

# St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church

## Good News

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



### MAY 2024

From the Pastor's Desk  
**Preparing for Summer!**

The focus of readings into the time of "Ordinary" after Pentecost & Trinity Sundays (May 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>) are all about how the church lives out its callings, discerned during the Easter season. This period calls upon us to proclaim, bear witness to, and live out God's ongoing will for the world God so deeply loves. The church knows and believes in its very bones that salvation is

bound in and is a love for the world, not an escape from the world.



We all survived the Eclipse of 2024 and now we refocus on ways to serve at St. Matthew, all to further the Kingdom of God. Interesting, how life can and does throw all kinds of distractions at us, yet the beloved Christians in our fold at St. Matthew continue to serve selflessly, fellowship as a body of one and make things happen. Thank you! May God bless you all into a time of growth and new life

for our church.

VBS is just around the corner! Please see Judy Scheidt (Director of Education) to discuss a role you might play in spreading the Good News of Jesus during the week of sun & fun in our programming for July.

Blessings into the Summer Season,  
Pastor Kelly

## **Comments from the President**

Comments from the April 7, 2024 Vestry meeting.

Treasurer reported the following fund balances.

Jack Wohlman	\$375
Tracy June	\$308
Mark Kirkwood	\$50,000
Carol Schroder	\$1,875
Nancy Jamerson	\$500
Ukraine Relief	\$1,150
Seminary Adopt-A-Student	\$766.54

A motion was made and passed, stating that whenever the balance in the Seminary Adopt-A-Student fund reached \$500 the Treasurer would automatically send a check for that amount.

In Pastor Reagan's report he announced that he and Rebecca are planning to take some vacation time and will not be here on June 16th, 23rd, and 30th . Pastor Kudart will fill in.

Christian Education had a brief report stating that additional volunteers will be needed for VBS in July to help serve dinner to the students. Please watch for additional information concerning this and contact Judy Scheidt to volunteer.

### **Miscellaneous:**

A Thank You went out to everyone who provided food and attended the Midweek Lenten Services. This year the average attendance was 34, with the highest at 40 on March 13th . On Easter Sunday we had 103 people attend worship service. The breakfast prior to service was also very well attended.

We received another Thank You letter from our previous Adopt-A-Student, Andrew Hill who visited St. Matthew on March 10th .

It was announced that John Juergensen's new address is: Avenue At Aurora, 425 S. Chillicothe Rd. Aurora, OH. 44202. I'm sure John would enjoy receiving cards or letters from St. Matthew members.

We are still looking for a few more people to learn how to operate the camera system. It is very easy and usually someone experienced can sit with you during the service. If interested, please contact Bill Wise, Gary Fischer, or Kary Ellen Berger.

Next Vestry meeting is Sunday, May 5th.

### **Pastor Reagan Contact Information**

Pastor Reagan: 614-564-7317 (cell)

[k\\_w\\_reagan@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

#### **VBS 2024 July 7 – 11, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**

This year's theme is Home Town Nazareth; Where Jesus was a Kid. We are adding a new feature this year – a light supper for the participants from 5:30 to 6 before the festivities start. We will need more volunteers than ever to make it happen! We hope to have 20 – 30 people (kids and parents) attend, so we will need 3 tribe leaders and 3 assistant tribe leaders. Check out the table in the Narthex for those and other jobs you can help with and for other materials we may need. Any questions? Ask Judy Scheidt (937-275-4960), Jill Fischer, or Rebecca Reagan.

#### **May Sock Challenge**

It's May, so time to get those socks for the sock challenge!!!! Social Concerns is challenging members of the congregation again this year to each bring new children's socks to overflow the basket. These socks will be donated to SHOES 4 THE SHOELESS a local organization who has been helping kids in need for over 10 years. Visiting their facility is so uplifting. The people working there are positive and have wonderful and warm stories of the children who receive our socks.

Socks should be new and athletic type for children age 5 and up (remember older kids have big feet). Fun colors are always a treat. They hand out 4-6 pairs of socks per child, so lots are needed. We will be filling the basket during the month of May. Let's see how fast we can overflow the basket! Questions see Trish Jordan or Susan Armstrong.

#### **May Dimes**

Ladies Guild May Dimes will go to SHOES 4 THE SHOELESS. Please place your dimes in the offering plate on Sundays. Checks should be made out to St. Matthews Ladies Guild.

#### **Summer Education Hour**

The last Sunday for Sunday School and Bible Class will be on Pentecost, May 19th . For the summer we will have other activities after the worship service. The first Sunday of the month is Vestry (except for August). The second Sunday will be choir, the third handbells, and the fourth a workshop or other topical discussion opportunity. Look for details in the bulletin and newsletters as the plans develop.

#### **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](mailto:karyellen.berger@gmail.com)

## **Stewardship Thought**

**More Than a Negative** – Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

## **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

## **Prayer List**

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER: Austin & Claire Powell as they welcomed a baby girl, Mary Anne; Jill Fischer, surgery; Randal Armstrong; James Armstrong; Richard Jordan; Carol Reagan; Marliese Driver; Elizabeth Karns-Poole; Tom Lingg; Ron Brock; John Juergensen; Bill Yorgen; Alisa Quinn; Andrew; Marita Gabler; Ezra Gonzalez; Linda Moncel, Steve Hill; Jay Popkin, Jim Anderson, Paul Woods, Kellie Schidecker, Edie Spriggs, Drew Gerig, Rich & Holly McHenry, Kevin Younger, Owen Armstrong, Rick Weis & Vaughn Pitzer. We ask that you be with those who are away serving our country, especially Dawson Cahill; 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.

## **Christian Symbol**

**GREEN** — Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.



## **Open Hands**



Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in

my empty hands. Therefore, I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”

### **The Language of Lament**

Unlike nonbelievers, Christians can grieve with hope (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). On Memorial Day and at Christian funerals and burials, our lament is real — and it’s a uniquely Christian concept, according to Pastor Mark Vroegop. “It takes faith to pray when you are in pain,” he writes in *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy*. “Belief in God creates challenging questions, and lament provides the opportunity to reorient your hurting heart toward what is true. But in order for that to happen, you have to turn to prayer. The silent treatment must end.”

Vroegop, who had a stillborn daughter, says lament opens a door that leads to trust. Heartfelt lament, he says, can be brief or messy and can feel forced or uncomfortable. But the important thing is to “keep talking to God.”

“Don’t allow your fear, your despair or your track record of silence to cut off the flow of grace,” he urges. “Your pain can be a path toward God if you’ll allow lament to be your new language.”

### **Special Dates**

- National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2024
- Ascension Day, May 9, 2024
- Mother’s Day, May 12, 2024
- Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2024
- Pentecost, May 19, 2024
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 20, 2024
- Trinity Sunday, May 26, 2024
- Memorial Day, May 27, 2024

### **Those Celebrating Birthdays in May:**

Shelia Fontaine	May 5
Kathy Conley	May 8
Richard Jordan	May 9
John Juergensen	May 15
Devin Cahill	May 19
Gerda Werner	May 20
Saralynn Wiehe	May 20
Jenna Posey	May 23
Bill Yorgen	May 23
Gary Fischer	May 29

### **Those Celebrating Anniversaries in May:**

Mike & Kathy Conley	May 2
Bill & Alicia Driver	May 6
Charles & Laurie Miller	May 21



## Bible Quiz



What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates

Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14.)



# May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	2 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	3 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	4
5 Choir, 9 am Holy Communion <b>VESTRY, 11 am</b> <b>Choir, Noon</b>	6	7	8 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	9 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	10 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	11
12 <i>Ascension</i> <i>Mother's Day</i> Holy Communion Choir, 9 am <b>Choir, Noon</b>	13	14 Yarn Matters, 6-7:30 pm	15 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	16 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	17 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	18
19 <i>PENTECOST</i> Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Last day of Sunday School	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21	22 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	23 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	24 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	25
26 <i>TRINITY</i> Holy Communion Choir, 9 am	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	28 Yarn Matters, 6-7:30 pm	29 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	30 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	31 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	

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Phone: (937) 233-4632  
E-Mail: [ST\\_MATTHEW\\_EV\\_JESU@att.net](mailto:ST_MATTHEW_EV_JESU@att.net)  
Web page: [www.stmatthewlutheranhuberheights.com](http://www.stmatthewlutheranhuberheights.com)