

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church

Good News

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

MARCH 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

The Journey of Lent

Dear Brothers/Sisters in Christ,

Lent continues through March and leads us to the dramatic climax of Holy Week: Palm/Passion Sunday. That day holds a powerful paradox — the hosannas of Jesus' triumphal entry sit beside the shadow of his cross. Yet even in the seeming defeat of Good Friday, God's victory is revealed: the curtain in the temple was torn "from top to bottom" (Matt. 27:51), and death itself is undone by the life of the Son.

Put your
HOPE
in the LORD,

for with the LORD
is unfailing love
and with
him is full
redemption.

Psalm 130:7, NIV



As we walk toward Easter, hear this promise: the crucifixion is not only sorrow; it is the means of our rescue. It opens for us a new way into God's presence. Baptized and claimed by Christ, we enter that holy space with the Psalmist's song on our lips: "This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter" (Ps. 118:20). In those words, we find comfort — our status before God is not earned but given in grace.

My prayer for you this Lent is simple: May God work in your life to refresh and deepen your faith. Whether you fast, pray, serve, or simply quiet your heart, let these practices draw you nearer to Jesus so that Easter's joy is more fully yours.

Please join us for our midweek Lenten suppers and brief services — one hour of good food, warm fellowship, and gentle worship to strengthen us for the journey.

Blessed journey to you all.

In Christ,
Pastor Kelly

Comments from the President

Comments from the February 8, 2026 Vestry meeting.

Financial Secretary's Report.

The PNC Bank Statement for the period 1 January 2026 through 30 January 2026 and QuickBooks offering deposits for this same period reconcile.

Total General Fund Offering deposits are \$11,085.18.

Total deposits for Designated Funds are \$987.00.

There was also a Thrivent deposit of \$45.00.

Total deposit for the PNC Statement period designated above is \$12,117.18.

The 2025 annual Financial Offering Statements were distributed mid-January.

Treasurer's Report.

Following balances were provided.

Memorials:

- Jack Wohlman \$375
- Tracy June \$308
- Carol Schroder \$1,875
- Nancy Jamerson \$500
- John Juergensen \$120
- Vicky Fennell \$50
- Marliese Driver \$30
- Bill Yorgen \$100

Fund Balances:

- Ukraine Relief \$750
- Disaster Relief \$100
- Ethiopian Pastor \$0
- Ethiopian Church \$40
- Hearts for Jesus \$100
- Adopt-A-Student \$128.94

Total General Fund Income for January: \$11,085.18

Total General Fund Expenses for January: \$11,977.34**

Net General Fund Loss for January \$892.16**

**Not all January expenses included as of the date of this report. In addition, due to worship service being cancelled on January 25 th , income was less than expected.

Pastor's Report.

1. Total -
 - a. Services conducted – 3 (1/18-snow storm, service cancelled)
 - b. Shut-in/hospital – 5
 - c. Counseling sessions - 2

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 16 th in New Albany

Board of Elders Report.

1. 5 greeting cards were sent in January.
2. Phone calls/emails to shut-ins – 4 calls
3. Meals on call provided 2 meals. Thank you to those who provided meals.

Prayers for Bill Wise, who is contending with some health issues. Thank you to those worship assistants who are picking up the slack in the midst of some trying issues.

Board of Church Property Report.

Pergola for the court yard will be ordered.

Board of Christian Education Report.

1. The VBS material has arrived and I will share the teaching, crafts, and games with those who are interested. I hope to meet with interested volunteers some Sunday in Feb., or possibly on a Wednesday evening.
2. I have shared “Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry” with Rebecca and will share it with anyone else who is interested. It is not a formula or pattern but a way to guide the building of an effective Youth Ministry. Alex Lutz is interested in being part of the team working on getting started. The youth and parents as well as any other interested adults are invited to get involved in shaping what the goals and activities of the youth group will be. I hope to get some of those interested to meet Sunday, Feb. 8th during the education hour to share ideas.

3. Alex and Neil Lutz are willing to chaperon attendees at the March Youth Gathering. Registration forms and payment (on a church check) are due Feb. 16 th .

Vice President's Report.

Valentines Dinner Out

At T.J. Chumps. February 11, 6:00 PM

- Private room booked with 20 seats
- Will have games and door prizes
- Signup sheet for anyone wanting to come is in the narthex.

Youth Ministry Leader. Alex and I have interest in participating in the role, and are available for the youth gathering if needed.

Old Business.

Time and Talent Sheets were reviewed. Chairpersons were asked to contact members interested in serving the Church in their area of responsibility.

New Business.

1. The Ohio District 2026 Jr. High Gathering is scheduled for March 13 – 15 at Camp Christian in Marysville, Ohio. 6th , 7th , and 8th grades.
2. Received two more Thank You letters concerning Fort Wayne Seminary's Christmas Market Place program.
 - a. Luke Konkel is a 4 th year sem student. His wife is Jenny and they have a 2 year old son Elijah, and a 2 month old daughter Esther.
 - b. A second letter from Deaconess Katherine Ritter who is the Director of the
3. Food & Clothing Co-op, thanking us for our financial support.

Please be aware of the following Church events.

- February 11th Valentine's Day Dinner out 6 p.m. at T.J. Chumps on Executive Blvd.
- February 16th President's Day.
- February 18th Ash Wednesday Supper and Service.
 - Supper at 6:00 p.m. Soup and Salad.
 - Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- February 25 th Midweek Lenten Supper and Service.
 - Supper at 6:00 p.m. German.
 - Service at 6:30 p.m.
- March 1st Vestry meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- March 1st Collect for Hearts for Jesus to support Lutheran Bible Translators. See LBT.org for more information.

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

Social Concerns

Social Concerns will be collecting items to be donated during the month of March. Each year, RMHC supports over 2,000 families caring for critically ill or injured children. By helping to stock their shelves, you're ensuring families find comfort, care, and everyday essentials they need during their stay in the family rooms, and meals in their communal kitchen. There will be a list of items requested by RMHC in our Narthex (also below). Any questions ask Susan Armstrong or Trish Jordan.

- Walmart gift cards (please hand deliver to Susan Armstrong or Trish Jordan)
- Gallon ziploc freezer bags
- 55-60 gallon trash bags
- Bona floor wipes
- Latex free gloves
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Dove hair conditioner
- Canned tomatoes
- Canned pineapple
- Canned mandarin oranges
- Breakfast bars
- Granola bars
- Individual packets of cereal
- Individual packaged snacks
- Spices: pepper, cinnamon, smoked paprika, chili, cardamom, cumin, turmeric, etc.

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: Bill Wise; 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, Colette Kaye, Jerry Knapper & Missie Armstrong. 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.

Special Dates for March 2026

- World Day of Prayer, March 6, 2026
- Daylight saving time begins, March 8, 2026
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2026
- First day of spring, March 20, 2026
- Holy Week, March 29-April 5, 2026
- Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29, 2026

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
Vickie Fennell	March 16
Judy Scheidt	March 16
Becky Stacy	March 19
Abigale Wiehe	March 22

Those Celebrating Anniversaries in March:

Nathan & Tanya Shaw.	March 20
Al & Lauri Lutz	March 23



Bible Quiz

In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A salt solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5)

We Have Tomorrow!

During the Korean conflict, journalist Marguerite Higgins, a courageous and award-winning war correspondent, spoke with a young soldier shivering in the bitter cold. He was eating from a tin can, his face streaked with mud, when she asked, "If I could give you anything in the world you wanted, what would you ask for?"

The soldier paused for a moment, then answered quietly, "Give me tomorrow."

What a simple yet profound longing. For those living in hardship, tomorrow represents hope—the chance to see another sunrise, to experience peace, to begin again.

As Christians, we live with the blessed assurance that we not only have today, but also tomorrow—an eternal tomorrow promised through the risen Christ. Scripture reminds us, "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54, NRSV). And again, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

Because of Christ's resurrection, we no longer fear what tomorrow may bring. Our future is secure, our hope unshaken. In Him, tomorrow is already ours.

Faith That Blooms Anew



"Why are you anxious?" asked our Lord. Then He said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Matthew 6:28–29, NIV)

Jesus' words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives.

People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter's gray. God's reliability is woven into creation itself.

As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote: God does not send
strange flowers every year, When the Spring wind blows o'er
the pleasant places, The same dear things lift up the same fair faces, The violet is here.

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.

The King No One Expected



Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That’s exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn’t deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, “I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, “Here is your king.” The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, “We have no king but Caesar!”

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared: “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. “What I have written, I have written,” he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.” And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth: “The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.” — Revelation 17:14



March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Vestry – 11 am Choir, Noon **Hearts	2	3	4 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am Lent Supper/Worship Service, 6:00/6:30 pm (Meal: Mexican)	5 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	6 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	7
8 Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Choir, Noon <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> **Hearts	9	10 Yarn Matters, 6 pm	11 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am Lent Supper/Worship Service, 6:00/6:30 pm (Meal: Italian)	12 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	13 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	14 My Brother's Keeper, 8 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
15 Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Handbells, Noon **Hearts	16	17	18 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am Lent Supper/Worship Service, 6:00/6:30 pm (Meal: American)	19 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	20 A.A., 8:00 p.m. <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u>	21
22 Holy Communion Choir, 9 am Handbells, Noon	23	24 Yarn Matters, 6 pm	25 Bible Coffee – 10:00 am Lent Supper/Worship Service, 6:00/6:30 pm (Meal: Soup & Salad)	26 Al Anon, 10:30 a.m.	27 A.A., 8:00 p.m.	28
29 PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion Choir, 9 am	30	31				

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****Hearts for Jesus Collection for Lutheran Bible Translators**