry, 11 a.m. Choir, Noon	5	6	7 Bible Coffee, 10:00 am <i>Advent Supper/Service – 6:00 pm</i>	8 Al Anon, 10:30 am	9 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	10
11 Holy Communion Choir, 9 a.m. Voter's Meeting – 11 a.m.	12	13 Yarn Matters, 6 pm	14 Bible Coffee, 10:00 am <i>Advent Supper/Service – 6:00 pm</i>	15 Al Anon, 10:30 am	16 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	17
18 Holy Communion Choir, 9 a.m. Choir, Noon	19	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21 <i>Carols, Candles & Cookies – 7:00 pm</i>	22 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service – 7:30 pm</i> Holy Communion
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! <i>Jesus Birthday Party</i> No Sunday School	26	27	28	29 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	30 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	31

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
5566 Chambersburg Road
Huber Heights, OH 45424

Phone: (937) 233-4632
E-Mail: ST_MATTHEW_EV_JESU@att.net
Web page: www.stmatthewlutheranhuberheights.com

SOCIAL CONCERNS PROJECT FOR DECEMBER:
**Collecting underwear and socks for St. Vincent de Paul
Shelters**