

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church

Good News

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

NOVEMBER 2025

From the Pastor's Desk



Blessed Thanksgiving As November Begins.

The church year invites us to both reflect and rejoice. It's a month of contrasts—when grief and gratitude, memory and hope, meet in the light of Christ's Gospel. Early in the month, we remember the saints who have gone before us. We feel the ache of loss, yet we hold firmly to God's promise of eternal life, knowing that death never has the final word. In Christ, we share the victory of resurrection and the communion of all believers. By the end of the month, we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, closing the church year with confidence: Jesus reigns! His kingdom has no end.



Yet even as one season concludes, another begins. The turning of the liturgical calendar is not an ending, but a doorway into Advent—a season of waiting and watching for our King who comes again in grace. November is also a time when our tables, hearts, and homes are filled with thanksgiving. If you're like me, you may enjoy your meal a little too much 🍽️—and then quickly turn to preparing for winter and Advent.

These simple rhythms—eating together, decorating, finishing chores—remind us of God's steady faithfulness. Every meal, every task, every moment is a gift from His hand. In this busy, in-between season, remember to pause. Take time with family and friends. Take time in prayer. Take time to remember that all

we have comes from Jesus, who gave His life for our salvation. As we stand on the threshold of a new church year, may we step forward with promise, commitment, and joy—firmly grounded in the hope of Christ. May our Lord bless the families of St. Matthew with peace, joy, and hope—in

your homes, in your lives, and in all your days. A blessed Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones! 🦃🍁

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious Lord,

All that we have flows from Your hand. Thank You for daily bread, for family and friends, for seasons that mark our days, and for the sure hope we have in Christ Jesus, our Savior. As we remember the saints before us and enter a new church year, fill our hearts with peace, joy, and steadfast hope. Keep our homes in Your care, and make us faithful in all we do.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Pastor Kelly

Comments from the President

Comments from the October 5, 2025 Vestry meeting.

Treasurer's report provided the following balances.

Jack Wohlman	\$375
Tracy June	\$308
Mark Kirkwood	\$50,000
Carol Schroder	\$1,875
Nancy Jamerson	\$500
John Juergenson	\$120
Vicky Fennell	\$50
Marliese Driver	\$30
Ukraine Relief	\$0
Seminary Adopt-A-Student	\$684.45 (Sent on 10/8)
LCMS Disaster Relief	\$0
Ethiopian Pastor	\$75 (Sent on 10/8)
Ethiopian Church	\$220 (Sent on 10/8)
Hearts For Jesus	\$100
Total General fund income for September:	\$13,084.54
Total General fund expenses for September:	\$11,362.30
Net General fund income for September:	\$1,722.24
Net General fund income YTD through September:	\$16,474.40

Pastor's report showed:

- 4 services conducted. 2 shut-in visits were made.
- Midweek Advent services begin 12/3/25.
- Pastor and Jan Younger's Candles, Carols and Cookies will be held 12/17/25.

- Plans are being made to have our Adopt-A Student, Jon Pietrowski, visit us again in January, 2026.
- Pastor Reagan and Rebecca will be on vacation November 9th and 16th, December 28th and January 4th. Pastor Kudart will fill in during Pastor Reagan's vacation.

Elders reported that phone calls and/or emails were sent to 4 shut-ins. 1 in person visit was made.

- Meals on Call provided 8 meals to 1 family. Pat stated that she and Lee received many of them during her recovery and are very appreciative.

The Vice President reported that he has been taking pictures of church events and saving them on the cloud, and they can be accessed through Adobe. He has also added pictures Bruce Raymer has taken going back to 2023.

Neil and Linda Brock are updating photos of members, which are on display in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like your photo updated, please talk to Linda or Neil.

The Fall Picnic was well attended but the chicken arrived late due to overbooking by the vendor.

Reformation Day Potluck is being planned. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Please bring a side dish to share. New members: Greg & Kristina Mach, Richard & Grace Evans, and Nathan & Tanya Shaw will be our special guests.

Miscellaneous information:

- The following statement will be added to the Sunday bulletin to primarily inform visitors.
GLUTEN FREE WAFERS and GRAPE JUICE. We are pleased to offer gluten-free wafers; please speak to one of the ushers who will inform the pastor. In addition, grape juice is available in the center circle of the Communion tray.

- The Ohio Youth Ministry has announced dates for next year's Youth Gatherings.
 - The Ohio District Junior High Gathering will be held March 13, 14, 15, 2026 at Camp Christian, in Marysville.
 - The Ohio District Senior High Gathering will be held November 20, 21, 22, 2026 in Columbus. The exact location has not been announced.

As new information comes out, it will be sent out to the congregation. You can also go to their website; oh.lcms.org for information.

Vestry will provide financial assistance. Please contact us if you are interested in attending the Youth Gatherings.

- Are you interested in receiving the Ohio District's weekly newsletter: The District Connection? If so, 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.

- Please see the following statement from LCMS concerning our youth attending Concordias, to pursue church work. If you would like your child's name submitted, please contact Gary Fischer.

Help the LCMS encourage youth to attend Concordias, pursue church work

Dear pastor or youth leader,

Each year, the Concordia University System and the Concordia seminaries gather contact information for seventh through 12th grade students from each congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). We gather this contact information in order to reach out to youth with further information about our LCMS Concordia universities and seminaries.

Set Apart to Serve (SAS) is building a culture of church work formation and recruitment throughout the LCMS. *SAS* is a comprehensive effort in every LCMS congregation, family, school, district and entity to form and encourage youth to consider full-time church work for generations to come.

As a part of this culture, we encourage LCMS youth to consider attending an LCMS Concordia university and/or seminary to receive a Christ-centered education in preparation for their vocations, whether it be a full-time vocation in the church or a godly vocation in the world.

To help build this culture of church work formation and recruitment, please submit contact information for your congregation's youth by using one of the options below.

The information your congregation provides is confidential and will be used only for Concordia University System and seminaries recruitment purposes and by LCMS Campus Ministry.

Thank you for encouraging your congregation's youth as they prepare to make decisions about their future.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your congregation.
God's blessings to you!

Rev. Dr. James Baneck
Executive Director, Office of Pastoral Education
D. Scott Kostencki
Director of LCMS Rosters, Statistics and Research Services

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

Holiday Bazaar - Saturday, November 8th, 2025!



Mark your calendars!! Invite your family & friends! Our Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 8th from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Please share this on social media!

COOKIE WALK: We will once again ask our bakers to get out their favorite cookie recipes (3 dozen each).

- Please mark each container with the type of cookie.
- Please be sure your name is on your container so we may return it to you.
- Please note if nuts are in the recipe.
- Please bring your homemade cookies by 8:30 a.m., Saturday, November 8th.

BAKED GOODS: We also welcome breads, fudge, cinnamon rolls, and buckeyes! Wrap your yummy treats & decorate with ribbons or stickers! Don't forget to label & price these little bundles!

KITCHEN MENU: We will once again serve home-made soups, hot dogs and chips. Our shoppers love our lunch menu!

Signup sheets will be available in October on the table in the Narthex for cookies, baked goods, lunch menu items, or to volunteer as a cashier.

ATTIC TREASURES: Get down those pretty items from the attic that you no longer use to decorate your tree or home for Christmas. Our shoppers love these items! Be sure to price these items!

CRAFT VENDORS: We have several vendors registered!! We will be expanding into the Sunday school rooms! Any questions, contact Alicia at alicia.a.driver@gmail.com.

If you would like to Chair our Baked Goods or our Kitchen, please see Susan Armstrong or Alicia Driver.

SET UP: Ladies Guild will be setting up on Thursday, November 6th at 1 p.m.! Please join us! Let's make this year's Holiday Bazaar our best one yet! - St. Matthew Ladies Guild

MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

We support two major missions.

Each Sunday our Sunday School children collect money that goes to the LCMS Seminaries Adopt-A- Student Program. Currently, we are supporting a seminarian at Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne, who has a wife and four children. We send a check when we have collected a minimum of \$500. Our second project is supporting the pastor for the Ebenezer Ethiopian Evangelical Church in Columbus, Ohio. The pastor not only ministers to the needs of the Ethiopian members of his church, but also conducts outreach to a large Somalia immigrant population located in northeast Columbus. St. Matthew provides a quarterly check to the pastor to support his outreach efforts. If desired, members can add to that check by depositing a check or cash in the Sunday collection. Checks should be made out to St. Matthew Lutheran Church and in the Memo line Include Ethiopian Pastor. Cash should be in an envelope marked Ethiopian Pastor. If you want to send money to the Ethiopian church, the same info applies, just specify Ethiopian Church. If you have any questions, please contact the church Treasurer, John Armstrong.

SOCIAL CONCERNS IS AGAIN GOING TO COLLECT items for St. Vincent DePaul Shelter for Families during the month of December, 2025. A list of items will be in the December bulletins. Thank you, ahead for your support.

BOOK OF THE DEAD

All Saints' Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 2nd. On that day, we remember those who died in the Lord and who now await the sound of the trumpet and the gathering of the faithful before the throne of the Lamb. In the Narthex on the prayer table, you will find a register called "The Book of the Dead". You may enter the name of a loved one or friend who passed away this year. Any name recorded will be remembered on All Saints' Day.

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

Prayer List

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER: Lola Watts, stroke; Pat Siler; Pastor Younger; Pastor Scheidt; Chuck & Laurie Miller; Carol Reagan; Elizabeth Karns-Poole; Tom Lingg; Ron Brock; Bill Yorgen; Paul Woods; Alisa Quinn; Andrew; Marita Gabler; Ezra Gonzalez; Linda Moncel, Jay Popkin, Jim Anderson, Drew Gerig, Bob Brown, Lori C, Sandra Gordon, Betsy Wigger, Herman Shie, Tia Mumma, Candy Kirkwood, Kristina Hulse, Terry Sedlacek, Kathleen Wahala, Karyn Gilbert & Jerry Maziarz. 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. Thanks be to God as Joe Wiehe celebrates his birthday.

Poetry Feature by James Greening

From his collection, *Death Fields & Love Storms*

The Escape

To escape to the world
Whose distance lies,
Not too far beyond
The depths of her eyes.
She is a walking Angel,
With a Heaven that follows,
Making me surrender to her all –
Reasons for Spirit only knows.
And, though her beauty's brightness
Soaks my eyes with awe,
It is the True Her from within that
Makes Her have this alluring draw.
For Reality is not what one sees with the eyes open,
But what is felt by one with the lids shut.
And I feel ... something strong,
Reeking of curiosity, kindness, compassion.
What energy Mysteries embrace,
And I long to find the complete Her.
Answers do not matter, for it is the journey –
One that two have together is the greatest.
I wish to walk with Her much more.
To take new steps together.
Discovering; Learning; Laughing; Embracing;
These all with Her.

Those Celebrating Birthdays in November:

Jill Fischer	November 4
James Greening.	November 10
Mike Conley	November 17
Shaun Stapleton	November 21
Tom Petrock	November 22
Pat Siler	November 22

Those Celebrating Anniversaries in November:

Chris & Rebecca Kincaid	November 18
Mike & Annette Sand	November 21

Preparation for Worship

Our worship service actually begins each Sunday with the Prelude. Google defines a prelude as “an action or event serving as an introduction to something more important.” What follows, of course, is the worship of the living God, where He comes to us with His gifts of Word and Sacrament.

The prelude is not just background music to settle in—it is the beginning of worship. It is a time for us to sit quietly, meditatively, and prayerfully, preparing our hearts and minds to receive all that God desires to give.

Likewise, our service ends with the Postlude. As the dictionaries remind us, a postlude is “something that comes after and serves as a conclusion to what came before.” This, too, is a sacred moment. While the postlude plays, we can pause to reflect on what we have heard and received in worship, and offer thanksgiving to God for His abundant mercy in Christ.

So take these opening and closing moments each week as holy opportunities:

- During the ****Prelude****, reflect on the gracious gifts you are about to receive.
- During the ****Postlude****, rejoice with gratitude for all that God has done for you in Christ.

Both are God-given times for prayer, meditation, and thanksgiving—bookends of grace that help us carry worship into daily life.

“Be still, and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46:10

Special Dates for November 2025

- All Saints’ Day, November 1, 2025
- Daylight saving time ends, November 2, 2025
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2025
- Christ the King Sunday, November 23, 2025
- Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2025
- First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025

Christian Symbol



CIRCLE — The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the One who rules all is the same One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew during Advent.

Remembering the Saints

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter “To all God’s beloved ... who are called to be saints” (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.



The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God’s beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are “called to be saints.”

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints’ Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

A Day to Honor Our Veterans



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country’s service and to offer Americans the opportunity “to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.”

Wanting to recognize more specifically America’s veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).

Bible Quiz

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous

Answer: C (See James 1:17)



November 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Choir, Noon Vestry – 11 am <i>Daylight Savings</i> <i>Time ends</i>	3	4	5 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	6 Al Anon – 10:30 a.m. Set-up for Bazaar, 1 pm	7 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	8 CHURCH BAZAAR 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
9 Stewardship Sunday Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Choir, Noon	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> Yarn Matters, 6 p.m.	12 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	13 Al Anon – 10:30 a.m.	14 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	15
16 Holy Communion Choir, 9 am	17	18	19 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	20 Al Anon – 10:30 a.m. <u>Church Newsletter</u> <u>Articles Due</u>	21 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	22
23 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> Holy Communion Choir, 9 am	24	25	26 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am	27 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	29
30 ADVENT BEGINS Holy Communion Choir, 9 am						

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