

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church

Good News

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
5566 Chambersburg Road
Huber Heights, OH 45424
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FEBRUARY 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Blessed Lenten Season!

Lent is a gracious time in the Church year when we are invited to slow down and turn our hearts toward Jesus. Many Christians use these forty days to focus on prayer, fasting, service to others, forgiveness, and showing mercy—practices that help quiet our minds and open our hearts, all while drawing nearer to God.



On Ash Wednesday, we hear the sober words, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” In those words, we remember the fragility of life, the reality of our personal and shared sin, and our deep need for Jesus—the One who forgives our sin and gives us eternal life.

But Lent is not only about what we confess; it is also about what we receive. It is an invitation from God that calls forth a response—not a response to “choose salvation” or to prove ourselves to God. As Lutherans, we rest in the good news that salvation is God’s work, not ours. Instead,

our response in Lent is the grateful “yes” of hearts overflowing with thanksgiving to Jesus, who went to the cross and rose again to redeem us.

As part of this Lenten journey, we warmly invite you to join us for our midweek Lenten suppers and services.

Each week, we’ll gather for:

- A simple, delicious meal

- Warm fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ
- A brief, participatory worship service

All of this is designed to take about one hour of your midweek—a manageable, meaningful way to step out of the busyness of life and step into God’s presence with your church family.

Whether you have come every year or have never attended before, please consider making these midweek gatherings part of your Lenten rhythm. Come as you are. Bring your burdens, your questions, your hopes. Together, we will walk with Jesus to the cross and rejoice in the hope of His resurrection.

You might enjoy reflecting on how this Lenten season could become a special time of renewal for you and your household, or exploring simple practices (like a short daily prayer or Scripture reading) that tie in with our midweek services.

In Christ,
Pastor Kelly

Comments from the President

Comments from the January 4th Vestry meeting.

Financial Secretary’s Report.

The PNC Bank Statement for the period 29 November through 31 December 2025 and QuickBooks offering deposits for this same period reconcile.

Total General Fund Offering deposits are \$14,090.52. Total deposits for Designated Funds are \$3,816.48 which included \$3,147.00 for Capital Improvements. There were Bill Yorgan and Marliese Driver memorials totaling \$100.00. There was also a Thrivent deposit of \$182.00. Total deposit for the PNC Statement period designated above is \$18,189.00 which includes the last Sunday in November.

The 2026 Offering Envelopes for members were distributed at the end of December, and the Annual Offering Statements for 2025 will be issued mid-January.

Treasurer’s Report.

The following balances were provided.

Memorials:

Jack Wohlman	\$375
Tracy June	\$308
Carol Schroder	\$1,875
Nancy Jamerson	\$500
John Juergenson	\$120

Vicky Fennell	\$50
Marliese Driver	\$30
Bill Yorgen	\$100

Fund Balances:

Ukraine Relief	\$0
Disaster Relief	\$100
Ethiopian Pastor	\$168 (Next check: 1/6/26 for \$668)
Ethiopian Church	\$320 (Next check: 1/6/26)
Hearts for Jesus	\$100
Adopt-A-Student	\$561.94

Total General Fund Income for December:	\$12,065.52
Total General Fund Expenses for December:	\$11,961.34
Net General Fund Income for December:	\$104.18

Pastor's Report:

1. Total
 - a. Services conducted – 6
 - b. Shut-in/hospital – 4
2. Easter early in 2026-(April 5 th) Ash Wednesday February 18 th – Lenten midweek series “Conversations with Jesus”
3. Rebecca and I will be attending The Liturgical Institute at Valparaiso April 13-16th, 2026
4. Right now we are scheduling vacation for the month of June 2026-Pastor Kudart to fill in.
5. I have a wedding for The June family (Megan June) May 16th in New Albany.

Rebecca and I would like to thank the leadership for their continued support, love and encouragement. The financial gift from the congregation for Christmas is greatly appreciated. Thank you! May God continue to bless our entire congregation with a renewed faith and love of service toward one another and those outside our doors.

Board of Elder's Report:

1. No cards were sent in December, for birthdays, anniversaries, and caring.
2. Phone calls/emails to shut-ins – 4 calls
3. Meals on call provided 2 meals. Thank you to those who provided meals.
4. My radiation treatments are complete, and I hope to be back in force this month.

Board of Church Property Report:

Repairs on the east parking lot have been delayed due to low temperatures. When they start, members will be informed and asked to use the west parking lot for a short period of time.

Board of Christian Education:

After many years without a Board of Youth Ministry we would like to gather interested persons from the youth and adults of the congregation to collectively shape the aims and activities of the Board. Begin building a meaningful plan to continue the nurture of spiritual growth, leadership, service, and fellowship of the teens and young adults in the congregation. This is not a one-person job, but the work of a community of supportive people. It will take time to develop a program that is meaningful. If interested, please contact Judy Scheidt or Gary Fischer.

Some goals of the Board:

1. Help youth develop a resilient identity in Christ.
2. Ask youth how they would like to study, serve, play, lead, and share.
3. Liaise with parents. Ideally at least one parent should be on the Board.
4. Build relationships with each other and other members of the congregation.
5. Advocate for the youth and their activities in Vestry and the congregation as a whole.

The Ohio District announced the 2026 Jr. High Gathering will be held March 13-15 at Camp Christian in Marysville, Ohio. If interested please contact Judy Scheidt. Reservations need to be made by 2/16/26.

Social Concerns Report:

Socks and blankets collected were delivered. Thanks to everyone who donated.

Ladies Guild Report:

The Ladies Guild Dime collection in January goes to Daybreak. Daybreak Dayton is a non-profit organization that provides comprehensive services to homeless and at-risk youth (ages 10-24) in the Miami Valley region, aiming to end youth homelessness through emergency shelter, housing programs, employment training and mental health support. Please place your dimes in the collection plate any Sunday during January. If writing a check, make it out to St. Matthews Ladies Guild.

The Church received a thank you letter from Pastor Berhanu at the Ethiopian Church in Columbus. In addition we received a thank you letter from Wesley Williams, a second-year seminary student at Fort Wayne for our financial support of the Seminary's annual Christmas Marketplace where our donation was used to purchase Gift Cards to be given to seminary students. Wesley is married and has 4 children, ages 11 months to 8 years old. Wesley stated the following; "these gift cards are an immense blessing to us, showing that we are where God wants us to be and He will provide for us in this formative season. We have not only received gift cards from you but we know that they have also come with your prayers that the Lord of the harvest would send out laborers into his harvest (Matt 9:38). We are extremely humbled and thankful for your gift."

Other Business:

The Activity Calendar for 2026 was discussed and finalized. A copy is attached and will also be in the 2026 Church Directory when it comes out.

Next Vestry meeting is on February 1st at 11:00 a.m.

Miscellaneous:

I was recently informed that Graceworks Lutheran Services is searching for an individual to join their Board of Directors who is a member of an area LCMS church. The following information was provided to me. If you are interested and would like to learn more about this position, please contact me at 937-272-9282 or by email at: stmatthewluthchurch@gmail.com.

50% +1 of the Directors must be Lutheran, with representation from LCMS. There is one current LCMS Director who is coming off the Board right now.

The following is from a piece provided to the Nominating Committee by the Executive Committee of the Board which provides a quick summary of the skill sets they are looking for in Directors: Skills needed for the Board: Healthcare, Human Resources, Legal, Technology, Bethany resident, Lutheran pastor, Merger/Acquisition, Finance, Marketing/Sales, Compliance, Economic development, entrepreneur, Advocacy and fundraising. In 2026-2027 focus is on legal, LCMS representative, healthcare, and technology. Again, the individual should be a member of a local LCMS church.

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**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: Rebecca Reagan; Pat Siler; Pastor Younger; Pastor Scheidt; Chuck & Laurie Miller; Bruce Raymer; Carol Reagan; Elizabeth Karns-Poole; Tom Lingg; Ron Brock; Paul Woods; Andrew; Marita Gabler; Ezra Gonzalez; Linda Moncel, Jay Popkin, Jim Anderson, Alisa Quinn; Sean Bandelier; Drew Gerig, Bob Brown, Lori C, Sandra Gordon, Herman Shie, Tia Mumma, Candy Kirkwood, Kristina Hulse, Terry Sedlacek, Kathleen

Wahala, Karyn Gilbert, Jerry Maziarz, Lola Watts, Kevin & Marcia Younger, Gene Poast, Kevin Armstrong & Terry Walton. We ask that you be with those who are away serving our country, especially Anthony Chu, 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.

Taste of Loving-Kindness

A Sunday school teacher once asked her class, "What do you think the Bible means when it speaks of loving-kindness?"

A young boy thought for a moment and replied, "Well, if I were hungry and someone gave me a piece of bread with butter on it, that would be kindness. But if they added a spoonful of jam, that would be loving-kindness."



Bible Quiz

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the selfless, sacrificial love that God shows to humanity?

- A. Eros
- B. Phileo
- C. Agape
- D. Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)

Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.

Those Celebrating Birthdays in February:

Ron Brock	Feb. 9
Evan Stacy	Feb. 12
Bill Wise Jr.	Feb. 15
Eleanor Woods.	Feb. 26

Those Celebrating Anniversaries in February:

Ron & Linda Brock	Feb. 21
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Special Dates for February 2026

- Black History Month, February 1-28, 2026
- Groundhog Day, February 2, 2026
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2026
- Presidents Day, February 16, 2026
- Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

The Love God Desires



God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

"Be humble, be at peace, bring the heat high and inside."



Sermon on the Mound

2026

ST. MATTHEW ACTIVITY CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
January 4	Epiphany
January 4	Installation of 2026 Officers.
January 4	Vestry at 11:00 a.m. Planning session for 2026.
January 10	Undecorate the church, 9:00 a.m.
January 11	Baptism of Our Lord.
January 11	Seminary student Jon Pietrowski to visit. Free Will offering will be collected at end of service.
January 17	Community Blood Drive, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
January 25	Transfiguration of Our Lord.
January 31	My Brother's Keeper. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
February 1	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
February 11	Valentine's Day Dinner Out. (6:00 p.m. at TJ Chumps on Executive Blvd.)
February 16	President's Day.
February 18	Ash Wednesday Supper and Service. Supper: 6:00 p.m. (Soup & Salad) Service: 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
February 25	Midweek Lenten Supper and Service. Supper: 6:00 p.m. (German) Service: 6:30 p.m.
March 1	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
March 1	Collect for Hearts for Jesus.
March 4	Midweek Lenten Supper and Service. Supper: 6:00 p.m. (Mexican) Service: 6:30 p.m.
March 8	Daylight Savings time begins.

March 11	Midweek Lenten Supper and Service. Supper: 6:00 p.m. (Italian) Service: 6:30 p.m.
March 14	My Brother's Keeper. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
March 18	Midweek Lenten Supper and Service. Supper: 6:00 p.m. (American) Service: 6:30 p.m.
March 25	Midweek Lenten Supper and Service. Supper: 6:00 p.m. (Soup & Salad) Service: 6:30 p.m.
March 29	Palm Sunday
April 2	Maundy Thursday. Service at 7:00 p.m.
April 3	Good Friday. Service at 7:00 p.m.
April 4	Set up for Easter breakfast, 10:00 a.m.
April 5	Easter. Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. (Ladies Guild) Service: 9:30 a.m.
April 12	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
April 25	My Brother's Keeper. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
May 3	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
May 10.	Ascension.
May 10	Mother's Day.
May 17	Last day of Sunday School.
May 23	Community Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
May 24	Pentecost
May 25	Memorial Day.
May 31	Trinity Sunday
June 3	Wednesday Morning Bible Study ends.
June 7	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
June 14	Flag Day.
June 19	Juneteenth.
June 21	Father's Day.
June 28	Set up Great Hall for VBS after worship service.

July 4	Independence Day.
July 5	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
July 5	Finish setting up for VBS.
July 5 - 9	Vacation Bible School. Supper at 5:30 p.m. VBS at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
August 15	Courtyard Social at 6:30. (Not a meal, bring finger food to share. BYOB. Lawn chairs)
August 23	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
September 6	Fall Picnic/Pot Luck, 11:00 a.m.
September 7	Labor Day.
September 9	Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins, 10:00 a.m. and ends on June 3, 2026.
September 12	Community Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
September 13	Sunday School Begins. 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
September 19	My Brother's Keeper. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
September 20	St. Matthew Day. (9/21/26)
October 4	LWML Sunday.
October 4	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
October 10	Oktoberfest, 5:00 p.m.
October 12	Columbus Day.
October 17	My Brother's Keeper. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
October 24	Set up for Reformation/New Bunch Brunch Pot Luck meal, 10:00 a.m.
October 25	Reformation Sunday. Pot Luck/New Bunch Brunch after worship service.
November 1	All Saints Day.
November 1	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
November 1	Daylight Savings Time ends.
November 8	Stewardship Sunday.
November 11	Veterans Day.
November 12	Bazaar set up at 1:00 p.m.
November 14	Bazaar, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Clean up after 3:00 p.m.)

November 26	Thanksgiving.
November 29	First Sunday in Advent.
December 2	Midweek Advent Supper and Service. Supper: 6:00 p.m. Soup & Salad. Service: 6:30 p.m.
December 5	Decorate the church, 9:00 a.m. to noon.
December 6	Vestry Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
December 9	Midweek Advent Supper and Service. Supper: 6:00 p.m. Soup & Salad. Service: 6:30 p.m.
December 13	Annual Voters Assembly, 11:00 a.m.
December 16	Midweek Advent Service. Carols, Candles, and Cookies, 7:00 p.m. (Bring cookies to share)
December 20	Children's Christmas Service. Followed by Jesus' Birthday Party with cake.
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m. (Bring cookies to share)
December 25	Christmas Day.
January 3, 2027	Installation of Officers.
January 3, 2027	Vestry Meeting, Planning Session. 11:00 a.m.
January 9, 2027	Undecorate the church. 9:00a.m. to noon.

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Choir, 9 a.m. Holy Communion Vestry, 11am Choir, Noon	2	3	4 Bible Coffee, 10:00 am	5 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	6 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	7
8 Choir, 9 a.m. Holy Communion Choir, Noon	9	10 Yarn Matters, 6 pm	11 Bible Coffee, 10:00 am <i>Valentine's Day Dining Out, T. J. Chumps, 6 p.m.</i>	12 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	13 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	14
15 Choir, 9 a.m. Holy Communion Handbells, Noon	16 President's Day	17	18 Bible Coffee, 10:00 am <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Supper: 6 pm (Meal: Soup & Salad) Service: 7 pm	19 Al Anon, 10:30 am	20 A.A., 8:00 p.m. <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u>	21
22 Choir, 9 a.m. Holy Communion Handbells, Noon	23	24 Yarn Matters, 6 pm	25 Bible Coffee, 10:00 am Lent Supper/Worship Service, 6:00/6:30 pm (Meal: German)	26 Al Anon, 10:30 am	27 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	28

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