

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church

Good News

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

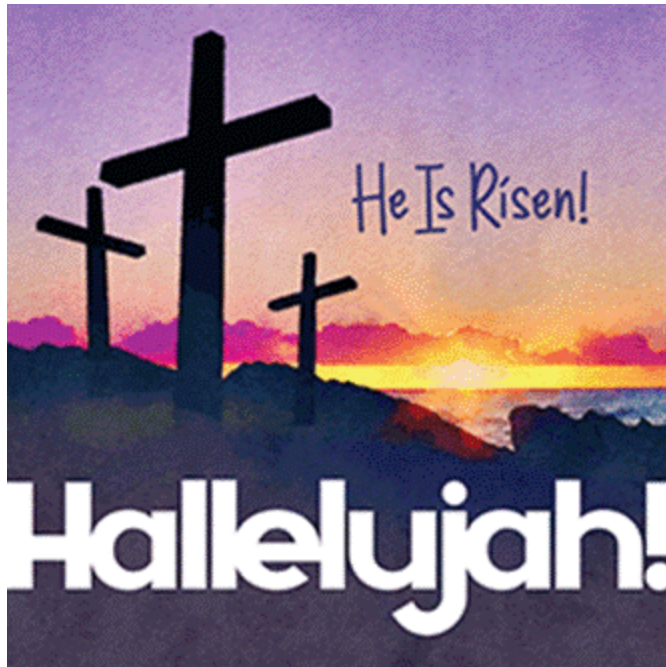


MARCH 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Christ has Risen! He Has Risen Indeed!

Over the next few months, many of our Bible texts focus on “belonging”. There is a push for unity within the body of Christ through this month and next. Through this journey, we are taken from the very familiar group of disciples, to images out of nature that show unity without



diversity, and then finally to an image that is highly relatable – a large group of people who go from only seeing their differences to being unified by the Holy Spirit. It is this unity, within God and within the body of Christ, that drives our Easter season and should continue to drive our efforts to live out our roles as disciples in the world (Sundays & Seasons, Year B, 2024).

We continue to enjoy the warmth of the sun and many of us are watching our daffodils and tulips pop their heads up, so ready for Spring. Enjoy the exceptionally warm winter and get the children, grandchildren to the park to burn off a little steam. May God continue to bless you during the remaining Lent Season and

right into the season of Easter.

Blessings,
Pastor Kelly

Comments from the President

Comments from the February 4, 2024 Vestry meeting.

Treasurer's report provided the following memorial and fund balances.

Jack Wohlman	\$8,251.06
Tracy June	\$500.00
Kaye	\$675.00
Mark Kirkwood	\$50,000.00
Carol Schroder	\$1,875.00
Nancy Jamerson	\$500.00
Ukraine Relief	\$890.00
Seminary Adopt-A-Student	\$533.47

With additional funds collected for the Adopt-A-Student, a motion was made and passed to send \$600 to our new Adopt-A-Student, Caleb Garman.

In Pastor Reagan's report he informed us that Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson, President of The Ohio District LCMS, will visit St. Matthew on March 24th , Palm Sunday. Pastor Wilson will attend service and lead the Adult Sunday School class. I hope everyone is able to attend.

Christian Education reported that the theme for this year's VBS will be "Hometown Nazareth", where Jesus spent his childhood. VBS is scheduled for July 7-11.

Miscellaneous:

Our previous Adopt-A-Student, Andrew Hill, will visit St. Matthew on March 10th . He will preach and lead the Adult Sunday School where he and his wife Sarah will discuss life in the seminary. Please plan to attend.

On March 3rd and 10th , we will again collect funds for The Ohio District Hearts for Jesus. Their 2024 project is called Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry. Lutheran Church Ministries helps people who are hurting. The following is a quote from their website; "One of the ways we do this best is by being there with the person who is hurting. That's why we chose Be There With Me as the theme to go along with the Hearts for Jesus Unified Mission Project. Every dollar raised is going to our LLC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry Travel Fund so that we can be there with more and more of those who are hurting. Our prayer is that, through the Hearts for Jesus project, you will not only learn how our LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs bring comfort to those who are hurting, but that each of you will answer those who cry out, "BE THERE WITH ME." Just as Jesus came to be with us, so we now get to Be There with others." Please visit their website: www.BeThereWithMe.org for additional details about the project. Our funds must be sent to the Ohio District by March 31st . Any funds collected after March 10th will be held for next year's project.

Throughout the year there are a couple organizations who use our Fellowship Hall for their meetings. I have attached a Thank You letter from My Brothers' Keeper Quilt Group-Friendship Chapter which also is an open invitation for members of St. Matthew to attend one of their Assemblies. If interested, please contact Valerie Quinn at: Kquinn2@woh.rr.com.

Every week the Ohio District puts out a newsletter called The District Connection. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please contact Deb Klusak at: klusakd@oh.lcms.org. This newsletter is designed to keep readers informed about upcoming events (conferences, meetings, conventions), ministry ideas and resources, and what's happening in and around our Ohio District LCMS congregations. This newsletter is also a way to share exciting news about how our great God is working in the lives of His people.

Just a reminder, if you are a client of Thrivent, meaning you have life insurance or investments with them, you probably have accumulated Choice Dollars. These dollars can be directed to a charitable organization of your choice including St. Matthew. They must be spent before March 31st . Just log into <https://www.thrivent.com/> and click on Choice Dollars. If you have questions, let me know.

Please review the attached March calendar for all the events taking place. A special reminder that the Adult Confirmation begins March 24 after worship service.

Next Vestry meeting is on March 3rd and is open to everyone, if you want to know what's going on at St. Matthew.

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

EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter Breakfast will be March 31, before service at 8:30 a.m.. Egg casseroles, hard boiled eggs, cinnamon rolls, and sweet breads will be served. Along with coffee and juice. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for food items that are needed.

Set up will be on Saturday, March 30 at 10 a.m. if you would like to help, please come and join us.

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

Zechariah 9:9 – “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” No king ever rode to war like this. But no king had ever come to wage battle by dying. In His Passion, our Lord Jesus gives everything He has and is; He does this to bring us from death to life, to make us His own people, and show us an example of self- giving love that we should follow.

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.

Vickie Fennell

Koester Pavilion, Room 57A
3232 North County Road 25A
Troy, OH 45373

Mary Muller

8683 Clearcreek Franklin Rd. Apt. 345
Springboro, OH 45066
Mary's cell - 937-640-0044

John Juergensen

Vancrest of New Carlisle
1885 N. Dayton-Lakeview Road
New Carlisle, OH 45344
937-845-8219

Prayer List

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER: Aaron Armstrong; Owen Armstrong; Carol Reagan; Marliese Driver; Elizabeth Karns-Poole; Mary Muller; Tom Lingg; Ron Brock; John Juergensen; Bill Yorgen; Alisa Quinn; Andrew; Marita Gabler; Ezra Gonzalez; Linda Moncel, Steve Hill; Jay Popkin, Jennifer Muller, Jim Anderson, Tony Brown; Paul Woods, Kellie Schidecker, Edie Spriggs, Logan Olsen, Bob Brown, Drew Gerig, Rich & Holly McHenry, Kevin Younger & Marcia Groebeck. We ask that you be with those who are away serving our country, 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

Those Celebrating Birthdays in March:

Elizabeth Berger	March 6
Madelyn Berger	March 6
Al Lutz	March 7
Susan Armstrong	March 7
Patricia Jordan	March 8
Ed Werner	March 8
Melanie Harris	March 12
Vickie Fennell	March 16
Judy Scheidt	March 16
Marliese Driver	March 18
Abigale Wiehe	March 22

Those Celebrating Anniversaries in March:

Al & Lauri Lutz	March 23
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Christian Symbol



BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

BIBLE QUIZ

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11.)

Pressed

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for "olive press." During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the

valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

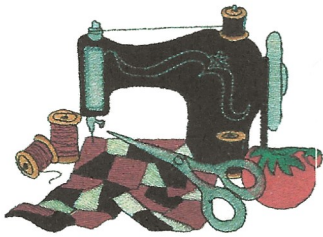
In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

"All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances," the authors write. "We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive."

Special Dates

- World Day of Prayer, March 1, 2024
- Daylight saving time begins, March 10, 2024
- First day of spring, March 19, 2024
- Holy Week, March 24-31, 2024
- Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, 2024
- Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024
- Good Friday, March 29, 2024
- Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024





My Brothers' Keeper Quilt Group

Friendship Chapter

Dear St. Matthew:

Thank you, once again, for generously allowing our group to use your hall to host one of our Assemblies on Saturday, January 27. Likewise, we appreciate use of your hall on the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month to meet for Yarn Matters.

We are excited to note that, to date, we have made 857 sleeping bags. These are given to local shelters for distribution to their clients. Additionally, we have made countless hats, mittens, scarves, lap robes, quilts, tote bags, afghans, animal blankets/beds, walker bags, wheelchair bags, etc.

We continue to collect empty prescription bottles that are sent to clinics and hospitals in Third World regions to be reused to hold medicines for their clients.

We support Little Dresses for Africa (littledressforafrica.org) by stitching reusable sani-pad that are distributed to young girls in African Orphanages. We have sent 1443 pads to the LDFA Headquarters in Michigan. They have a group of individuals who carry these pads in their luggage when making mission trips to Africa.

As we start our 20th year together, we remember and recognize that our success is directly related to the generosity of many individuals and organizations, such as St. Matthew, whose support of our group's efforts has allowed us to serve those in need throughout our communities: homeless individuals, residents of nursing and rehabilitation facilities, babies and children, and even animals.

As always, we welcome anyone from St. Matthew to attend one of our Assemblies to see what we do, meet our volunteers, and enjoy a meal of fellowship (we always have LOTS of food to share).

Our next Assembly at St. Matthew is March 23. Come anytime after 9 am; we all stop at 11:30 to enjoy lunch together.

Again, thank you!

Valerie Quinn
Kquinn2@woh.rr.com



**Cats at Our Farm Sanctuary enjoying a
pet blanket made by our group.**

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	2 Community Blood Drive, 8:30 am- 12:30 pm
3 Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Vestry – 11 am Choir, Noon	4	5	6 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am Supper/Worship Service, 6:00/6:30 pm (Italian)	7 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	8 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	9
10 Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	12	13 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am Supper/Worship Service, 6:00/6:30 pm (American)	14 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	15 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	16
17 Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Choir, Noon	18	19 <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u>	20 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am Supper/Worship Service, 6:00/6:30 pm (Soup/Salad)	21 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	22 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	23 My Brother's Keeper, 8 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
24 Palm Sunday Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Adult Confirmation Begins	25	26	27 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	28 Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	29 Good Friday Service, 7 pm A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	30 Easter Breakfast Set Up, 10 am
31 Easter Choir, 9 am Holy Communion Easter Breakfast – 8:30 am						

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