

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church

Good News

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



DECEMBER 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Advent - Waiting on the Lord!

Confusion. Foreboding. Fear. These words from our Gospel of Luke kick off the first Sunday of Advent. It's hard to find a place for these heavy emotions in either the secular or religious traditions that precede Jesus' birth, but this year's Advent texts remind us that healing can be a painful, complicated process, even-or especially- with the promise of comfort and joy to come. Luke, both evangelist and physician would have known that fractured bones sometimes need to be rebroken in order to heal properly.



As a congregation, we journey together to Bethlehem during this month, waiting for the coming of the Man/God – The Anointed One- Jesus Christ. Take this time to Heal, Hope and live in Peace according to his Word. Jesus is with us always. Enjoy the sights, sounds and tastings of a hope-filled journey in Christ this Advent Season.

Where do we get X-mas? X-mas is an abbreviation for Christmas. The X in Xmas is actually the Greek letter Chi (pronounced "K-I"). Chi stood in the Greek language as a symbol for Christ. The use of "Xmas" as a simple abbreviation for Christmas and dates back to the 12th century – it has been in continuous usage ever since. Feel free to use it in confidence that you have no intention of taking Christ out of Christmas!

May God bless you during this festive season,
Pastor Kelly

Comments from the President

Comments from the November Vestry meeting.

The Treasurer's report was given. It was noted that the name of our Steward Account at LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) was being changed to "All Access Account" which will earn interest at a rate of 4%. We anticipate moving some funds from our PNC Money Market account, which has a very low interest rate, into the "All Access Account".

A lengthy discussion was held concerning our current Adopt-A-Student, Caleb Garman. A motion was made and passed that we would immediately stop our financial support of Caleb but would continue collecting funds. Pastor Reagan would look for another student to support and hopefully present that student's name at the December Vestry meeting. This will be discussed in more detail at the Annual Voters Assembly.

Pastor Reagan made a presentation concerning Ebenezer Ethiopian Evangelical Church in Columbus. At the December 1st Vestry meeting we will discuss supporting both the Ethiopian Church and its Pastor, who does not draw a salary from the church.

A Funeral Service for Vickie Fennell will be held on December 14th at St. Matthews. Visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. followed by a Eucharistic service at 11:30 A.M. At 12:15 P.M. A lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Members are asked to bring a side dish and/or a dessert. The Ladies Guild will provide the meat.

Board of Elders reported that a meeting was held on October 27th and Laurie Miller announced that she will be stepping down. The remaining Elders, Bill Wise, Pat Siler, Diana Tavener, and Mike Conley then elected Pat Siler as Head Elder.

Church Properties announced that parking lot repairs and resealing will begin soon. In addition, the outside back walls to the kitchen and the Great Hall, are in need of repair.

Social Concerns announced an up-coming project for St. Vincent DePaul. The church will collect underwear, socks, and blankets.

In miscellaneous business a motion was made to purchase 24 ESV Pew Bibles with large print from Concordia Publishing House. These bibles will be used primarily by the Sunday adult bible study group and the Wednesday morning bible study group.

Please review the attached calendar for December, which is a very busy month.

Please plan to attend the Annual Voters Assembly on December 8th at 11:00 A.M. The Budget and Slate of Officers for 2025 will be presented and voted on. In addition, each committee chairperson will provide a report summarizing activity for their group in 2024.

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

THANK YOU!!!!

A big thank you to all who assisted with this year's Holiday Bazaar! We did very well, surpassing last year's total! There was lots of traffic and the baked goods and cookies went fast. Many enjoyed our soup and hot dog lunch. Again thank you, without the congregation's help we could not have made the bazaar such a success! - St. Matthew Ladies Guild

Stuff the Christmas Box!

We take for granted new socks and underwear but many seeking help at St. Vincent DePaul shelters don't have that luxury. 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. We are also collecting twin size blankets.

Please place your gift in the box under the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. The collecting is being done during the entire month of December.

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

Lutheran Special Education Ministries Note

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a full-time resource room teacher position at St John's Lutheran School in Marysville, OH. Applicants must hold a current Ohio Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.

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

Matthew 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” – Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it,” and he willingly gave. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life (in our homes, in the church and in the communities we live in). In each calling we have good work to do which comes from the Lord’s hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

Memory Verse Challenge

The church confesses to Christ, “You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly....” (Col. 3:16) Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God’s Word, day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God’s word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it.

This month’s memory verse is: **Revelation 1:7–8**

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Prayer List

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER: Lori C; Kelland Reagan; The Stapleton family; Andrew Reagan; Trish & Richard Jordan; Carol Reagan; Marliese Driver; Elizabeth Karns-Poole; Tom Lingg; Ron Brock; Bill Yorgen; Paul Woods; Alisa Quinn; Andrew; Marita Gabler; Ezra Gonzalez; Linda Moncel, Jay Popkin, Jim Anderson, Edie Spriggs, Drew Gerig, Kevin Younger, Tony Brown, Bob Brown, Tony Campen, BJ Bowling, Terry Walton, Phill Bullock, Drew Lingg, Patricia Singer, Brian Tucker & Kahlia Lawrence. 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 December:

Ariel Newman	December 4
Sarah Nehring-Newman	December 17
Mike Sand	December 19
Paul Woods	December 20
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

- First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024
- Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2024
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024
- First day of winter, December 21, 2024
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2024
- New Year's Eve, December 31, 2024

Poetry Feature

The Christmas

By James Greening | December, 2024

The Christmas Snow - gently guided to the ground,
Silencing all foe; peace placed, instead of gun sound.
Smiling both high and low; happiness haunts all those found,
Suspending all I know, except Emmanuel's love all round.

The Christmas Sight - cheer's charm dangling from the tree.
A star so bright, solemn shepherds on bent knee.
Youth at this night, anxious awards strain to see.
Marriage held tight, bonded beauty perfect be.

The Christmas Song - choirs carol with rose face.
Birth of no wrong, kindly kings travel with haste.
Families all long, dinner's delight in one place.
I all belong, captured calm to her embrace.

The Christmas Soul - mate majesty with wonder.
King to ride foal, bark's bail never can sunder.
My life the toll; given gift, sweet her plunder.
Never my goal, distant dreams; yet, I am her.



Look Upon Love

Let us then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify people. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why God took on our human flesh and blood, that God should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor God would console and comfort us.



Bible Quiz

Who was governor of Syria when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a mandated registration, or census?

- A. Theophilus
- B. Herod Antipas
- C. Pontius Pilate
- D. Quirinius

Answer: D (See Luke 2:1-7.)



Gift-giving at Christmas goes back to Roman festivals of Saturnalia and Keland. The very first gifts were simple items such as twigs from sacred groves as good luck emblems. Soon that escalated to items of jewelry, candles, and statues of gods. To the early church, gift giving at this time was a pagan holdover and therefore severely frowned upon. However, people would not part with it, and some justification was found in the gift-giving of the Magi, and figures such as St. Nicholas. By the middle ages gift giving was accepted. Today, gift giving is such an important

part of our festivities that the whole year's budget has to be carefully planned to allow for the expense of Christmas presents. We have certainly come a long way from passing out evergreen twigs for good luck! *Gift Giving from Sharing the Season-A Collection of Christmas Warmth, 1997, Great Quotations, Inc*

Christian Symbol

ADVENT COLORS — One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form. We also look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ Child.



December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Holy Communion Choir, 9 a.m. Vestry, 11 a.m. Choir, Noon	2	3	4 Bible Coffee, 10:00 am Advent Supper/Service – 6:00 pm (Soup & side dish)	5 Al Anon, 10:30 am	6 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	7 <i>Decorate the Church, 9 a.m.</i>
8 Holy Communion Choir, 9 a.m. Voter's Meeting – 11 a.m. Choir, Noon	9	10 Yarn Matters, 6 pm	11 Bible Coffee, 10:00 am Advent Supper/Service – 6:00 pm (Soup & side dish)	12 Al Anon, 10:30 am	13 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	14
15 Holy Communion Choir, 9 a.m. Hand Bells, Noon	16	17	18 <i>Carols, Candles & Cookies – 7:00 pm</i>	19 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	20 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m. Newsletter Articles Due	21
22 Children's Christmas Service, <i>Jesus Birthday Party</i> Hand Bells, Noon	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service – 7:30 pm</i> Holy Communion	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	27 A.A./Al Anon, 8:00 p.m.	28
29 Holy Communion	30	31	HAPPY NEW YEAR!			

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