



THE WORD

January 2018

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
700 Pleasure Road, Lancaster PA 17601
(717) 394-9607 www.stmatthewelc.com

Pastor Robin Fero

Happy New Year!

My prayer is that you and your friends, families, and neighbors have been touched by the birth of the new born Savior and Lord. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us is how St. John describes the incarnation of Jesus Christ, which we celebrated at the end of December.

St. Mark doesn't go into much more detail describing the entrance of God into our physical world, in the form of a bouncing baby boy named Jesus. I heard one theologian recently describe this as "God grew skin".

In this liturgical Year B, St. John and St. Mark will continue to show us ways in which God entered the world, walked and talked with us, grew in knowledge and grace with us, cried with us, laughed(?) with us (yes, I believe Jesus at times had a great sense of humor), and faced life and sickness and death issues face-to-face with us.

The Savior dwells among us. We were given hope in the Advent season, that God would come and make a difference. There was imagery of the heavens opening—of God splitting open the sky. And indeed, God broke through the barriers, and touched us.

Simeon recognized this in the second chapter of Luke, our text for the first week of Christmas. "...my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples..."

As we continue in the Gospel of Mark this year, we will witness the demons recognizing the deity of Jesus as well. Jesus is right there in the middle of the same struggles that you and I face in this world. Jesus is right there, experiencing power struggle, evil, sin, injustice, pain, and death. Jesus is there. Not far removed from us. Not just using prophetic agents to do his work, but being there with us, in the flesh. Jesus is there to save us, as Simeon witnessed in the temple.

Grace and Peace and blessed HOPE to you as we walk together as the body of Christ in this new year. May we be renewed as we continue to find ways in which God is with us

Pastor Fero

Year-end Treasurer's Report

Our financial results for 2017 were much better than expected.

Our income exceeded our expenses. During 2017, we made substantial unbudgeted financial gifts to our sister congregation in Tanzania and to the ELCA's disaster response program. The amount of money we are holding in our special restricted funds (Samaritan, Social Ministry, Fellowship, Property Improvement, Church Vocation ...) also increased over the year. The amount of money we hold in reserve overall increased over \$4000.

Thanks be to God! *John Volk, Treasurer*

Property Committee Report

Work continues with projects on the work list for property committee. David and I have been looking at different projects that need attention, some are at the top of the list, some can be put off for a while.

The most important one is the lighting outside the red doors. Now that darkness arrives earlier there is a need for better lighting in front of the church from the red doors and beyond to the cars parked along the curb. Our discussions have had some fruitful results. Our first thought was to have an electrician install a timer at the switch for the outside lights that would turn the existing lights on at dusk and off at midnight. Another idea is to install a socket with a light sensor into the existing fixture and then put in LED light bulbs. Which would be more economical? Our thoughts are is to go with latter, since we can do this ourselves.

Another project we looked at is the broken garbage disposal unit in the kitchen. We had a professional plumber give us an assessment of the existing unit. His opinion was that it would be too costly to try to repair it and that it was also obsolete. The plumber suggested that we purchase a good residential unit and he would install it. We will discuss going ahead with this project at the next Council meeting

Other projects are being monitored and addressed when time and manpower is available. *Ray Shaub, Property*

St. Matthew Seniors

We are on hiatus for January but are back February 6th at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall for a movie, tentatively, *God Isn't Dead, Part 3*, if it is released in time for our showing.

We'll keep you up-to-date as the date draws closer. *Kay Gontner*

Lutheran Disaster Response

Pastor Beard is having a meeting on Sunday, January 14th at 2pm in the Community Room at Luther Acres to discuss where the team will go this year. Opportunity for a great mission trip! *Brenda Stauffer*

Social Ministry

Thank you for your donations of 38 (Wow!) winter coats for Lydia's Closet

Quilting Workshops in 2018:

The 3rd Saturday of every month from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19
June 16, July 21, August 18, and September 15

Everyone is welcome. Mark your calendars and join us as often as you can. Come and see what is being created in Fellowship Hall. It's always a "happening" place. Stay for any amount of the time. We would love to have you join us.

Almost all of our materials come from the donations of our generous members, so we are always in need of volunteers, material, thread, or a monetary donation to help with the cost of our supplies.

Thank you in advance for helping in any way that you can. St Matthew is always very proud of the number of quilts that we are able to donate to those in need. If

you have any questions, contact me. *Sheila Charles* (717-471-2013).

Community Meal for January 15th:

- Tossed Salad
- Turkey Tetrazzini
- Mixed Vegetables
- Dessert

Helping hands to prepare the meal are needed! We will begin at 9 am at church. *Barb Elsen*

Thank you!

Thank you, St. Matthew family, for opening your welcoming arms to Jeff and me during this last year.

And thank you for your generous Christmas gift. We look forward to this coming year, especially as we become full residents of Lancaster county.

Peace and Hope to you! *Pastor Fero*

I want to extend my heartfelt thank you to the St. Matthew congregation for the very kind Christmas gift to me. May the light of Christmas shine this year for the World to see and bring peace and happiness to all.

Peace, Love, and Joy, *Nancy Maurer*

Evangelism

The Advent Craft Workshop was a big hit – over 20 people attended! Thanks to Mary Miller for planning the great crafts and to Nancy Maurer for the delicious food.



Watch for more craft workshops over the year!

We have begun to collect names of members who either need or can offer transportation either to church or for appointments. Sylvia Beam has agreed to receive the calls and to make the matches. Thanks to all who have replied. If you can help or need help, please contact Sylvia Beam or Arlene Volk.

Starting in January we will be sponsoring a neighborhood book club (meeting on the fourth Tuesday from 2 to 4 pm). At the first meeting on January 24th, each person is asked to bring 3 proposed books to read this year. We can then vote and one book from each person's list will be selected.



I invite all people who are interested in helping us get it going to come to the coffee hour after church on January 7th so we can coordinate publicity and decide on the meeting format. *Arlene Volk*

Fellowship

High Tea at St. Matthew, Sunday, February 4 at 11:30. Mark your calendar now for a time of food, fellowship and fun. Look forward to tea, sandwiches and desserts! Talk to Mary Miller to volunteer.

Mary Miller is again collecting and recycling Christmas cards to make gift tags for next year. Please put them in the box in the hallway near the mailboxes. Thank you!

Worship

A Note of Thanks

"Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way for your only Son."

Thank you to the Worship Committee and our St. Matthew friends for their faithfulness in preparing our church for the birth of Christ *We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28)* .

Also thank you to all who participated in our fun caroling event at Signature Senior Living.

Helpers are needed to un-decorate the church on Saturday January 6th at 9:30 am. *Nancy Maurer*

January Office Hours

Please call Pastor Fero at (717) 394-9607 to make appointments for office visits as well as for inquiries and requests for assistance.

Birthdays

Shane Zimmerman 1/5	Chet Gontner 1/8
Terry Tice 1/8	Sarah Jordan 1/9
Judith Birunas 1/10	Betty Sheaffer 1/13
Derrick Hall 1/16	Ginny Zimmerman 1/16
	Lucinda Zimmerman 1/23

Anniversaries

Peggy & Tom Atkins 1/26	Linda & Terry Tice 1/27
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January 2018

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 31 - Jan 6	<p>Dec 31 New Year's Eve</p> <p>9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>4:00 PM Moment of God Worship*</p>	<p>Jan 1 New Year's Day</p>	<p>Jan 2</p> <p>8:30 AM Bridge Buddies* 6:30 PM Mutual Ministry Mtg.</p> <p>6:30 PM Lydia's Closet Prep</p> <p>7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p>	<p>Jan 3</p> <p>10:00 AM Coffee & Conversation with the Pastor at S Clyde Weaver Bible</p> <p>6:30 PM Manheim Twp. Democratic Committee*</p>	<p>Jan 4</p> <p>7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Jan 5</p>	<p>Jan 6</p> <p>9:00 AM Lydia's Closet Distribution</p> <p>9:30 AM undecorate church</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p> <p>6:00 PM Dinner at Neptune Diner</p>
Jan 7 - Jan 13	<p>Jan 7</p> <p>Council Installation</p> <p>9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>11:30 AM Book Club Info Meeting</p> <p>11:30 AM Finance</p> <p>4:00 PM Moment of God Worship*</p>	<p>Jan 8</p>	<p>Jan 9</p> <p>8:30 AM Bridge Buddies* 7:00 PM Church Council</p> <p>7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p>	<p>Jan 10</p> <p>10:00 AM Coffee & Conversation with the Pastor at S Clyde Weaver Bible</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bag & Bible</p>	<p>Jan 11</p> <p>12:00 PM Koffee Klatch</p> <p>7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Jan 12</p>	<p>Jan 13</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
Jan 14 - Jan 20	<p>Jan 14</p> <p>9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>2:00 PM Disaster Response Info Meeting at Luther Acres</p> <p>4:00 PM Moment of God Worship*</p>	<p>Jan 15</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <p>5:00 PM Community Meal</p>	<p>Jan 16</p> <p>8:30 AM Bridge Buddies* 7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p>	<p>Jan 17</p> <p>10:00 AM Coffee & Conversation with the Pastor at S Clyde Weaver Bible</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bag & Bible</p>	<p>Jan 18</p> <p>7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Jan 19</p>	<p>Jan 20</p> <p>1:00 PM Quilting</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
Jan 21 - Jan 27	<p>Jan 21</p> <p>9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>11:30 AM Evangelism</p> <p>4:00 PM Moment of God Worship*</p>	<p>Jan 22</p>	<p>Jan 23</p> <p>8:30 AM Bridge Buddies* 2:00 PM Book Club</p> <p>7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p>	<p>Jan 24</p> <p>10:00 AM Coffee & Conversation with the Pastor at S Clyde Weaver Bible</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bag & Bible</p>	<p>Jan 25</p> <p>7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Jan 26</p>	<p>Jan 27</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
Jan 28 - Feb 3	<p>Jan 28</p> <p>9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10:00 AM WORSHIP</p> <p>4:00 PM Moment of God Worship*</p>	<p>Jan 29</p>	<p>Jan 30</p> <p>8:30 AM Bridge Buddies* 7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p>	<p>Jan 31</p> <p>10:00 AM Coffee & Conversation with the Pastor at S Clyde Weaver Bible</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bag & Bible</p>	<p>Feb 1</p> <p>7:00 PM Moment of God Bible Study*</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Feb 2</p>	<p>Feb 3</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>

* non-St Matthew event

Worship Schedule

January Altar Care: Kay Gontner & Barb Elsen

January 7th Baptism of Our Lord

CMIC: George Resch	
Greeters: Bernie Sheetz	Genesis 1:1-5
Ushers: John Volk	Psalms 29
Reader: Barb Elsen	Acts 19:1-7
Assisting Minister: Arlene Volk	Mark 1:4-11
Counters: Linda Tice and Brad Charles	

January 14th Second Sunday After Epiphany

CMIC : Peggy Atkins	
Greeter: Peggy Atkins	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Ushers: Ray and Lunda Shaub	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
Reader: Janet Baker	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Assisting Minister: Bradley Charles	John 1:43-51
Counters: Barb Elsen and Brenda Stauffer	

January 21st Third Sunday after Epiphany

CMIC: Brenda Stauffer	
Greeter: Florence Meily	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Ushers: John and Arlene Volk	Psalms 62:5-12
Reader: Peg Sampson	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Assisting Minister: Linda McIntyre	Mark 1:14-20
Counters: Wayne McKinley and Rick Regar	

January 28th Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

CMIC: Phyllis Wright	
Greeter: Judy Miller	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Ushers: Shep and Pat Smith	Psalms 111
Reader: Linda Tice	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Assisting Minister: Barb Elsen	Mark 1:21-28
Counters: Barb Elsen and Lois Stauffer	

February 4th Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

CMIC: Barb Elsen	
Greeter: Florence Meily	Isaiah 40:21-31
Ushers: Ray and Lunda Shaub	Psalms 147:1-11, 20c
Reader: Arlene Volk	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Assisting Minister: Barb Emmerich	Mark 1:29-39
Counters: Carol Rothweiler and Linda Tice	

Church Staff

The Rev. Robin Fero , Pastor

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Council

Brenda Stauffer George Resh Barbara Elsen

Peggy Atkins Jen Piersol Ray Shaub

Patricia Smith Arlene Volk

Phyllis Wright Pastor Fero

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(Return Service Requested)