St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church

Good News

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

DECEMBER 2026
From the Pastor's Desk

Blessed Advent!
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As Advent begins, we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ—the promised Savior who came among us as a humble infant. I pray this season brings you moments of faith, hope, love, and joy amid the busyness of daily life.

May Advent also be a time to remember the gifts God has given you: above all, His grace in Jesus Christ and the promise He made you in Holy Baptism, calling you His beloved child.



We warmly invite you to join us for our Sunday Advent services and our Christmas Eve candlelight and Holy Communion service. Gathered as one body in Christ, we will hear God's promises, sing His praise, and rejoice in Jesus, our Servant King, who came to serve and save us.

Our midweek Advent services begin December 2.
On December 9, Pastor Berhanu and his family will share with us about the ministry of Ebenezer Ethiopian Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio. This is the congregation and pastor we have supported over the past year and will continue to support into 2027. We look forward to hearing about their ministry and the ways God is at work among immigrant communities through His Word and grace.

Then, on December 16, please join us for our annual Cookies & Carols, hosted by Pastor and Jan Younger. We look forward to sharing this joyful time together.

May the Lord bless you and your families throughout Advent, and fill your hearts with the peace and hope of Christ.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Kelly

Comments from the President

Comments from the November 1, 2026 Vestry meeting.

Minutes from the October 4, 2026 Vestry meeting were reviewed and accepted.

The following reports were provided.

Financial Secretary.
The PNC Bank Statement for the period 1 October through 30 October 2026 and QuickBooks offering deposits for this same period reconcile to $ 18,413.34.
Total General Fund Offering deposits are $ 14,365.00. Total deposits for Designated Funds are $ 3,861.34. There was a Carol Reagan Memorial donation of $ 100.00. There was also a Thrivent deposit of $87.00. Total deposits for the PNC Statement period designated above total $18,413.34.

Third Quarter Financial Statement Offerings for the 9 months ending 30 September 2026 were issued mid October.

Treasurer.

Checking/Savings – As of October 31, 2026	
Joseph Fund (CD)	$70,000
LCEF Steward Account/All Access	$248,137.24 (Interest – $551.98)
PNC Checking	$72,251.96

Designated Funds	
Capital Improvements	$7,167.34
Music Fund	$1,683.38
Thrivent	$1,451.43
Youth Activities	$555.86
VBS	$288.76

Memorials	
Nancy Jamerson	$500
Carol Reagan	$595 (Designated for Choir)
Ukraine Relief	$500 ($850 sent 10/13/2026)
Disaster Relief	$0 ($500 sent 10/13/2026)

Ethiopian Pastor $144 ($1,120 sent 10/13/2026)
Ethiopian Church $0 ($1,020 sent 10/23/2026)

Hearts for Jesus 0

Seminary Adopt-a-Student $1,063.27 ($500 sent 10/07/2026)

Total General Fund Income for October: $14,365
Total General Fund Expenses for October: $10,096.72
Net General Fund Income for September: + $4,268.28

Note: Large Utilities bills - $493.02 (Electric and Gas)

Pastor.
Report is for the months of September and October 2026.

1. Total
    a. Services conducted – 6
    b. Hospital visits – 1
    c. Home visits - 2
2. Advent midweek services begin Dec. 2nd, Pastor Berhanu is here December 9th.
3. Pastor Younger & Jan will do Cookies & Carols again this year on December 16th
4. I am out November 15th on vacation – Pastor Karl is scheduled to pulpit fill.

Board of Elders.

1. 5 greeting cards were sent in October.
2. Meals on Call provided 6 meals. Thank you to those who provided meals.

Thank you as always, to the faithful group of Worship Assistants at St. Matthew.

Board of Church Property.
A clogged down spout on the east side of the building was cleared. A plastic bottle was removed. More work will be done by the new walkway by the east parking lot. We have been waiting for the contractors to finish a large job.
Some trees and limbs were removed in the back of the church's property. Thanks to Richard Jordan for taking care of this while Ron was on vacation.

Board of Christian Education.
Plans for the Children's Christmas Service, to be held on December 20th, are coming together. Complete details will be announced soon.

Outreach.
Normal website updates were made in addition to Facebook updates and advertising for the bazaar. Additional bazaar advertising will continue until the event is over. Advent services will also be promoted on Facebook.

Ladies Guild.
All vendor tables for the bazaar have been reserved.
We still need volunteers to help at the checkout table. Please see Alicia Driver or Susan Armstrong.

New Business.
The Treasurer presented the 2027 budget. Some discussion followed and the budget was approved.

Pastor Berhanu, from the Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbus, and his family will attend our Advent Service on December 9th. A freewill offering (cash only please) will be collected after worship service on December 6th and at the Advent Service on December 9th.

The Annual Voter's Assembly is on Dec.13th. The 2027 budget and slate of officers will be presented for their approval. All Chairpersons will present a "Year in Review" report.

Thrivent's Giving Tuesday is December 1, 2026. Material provided by Thrivent is on the table in the narthex.

Miscellaneous.
If you have not completed and returned your Time and Talent Worksheet, please do so. If you have questions about any of the committees or duties please contact me.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Bazaar. It was just announced that Ladies Guild made over $3,800. Congratulations ladies.

Please review the calendar for December and plan to attend the various church functions.

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

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 again this year is collecting new underwear and socks for women 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 boxes 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 IS TO BRING ONE ITEM. That small gift will mean a lot to someone in need.

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: Ann Monaghan; Richard Jordan; Eleanor Woods; Bill Wise; Pastor Younger; Pastor Scheidt; Chuck & Laurie Miller; Bruce Raymer; Elizabeth Karns-Poole; Tom Lingg; Ron Brock; Paul Woods; Patricia Adkins; Fred Tschirner; Andrew; Ezra Gonzalez; Linda Moncel, Jay Popkin, Jim Anderson, Alisa Quinn; Sean Bandelier; Drew Gerig, Bob Brown, Sandra Gordon, Kathleen Wahala; Herman Shie; Tia Mumma, Kristina Hulse, Terry Sedlacek, Karyn Gilbert, Jerry & Gretchen Maziarz, Kathleen Gilbert & family; Kevin Younger, Gene Poast, Diane Linder, Joe DiGiorgio, James Greening, Sharon Stacy, Alison Witte & Freddie Hansel. 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 to God as Tom Petrock celebrates his birthday.

Special Dates for December 2026

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2026
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2026
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2026
- First Day of Winter, December 21, 2026
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2026
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2026
- New Year's Eve, December 31, 2026

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

Christian Symbol



HOLLY—With its glossy green leaves and bright red berries, holly is a familiar Christmas decoration rich in Christian symbolism. Its prickly leaves recall Jesus' crown of thorns, while its berries represent the blood He shed. Its evergreen foliage reminds us of eternal life through Him.

Though old legends connect holly with Christ's footsteps and cross, these stories are folklore rather than Scripture. At Christmas, holly reminds us that the child born in Bethlehem came to bring salvation, hope and everlasting life.

A Child Is Born

Let us go to Bethlehem today, joining the wondering shepherds and adoring Magi as they behold the One born King of the Jews. By faith, we too may rejoice and proclaim, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."



Let us reverently bow before the holy Child, whose innocence restores humanity to its ancient glory, and pray that Christ may be formed within us.
—Adapted from C. H. Spurgeon, Morning and Evening



December **2026**

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

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