



Partners in Ministry

According to the standard regulations governing pastors' clichéd newsletter articles, the calendar tells me I should offer several paragraphs on thankfulness. The resulting article should say all the same things about thankfulness that you have heard 1,000 times before. So let me cut to the chase: as Christians, we are generally in favor of thankfulness. In fact, if you cultivate the habit of being grateful for blessings instead of indulging in complaints about what's wrong you will be a happier person. Moreover, by focusing on what you can be thankful for in every day and in every circumstance, you may well get a deeper sense of God's goodness and love for you. You might even become a better disciple of Christ.

Whew! I'm glad I took care of that item on my to do list.

Make appropriate noises about thankfulness in November newsletter.

Having said what I must, let me say what I really want to express: I am truly thankful for the welcome and love that Sandy and I have felt from St. Matthew's church. We felt that love keenly on October 14th when you called me to serve as your pastor and welcomed us both, not as guests, but as members of the family.

On the one hand, nothing has changed. We have been worshiping, working and witnessing together since I arrived a year ago. Our relationships have been established and we have grown in love and trust for one another. No matter how hard we have all tried to be on our best behavior, over the last year we have also observed moments of human frailty in one another. We know each other – the good, the bad and the indifferent.

On the other hand, we have entered into a totally new relationship. Couples who are courting don't change their feelings after they say 'I do,' but marriage changes their relationship. That's what is happening to us too. We have affirmed that we don't intend our relationship to be transitory and provisional, but committed. We have not merely struck a contract, but we have entered into a covenant. In a covenant, the parties who enter into it pledge themselves to the relationship. It is more than contractual promises of "I'll give you this if you give me that." It is a bond that holds even when there is (inevitable) sin and disappointment. It is a relationship like that which God has with us – love that will not let go.

Our commitment to each other (which we will enact liturgically in the service of installation) is the foundation upon which we will build our shared ministry. This covenantal commitment is the starting point from which we can grow our church spiritually, numerically and financially. We are mutually committed to this calling.

You didn't just call me. God called us. I'm truly thankful to share this high calling with you.

See you in church!

-Pastor Lynn

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for worship on
Sunday,
November 4

November

Sunday's Participants



Altar Guild

November: Tammy Kruszka

Lay Readers

11/4 Joyce Corlett
 11/11 Bob Velazquez
 11/18 Doug Stormer
 11/25 Karen Cuddihy

Ushers

Team 2
 David/Pamela Kaznica
 Bill Hamm
 Perry Kaupa
 Steve Jankowski
 Chris Goetz

Greeters & Coffee Hour

Hosts

11/4 Dawn Goetz
 11/11 Bob Velazquez
 11/18 Michelle Kemp,
 Steve Jankowski
 11/25 No coffee hour

Thank you to the Council for being Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts for October. And thank you to Mission Committee for November.

If you would like to be a host, please contact me.

-LaDonna Painter
 (715-7310)



After Sunday services, don't forget to go downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for coffee, conversation and confections.



Our Search for a New Pastor is Over

If you haven't heard yet...we officially have a new pastor! With much enthusiasm (and unanimous vote by members), Rev. Lynn Morgan is our new spiritual leader!! We will be celebrating and having a formal installation in January.

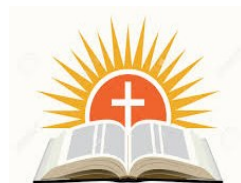
Glad you're with us, Pastor Lynn and Sandy!

Sunday Worship at both St. Matthew's & Delaine Waring AME* on November 11

Sunday, November 11, Pastor Lynn preaches at the Delaine Waring AME Church, the original St. Matthew's church. You are invited to share in worship with our sisters and brothers at Delaine Waring. Worship is at 10 AM.

We will also have our regular services of worship and Christian education here at St. Matthew's on that Sunday day. Dave Burger will be preaching.

We also ask that those attending remember that any offerings you give at Delaine Waring will go to their church; if you wish to make your regular weekly offering to St. Matthew's, either mail it to the church or put it in the offering plate the following week.



Saturday Services of Word and Sacrament 4:00pm

In about 40 minutes you will hear the Word of God and a homily from the pastor, share in prayer and have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. Please avail yourself of the Saturday liturgy if it fits your schedule and invite others who may wish to experience a welcoming church with open hearts and open minds that celebrates a traditional liturgy.

Get ready for the holiday season!

Order red or white poinsettias to adorn the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve and the Sunday after. Plants can be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve or the following Sunday. Plants can be ordered from Sunday, November 4 through Sunday, November 25. Cost is \$7.00 each. Order envelopes can be found on the windowsill in the Narthex. See Shirley Haberman with any questions.

Thank you for your support.

Shirley Haberman and the Altar Guild



Shirley Jones and the family of Dick Jones

*Dick passed away on October 31
 Gary Burdick (shoulder surgery)
 Kennedy Lynn Kaitanowski
 (Karen's granddaughter)
 Marilyn Mergenhausen



Kathee Simon
 Gayle Woodruff
 Karen Kaitanowski
 Vera & Lena (Andy Federmann's sisters)
 Those affected by Natural Disasters

*If you would like prayers publicized here, please contact the church office or fill out a Prayer Request Form.
 If you have a more immediate prayer concern, text Michelle Kemp at 245-1692 or call Dolly Errington at 823-6210 to begin the prayer chain.*

Anniversary Blessings

Andy & Robin Federmann
 November 3, 1973

Happy Birthday!

- 11/3 Jean Roth
- 11/4 Sean Dabney
- 11/6 Sandie Davison
- 11/8 Mary Hamm
- 11/8 Tracy Meyers
- 11/8 Aydan Stormer
- 11/15 Joyce Schmitt
- 11/22 Don Ruff
- 11/23 Cheryl Larson
- 11/27 Kara Corlett
- 11/29 Brian Snyder



*Pilar (Velazquez)
 & Joshua Benner*
 October 6, 2018



proud father & daughter



Charlie Rose Hacic gets introduced to her church family on the day of her baptism, September 30.

Dear Church Family,

I wish to thank you all for your prayers, cards and well wishes. I especially want to thank Pastor Lynn for being at the hospital with us.

The trial surgery went extremely well so they will do the final surgery on November 9th.

Again thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

*God bless,
 Kathee (Simon)*



Dear Members & Friends,

It is with great appreciation that I thank each and everyone for their cards, visits, calls and mostly prayers.

The last few months have seemed like a blur, so much has happened medically. Having Rev. Lynn's visits were a wonderful comfort.

Returning to church is a great uplifting. Thank you all for your love and support, to both Steve and myself.

*God bless,
 Nancy (Jankowski)*



Andy & Robin Federmann
 4028 Bear Hollow Road
 Great Valley, NY 14741

Michelle Kemp
 6178 McKinley Pkwy, Upper
 Hamburg, NY 14075

Don Ruff
 (Living at home, but please use this address for mail):
 Don Ruff
 c/o Adrienne Punturiero
 11 Dudley Avenue
 Hamburg, NY 14075

Christian Education update

BCE is so happy to announce the start of a new Sunday School program at St. Matthew's. All children ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to the F.R.O.G.* room for a class that is based on the church's liturgical calendar, matching the scriptures that Pastor Lynn uses for the worship service. Our prayer is that these lessons will enrich family conversations about what we all learned at church today.

Please keep our children and our volunteers in your prayers as we all learn together.

Praise God for our Spiritual Life Committee in suggesting that classes be held during worship time. Thank you!

Tammy Kruszka
BCE President

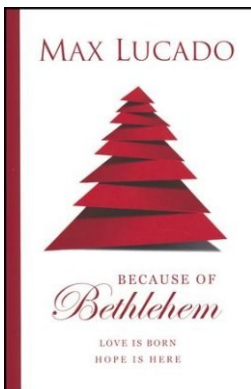
*Fully Rely On God



Christmas Pageant:
December 23, 2018



Eli Hamm helped Mrs. Ertel with our special visitor, Bubby, as Bubby shared a lesson with the children.



ADVENT Bible Study begins Wednesday, November 28th!

The mid-week study of Genesis will be interrupted to do a 4-week Advent study using Max Lucado's book, "Because of Bethlehem." If you are interested, please sign up on the landing so books can be ordered. Fourteen people and counting...

Join with Max in this lively, heartwarming celebration of all things Christmas. "Because of Bethlehem" features stories both insightful and whimsical. On every page, Max's words will encourage, captivate and inspire you, but most importantly, they'll point you towards the One worth celebrating.

Friends of Night People monthly

outreach is the first Wednesday of the month; next ones November 7 and December 5.

The sign-up sheet to volunteer is on the landing. Please sign up on the landing to volunteer.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 18, following worship
We will be voting on the budget for 2019.

Annual Reports will be handed out on November 11 (at Delaine Waring & St. Matthew's) and if you didn't get it that Sunday, reports will also be available on the 18th.

Senior Wishes fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who stopped by Wendy's on September 17 to support our fundraiser for Senior Wishes. We were able to make a donation of \$69.44 to the Christmas Program for Senior Wishes.

LaDonna Painter,
Hospitality Committee

Christmas Caroling!

Another fun-filled evening of singing, fellowship and refreshments is being planned, and everyone is invited to participate Sunday, December 9. Start off the evening at 6:30pm at the Hamburg Presbyterian Church.

Groups of 10-15 people will go out in the community to group homes for the intellectually disabled. Come share Christmas joy!



HOW TO GIVE TO ST. MATTHEW'S FROM YOUR IRA AND STILL RECEIVE A TAX BENEFIT

Persons over 70 1/2 who have an IRA, can continue to receive a tax benefit for a charitable contribution. This will give you the highlights but please consult your financial advisor, lawyer or IRA custodian to be sure that you accomplish the transfer properly and that it will benefit your specific situation.

1. As you should know, you must take a distribution from your IRA after you attain the age of 70 1/2. This is called the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
2. If you have other income or can spare some of the funds from the RMD, you can direct your IRA to send funds directly to St. Matthew's or any charity.

What is the benefit to you?

1. The amount donated to the charity counts as part of the mandatory RMD withdrawal which you must take every year.
2. The amount donated is not reportable as income to you so your Adjusted Gross Income is reduced by the amount of the donation.
3. Your tax liability is reduced because your Adjusted Gross Income is less than it would have been if you had received the funds directly as a part of your RMD.
4. Your Medicare premiums could be reduced as they are based upon your Adjusted Gross Income.

The funds MUST be sent directly to the charity. They cannot be sent to you and then redirected by you to the charity. This is easy to accomplish.

You can read more about this at:

<https://www.kiplinger.com/article/taxes/T054-C032-S014-qdcs-a-strategy-to-get-more-from-2018-rmds.html>

or

<https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/iras/articles/2017-12-04/how-to-donate-your-required-minimum-distribution-to-charity>

or by doing a Google search and reading about it.

If you are subject to the RMD and wish to make a donation to St. Matthew's, this method may enable you to benefit as well as furthering our church's ministry and Christ's mission in our community.

November 11, 2018



Thanksgiving Observance

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
 Count your gains instead of your losses.
 Count your joys instead of your woes;
 Count your friends instead of your foes.
 Count your smiles instead of your tears;
 Count your courage instead of your fears.
 Count your full years instead of your lean;
 Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
 Count your health instead of your wealth;
 Count on God instead of yourself.



5289 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY
 716-649-1532; office@stmattsucc.org
 Website: stmattsucc.org

Pastor:

Rev. Lynn R. Morgan
 716-866-3085
 pastor@stmattsucc.org

Director of Music:

Norman D. Wahl
 716-440-5176
 normwahl@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Michelle Kemp
 716-245-1692 (h)
 716-649-1532 (o)
 Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9am-2pm, Thurs. 9-12, & Fri. 12:30-3:30pm

Custodians:

David & Pamela Kaznica
 716-913-6927 (David)
 716-913-7504 (Pamela)

Thank Offering Boxes (collected November 18)

Every year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we collect your thank offering boxes and the coins you collected throughout the year (or part of year).



Of course, on that special Sunday, donations of any kind are accepted. The proceeds will go to the Kathleen Mary House, a local shelter for women and children.

Boxes can be found on the windowsill in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. It's not too late to start collecting as it's never too late to do something to show you're thankful for your blessings.

Gift giving time is soon approaching!!

Remember **F.I.R.S.T. certificates** are a welcome gift. These \$10 certificates are accepted at many of our local independent restaurants.

Purchase these for \$10 and use them like a \$10 bill at participating establishments. In return, St. Matthew's earns \$2.50 for everyone sold. These certificates never expire!

A great idea for your hairstylist, paper person, mailperson, neighbor, babysitter, or even keep one for yourself.

See Steve/Nancy Jankowski at church or call 826-0012.

Note from Mission Committee: We are discontinuing the collection of plastic bill bottles. This was started as a Sunday School project two years ago. The Mission Committee has decided to discontinue this mission due to rising postage cost.



The November-December issue is now available on the table in the Narthex.



Correction from October Messenger (in bold):

Average Attendance: August (including Saturday Services): **51**

Giving - Month of August:

	General/Building	Mission
Total Received:	\$ 7,237	\$167
Monthly Goal:	\$12,900	\$918

* * *

Average Attendance: September (including Saturday Services): 67


Giving Last Month: September 2018 (5 Sundays)

	General/Building	Mission
Total Received:	\$10,349	\$ 389
Monthly Goal:	\$16,125	\$1,148

Note: October figures will be in next month's Messenger.

NOVEMBER

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 Praise Band 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	2	3 Saturday Service 4:00pm
4  Worship & Children's SS 10:30am Baptism	5	6 BCE 7:00pm Folk Group 6:30p	7 ^{AA} 10:30am Friends of Night People Outreach Adult Bible Study 7:00pm	8 Praise Band 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	9	10 Scrapbooking 10am-10pm Saturday Service 4:00pm
11 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am-St. Matthew's Delaine Waring AME Service 10am	12	13 Church Council 7:00pm Folk Group 6:30p	14 ^{AA} 10:30am Adult Bible Study 7:00pm	15 Activity Group 12noon Praise Band 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	16	17 Saturday Service 4:00pm
18 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am <i>Congregation Meeting follows service</i>	19 <i>Dec. Messenger Deadline</i>	20 Mission Com 7:00pm Folk Group 6:30p	21 ^{AA} 10:30am Adult Bible Study 7:00pm	22 	23	24 Saturday Service 4:00pm
25 Worship & Children's SS 10:30am	26	27 Folk Group 6:30pm Quilters 7:00pm	28 ^{AA} 10:30am ADVENT Bible Study 7:00pm	29 Praise Band 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm OA 7:30pm	30	

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
5289 McKinley Parkway
Hamburg, NY 14075

November



newsletter



St. Matthew's
United Church of Christ

5289 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY 14075

Phone: 649-1532

Emails: office@stmattsucc.org

pastor@stmattsucc.org

Website: stmattsucc.org

Our church building is fully accessible.

No matter where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here!