

# St. Matthew's News

The Newsletter of

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

[WWW.Sml-Lex.org](http://WWW.Sml-Lex.org)

**St. Matthew's Lutheran Church** is a community of Christians whose purpose is to worship, witness, educate, support, and serve in response to God's Word, to make Jesus Christ known to all people.

## December 2018



Join us as we celebrate the  
Birth of Jesus Christ  
Monday, December 24, 2018  
6 P.M.

## **A few words from Pastor Hawkins...**

In order that my annual meeting report reach a wider audience, a summary follows.

The first and most crucial task for the congregation is to realize that the wider church is and has been experiencing great change. For decades St. Matthew's has been accustomed to having pews filled with large extended families. However, families with seven or more children are rare, and extended families are becoming more and more scattered. Plus, the cultural emphasis on attending church each week is no longer operative. While many disciples are still kin to one another the days of sustaining the parish with more family are over.

A few projects are already in the pipeline or have been finished:

- Sunday worship bulletin has been revamped and includes necessary information for guests. Inserts have been reduced in number and information about the wider church is now included.
- Parish files are being sorted into those that need to be kept close at hand and those that are to be archived eventually. (STM's charter issued by the State of South Carolina has been found as well as old insurance policies that must be kept handy.)
- A special congregation meeting will be held January 20 to ratify amendments made to the basic ELCA congregation constitution at 2013 and 2016 Churchwide assemblies.
- A committee has been appointed to study and make recommendations for changing the portions of the constitution that a congregation can modify to fit its particular needs.
- No adult council members were elected this year so as to reduce the size of Council to eight adults and two youth.

Projects yet to be done include:

- Review and update the Parish Register

- Evaluate current committee structure for functionality and needs.
- Cleaning, repair, and maintenance – closets, disposal of out-of-date materials/hardware
- Create storage space for archives and financial records that must be maintained.
- Evaluate signage and curb appeal and establish safety procedures
- Create database of email addresses; establish reliable system to inform disciples of emergency situations.
- Inventory and purchase altar and communion appointments
- Explore ways to reduce expenses: (these are representative examples)
  - Ending ELCA bulletin cover yearly subscription (\$600 saved)
  - Purchase numbered, undated offering envelopes (no waste, cuts cost in half)
  - Use free VBS curriculum downloadable from ELCA website.
  - Evaluate need/use of church bus
  - Use email to communicate when appropriate rather than US Mail.
- Evaluate and update STM website
- Develop an awareness of the changing demographics of the surrounding community
- Update congregational policies, procedures, position descriptions
- **Write and implement Child Safety Policy** (mandated by Synod some years ago)

See you in church,

Pastor Karen





## **MONTH OF DECEMBER**

### **LAY ASSISTANT**

2- Ann Smith  
9- Karen Smith  
16- Jessie Lowman  
23- Doug Whittle  
30- Jason Roof

### **NURSERY**

2- Tammy Kyzer and Sheila Smith  
9- Rachel Lowman and Kylie Steele  
16- Lisa Buzhardt and Tammy Moorer  
23- Sandra Page and Allison Taylor  
30- Kaye and Kristi Steele

### **ACOLYTE**

2- Madisyn Moorer  
9- Jane Yarbrough  
16- Chance Cason  
23- Logan Cason  
30- Jacob Smith

### **CRUCIFER**

2- Miranda Cox

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

2-  
9-  
16- Marvin and Tammy Smith  
23- Coolidge Steele  
30-

### **GREETERS**

2- Debra McCartha  
9- Delores Lowman  
16- Kaye Steele  
23- Beth Whittle  
30- Bruce Smith

### **USHERS**

Barry Steele, Head Usher  
Cole Riddlehoover  
Joey Keisler  
Jessie Lowman

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Lois Roof  
Gail McCartha  
Allison Taylor

### **OFFERING COUNTERS**

2- Jan and Jessie Lowman  
9- Charles Norris and Karen Smith  
16- Lisa Buzhardt and Tammy Moorer  
23- Larry and Helen Smith  
30- Jeff and Delores Lowman



December 2 Advent begins

December 2 Adult Appreciation Luncheon

December 16 Children's Christmas program and Christmas cantata

December 24 Christmas Eve service at 6:00pm



**We pray for our church disciples who are ill, recuperating, or homebound:**

Roy & Olivia Whittle, Lydia Lindler, Nettie Bell Alewine, Brice McCartha, Larry McCartha, Taylor Dorward, Russell Smith, Bobby Counts, Jean Keisler, Betty Jo McCartha

**We pray for extended church family and friends:**

Martin & Nina Watts, Annie Wannamaker, Pam McCracken, Emit Taylor, Jerry and Betty Steele, Shannon Brinton, James Jumper, Danny and Sandi Moore, Bonnie Harmon, Anthony Clamp, Jeff Page, Hampton Schulz, Saylor Robinson, Wilma Sharpe, Roger Williams, Brodie Derrick, Grayce Boozer

**We pray for all who serve in our armed forces:**

Gus Monaco, Jacob Robertson, Dallas Moses, Douglas Vance, Amy Storrs, Megan Asbill, DJ Hoover and Matt Livingston, Clarke Stocker

*To add names to the prayer list, contact the church office at 803-957-9345. Names will remain on the list for one month. If you desire a name to remain on the list for another month or if a name needs to be removed, please contact the office.*

**Our member of the month** looks forward to receiving your cards and letters, drop a note to *Russell Smith 7009 Platt Springs Road, Lexington SC 29073*



I thank all of you for the cards, visits and prayers since my surgery and recuperation. May God bless each of you.

Larry McCartha

We want to thank Pastor Hawkins and all our church families who supported us with visits, prayers and kindness shown with our loss of Allen. Our Lord and Savior are with us very day!

The family of W Allen Leaphart, Jr.



The youth of the church will be hosting our Adult Appreciation Luncheon following the worship service on **Sunday, December 2th**. All adults are invited to join us on this special day.



**The choirs** will present the Christmas Cantata, "Jesus the Light of the World" on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at the 10:30am worship service.

Please join us on this Third Sunday of Advent as we speak and sing of the coming of our Lord and Savior.



# BUDGET REPORT

## Year to date revenue as of 11/11/2018

Need to date - \$144,993.89

Received to date - \$131,685.74

Shortage \$13,308.15 short

LICS - \$260.00

Children in Need - \$845.00

Family in Need - \$400.00

Cemetery - \$990.00

Checking account balance - \$45,279.09



**Mission Lexington needs our help!** Please bring the items below each Sunday in December.

- 2-Boxed macaroni and cheese
- 9-Ravioli/Spaghetti O's
- 16-Can meat
- 23-Canned/dry soup
- 30-Rice/rice products



December 16, 2018 - LMM Meeting at 7:45 am





**All articles for the monthly newsletters** should be e-mailed to the Church office, [jan@sml-lex.org](mailto:jan@sml-lex.org) or you may submit a copy (rough draft) that can be typed into the newsletter, no later than the **15<sup>th</sup> of each month**. Thank You for your help.

### **Attention Committee Members and Treasurers**

Please begin working on the list of members for your committee, as well as responsibilities for 2019 and the report of activities for 2018. All information for the church's yearbook needs to be submitted to the church office as soon as possible. All treasurers need to submit their reports as soon as possible after receiving the final bank statement. Thanks for your assistance.

The **2019 Offering Envelopes** will be in the narthex in the next few weeks. Please pick up your box and any of your family members. If there is not a box with your name on it, please notify the church office and a box will be provided for you.

### **2019 Church Directory**

Please review your present church directory and note any changes that have occurred in your family during the year. Please notify the church office of changes (address, telephone numbers, cell numbers etc.) as soon as possible to be included in the new directory. We would like to have an email address if one is available.

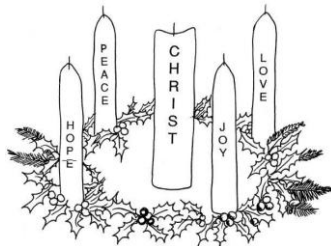






- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2- Frances Smith    | 17- Dorothy Lindler     |
| 2- Garrett Roof     | 17- Laurie Kaminer      |
| 2- Shayne Beatty    | 17- Leslie Kaminer      |
| 3- Lisa Buzhardt    | 19- Sandra Page         |
| 3- Elliot Lee King  | 19- Phillip McCarthy    |
| 5- Ricky Whittle    | 19- Jerry Smith         |
| 6- Austin Hayes     | 20- Lois Powell         |
| 7- Dana Taylor      | 20- Adrian Taylor       |
| 7- Savannah Jones   | 20- Jill Hanna          |
| 7- Jacob Smith      | 21- Cecil Lowman        |
| 8- Melissa Pollard  | 22- Edith Leaphart      |
| 11- Everette Keefer | 23- Emmanuel Richardson |
| 14- Jeffery Lowman  | 24- Jennifer Piszcz     |
| 15- Wanda Lindler   | 26- Shirley Smith       |
| 15- Bruce Smith     | 26- Harold Pollard, III |
| 16- Jason McCarthy  | 27- Russell Smith       |
| 17- Laurie Beatty   | 27- Shirley Doyle       |
|                     | 27- John Keisler        |
|                     | 31- David G. Keisler    |

**Please let Jan know if there are changes to birthday list**





- 6 – Justin and Ashley Smith
- 13- Jason and Ashley Roof
- 18- Harold and Lindell Lowman
- 22- Joey and Terry Gates
- 28- LaVern and Debbie Steele

**Please let Jan know if there are changes to birthday list**

### **Rethinking Holiday Shopping with ELCA Good Gifts**

Sometimes the best gifts don't cost the most; they mean the most. As Christmas nears, ELCA Good Gifts can be a useful tool for your holiday shopping. More than 50 gifts – including items like goats (\$50), water filters (\$30) and even a latrine (\$150) – help support people in need, while honoring friends and loved ones at the same time. With each gift you give online ([ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts)) you can customize a card to print, email or mail to let loved ones know about the gifts you've given in their honor.

Mafiyasi Lipenya, from Chole, Malawi, knows firsthand what a difference these gifts make. He describes the change he experienced after adding goats to his farm. “When I sell the offspring, I am able to use the proceeds to send my children to school,” he says.

If you love giving and receiving ELCA Good Gifts in your family, try sharing it with others in your congregation. Many congregations organize ELCA Good Gifts fundraisers, making on-site “shopping” fun and easy. Posters, bulletin inserts, coloring books and more are available at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts).

St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Minn., has been using ELCA Good Gifts as part of its Advent gift fair for 14 years. “It’s a great way to get the whole congregation involved, young and old,” said Lois Troemel, one of the event organizers. “We have more than enough stuff. These gifts are given to those who honestly need them.”

*Reprinted from Seeds for the Parish*

## December Council Highlights

- Devotions were led by Doug Whittle. Council watched the 2019 SC Synod Mission Video and discussed it briefly
- Heard that the Sunday School for children will be devoted to the children's Christmas program rehearsal from November 18 until the program date on December 16.
- Heard that the Stewardship Team is reviewing pledge campaign materials.
- Barry Steele, chair of Recreation and Fellowship Committee expressed his thanks to committee members for their work over the past three years.
- Approved the congregation's participation in Lutheran Services of the Carolina's *Love One Another* capital campaign
- Approved training of communion ministers to distribute communion to disciples who cannot regularly be present at worship.
- Approved recommending the 2013 and the 2016 ELCA Church wide Assembly Amendments be adopted and added to the St. Matthew's Constitution and Bylaws. The amendments will be presented and voted on in a special congregational meeting January 20, 2018.
- Began the process of appointing a Constitution Review/Study Team to review and make recommendations to update the St. Matthew's Constitution.



# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

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