The Lutheran Beacon

January 2021 | Monthly Newsletter of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

A Message from the Pastor

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight…
from *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

I know, I know. I usually start these things off with a Scripture reference, and quoting song lyrics doesn't carry the same authority or gravitas. But bear with me. Like so many others, I have long-loved this particular line. While not itself a line from Scripture, it captures the Scriptural story well. *All* the hopes and *all* the fears of the human race, from the moment we were formed from the dust, until the coming day when all things are created anew, find their answer in Christ. They find their answer in Christ, who became one of us. In the one who was born on Christmas Day.

That in Him is the answer to *all* human hopes and fears is progressively revealed to us on the Sundays of the Epiphany Season, which begins this month (Jan. 6); and the critical moment of His fulfilling these hopes and fears happens in Easter. But it all begins with Christmas. And this line captures its beginning well.

All the hopes and all the fears of the human race find their answer in Christ. Not just the hopes and fears that preceded His birth, or that immediately followed after His ascension. Every hope and fear that any member of the human race has is answered in Him. And that includes the hopes and fears of 2021. Everything we hope this year will be, everything we fear it might become, all of it is answered in Him.

Only God knows what 2021 will bring us. But *we* know who this God is. We know what He has done and what He promises to do. And we know that every joy we receive and every difficulty we endure this year will take its ultimate significance from the redemption we have in Him.

Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 5
Women's Group Meeting

Jan. 12
Prayer Meeting
Red Cross Blood Drive

Jan. 19
Church Council Meeting

Jan. 21
Worship & Music Cmte. Mtg.

Early Worship Service Resumes

Both the 8:30am and 10:15am Sunday worship services are now being conducted. The early service will not be held in the chapel, as it was previously, but will be held in the sanctuary. This will make it easier to social distance. Remember that our 10:15am service is also live-streamed on Facebook and broadcast on the radio.

VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY

Date	Acolytes	Altar Flowers	Greeters	Communion
Jan. 3	Not reported	Women's Group	None at this time	None at this time
Jan. 10		OPEN		
Jan. 17		OPEN		
Jan. 24		Becky Starner		
Jan. 31		OPEN		

Altar Care: Carl and Nancy Thomas **Lay Reader:** 8:30am-NEEDED/10:15am NEEDED

NALC Disaster Response Update

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Auburn, CA, and the congregations of the Central Pacific Mission District, with the support of NALC Disaster Response, are responding to the California wildfires. Berry Creek is a small community which lost every home and business in October. Beginning with prayers and emergency relief supplies, NALC congregations reached out and have delivered one box truck load and lots of carloads of supplies to area residents living in tents on their properties.

January Sunday Readings

Worship Service Readings for this month

Jan. 3: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 24; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12
Jan. 10: Joshua 3:1-17; Psalm 85; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Matt. 3:13-17
Jan. 17: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 67; Eph. 5:22-33; John 2:1-11
Jan. 24: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-13
Jan. 31: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95:1-9; 1 Cor. 9:24-10:5; Matt. 20:1-16

2021 Altar Guild Schedule

Thanks to all of you for serving on Altar Care. Your help is greatly appreciated. If any changes are needed, contact Debbie in the office, (740) 385-2272, or Linda Tatman, (740) 385-5038.

January	Nancy and Carl Thomas	**July**	Linda and Jerry Tatman
February	Linda and Jerry Tatman	**August**	Marilyn Stewart and Nancy Thomas
March	Fran Funk	**September**	Joyce Boyer and Nancy Thomas
April	Lorie Ellinger and Marilyn Stewart	**October**	Dave and Jean Libben
May	Becky Webb and Fran Funk	**November**	Sarah Gwinn and Becky Starner
June	Nancy and Carl Thomas	**December**	Nancy Collins and Marilyn Stewart

Women's Group News

Submitted by Linda Tatman

THIS IS OUR PURPOSE! As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society, and the world.

The Women of St. Matthew met on Dec. 1, with 10 women in attendance. Pastor Scott led prayer and Bible study on Genesis, chapter 28. Bible study for the Jan. 5 meeting will be Genesis, chapters 29 and 30.

The group prepared and delivered Thanksgiving meals to 14 shut-ins. Plans were discussed to do meals for shut-ins for Christmas, and gift bags will be put together for shut-ins in January. After the meeting, the women enjoyed a boxed lunch. Joining them for lunch were: Pastor Scott and family, Carl Thomas, Jim Kalklosch, and Jerry Tatman.

Our next meeting will be Jan. 5, at 10am. Please join us for Bible study and fellowship.

OUTREACH—On Dec. 9, Marilyn Stewart, Nancy Thomas, Linda and Jerry Tatman took a road trip to the NALC Disaster Warehouse in Caldwell, Ohio. With the congregation and Thrivent Action Team funding, they delivered 65 COMPLETED HEALTH CARE KITS, each containing a bath towel, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, dental floss, deodorant, and 2 bars of soap, all packed in a Ziploc bag. Also delivered were 121 BIBLES AND 22 NEW TESTAMENTS, including 1 Portuguese, 1 Chinese, 1 Russian, and 1 Japanese translation.

They visited with Mary Bates' husband, Ken, and talked about needs and future projects. Immediate needs are $25 and $50 gift cards for Home Depot, Lowes, Walmart, and Target. Future plans are the building of "Bunk House Trailers" for workers in the disaster fields. They will need 4 18'-20' enclosed trailers, in which they will build 8 bunk beds to house workers in the disaster fields. This is in the planning process. When we have more details and needs, we will let everyone know.

If you would like to give to the NALC Disaster Response Fund, you can get gift cards and give them to our Outreach Committee—Marilyn, Nancy, Joyce, Christy, or Linda. You can also make monetary donations through your church offerings, marking them "DISASTER RESPONSE."

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP—THE NEED IS GREAT.

Remember in prayer...

Patty Anderson, Sam Bensonhaver, Kathy Bibby, Jennifer Brown, Kelsey Brown, Jerry & Myrna Gabriel, Janice Hartley, Angie Land, Jim Monk, Larry Monroe, Michael Richard, Debbie Scaparrotti, Michele Scaparrotti, John Seacrest, Barb Tatman, Linda Tatman, and Haley Westfall.

Also, remember those in military service, especially Andy Duus, Annie Funk, Dustin Garner, Luke High, Katie Landers, Caleb Matheny, Clay Morgan, and Clay Risch.

Birthdays

Jan. 3	Nancy Monk
Jan. 5	Janice Hartley
Jan. 8	Carl Thomas
	Debbie Keller
Jan. 9	Charles Keller
Jan. 15	Catherine Smith
Jan. 16	Phyllis Koska
	Cory Inboden
Jan. 28	John Gwinn
	Isaac Gwinn
	Megan Gwinn
Jan. 29	Crystal Kerns
Jan. 31	Randy Hopstetter

Altar Guild

Submitted by Linda Tatman

"Members of the Altar Guild are ministers of God's people, as well as ministers of God!"

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
The third part of the Time of Christmas is the season of EPIPHANY. The Epiphany of Our Lord falls on Jan. 6 and commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Like Christmas, this season begins on the eve of the feast, that is, the evening of Jan. 5.

The manifestation theme continues on the First Sunday (Jan. 10) after the Epiphany, which celebrates the Baptism of our Lord, when the voice of heaven revealed Him as "My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). The Sundays after the Epiphany continue to illustrate the manifestation of God in Christ Jesus. The Epiphany season culminates in the Festival of the Transfiguration of Our Lord (Jan. 24), when Jesus revealed His divine glory to the inner circle of His disciples. The Word of the Epiphany season continues to bring joy and awe to the faithful of the Church today.

Like Christmas, the color of Epiphany is white, the color of divinity, purity, and joy. White paraments are used until after Epiphany when they are changed to green, since these Sundays, until the Eve of the Transfiguration, are considered to be "ordinary time." For the Festival of the Transfiguration (Jan. 24) the paraments are again changed to white.

The 2021 Altar Guild schedule can be found on page 2.

There will be NO Altar Guild meeting in January. If you have any questions, call Nancy Thomas (740-385-4283), Marilyn Stewart (740-385-3939), or Pastor Scott (740-603-2150.)

Newsletter Submissions

Have news you want to share with the congregation? The deadline for the February edition of The Lutheran Beacon will be Monday, Jan. 18. Submissions may be sent to Angie Boelk at boelks94@gmail.com, or call (740) 380-9735. Submissions may also be given to Debbie Klinebriel in the church office. Thank you!

Sunday Services

No Sunday School due to the pandemic

8:30 am	Early Worship Service
10:15 am	Worship Service

Our worship service is broadcast weekly on 98.3 FM in Logan, Ohio

Newsletter Submissions: Angie Boelk - boelks94@gmail.com, (740) 380-9735

Contact Information

Church Office (740) 385-2272
Office email: stmatthewnalc@gmail.com
Office hours: 1 - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday

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Website: www.stmatthewlogan.org

January 2021

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
(740) 385-2272
stmatthewnalc@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 **Happy New Year!** *Church office closed*	2
3 Confirmation Class 9:15am	4	5 Women's Group Meeting 10am	6 Bible Study 11am Afternoon Devotions 3pm (live stream) Bible Study 7pm	7	8	9
10 Confirmation Class 9:15am Christian Boot Camp 7pm	11	12 Red Cross Blood Drive 11am-5pm Prayer Meeting 4:30pm	13 Bible Study 11am Afternoon Devotions 3pm (live stream) Bible Study 7pm	14	15	16
17 Confirmation Class 9:15am Christian Boot Camp 7pm	18 Deadline for February Beacon	19 Church Council 7pm	20 Bible Study 11am Afternoon Devotions 3pm (live stream) Bible Study 7pm	21 Worship & Music Committee 3pm	22	23
24 Confirmation Class 9:15am Christian Boot Camp 7pm	25	26	27 Bible Study 11am Afternoon Devotions 3pm (live stream) Bible Study 7pm	28	29	30
31 Confirmation Class 9:15am Christian Boot Camp 7pm						

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
258 East Hunter Street
Logan, Ohio 43138

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Logan, Ohio

January 2021

We, St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Logan, Ohio, as followers of Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit, celebrate the gift of God's Grace. We reach out and welcome everyone to join us in sharing God's Love.