

St. Matthew by the Lake Lutheran Church
The Fisherman's Newsletter

Sharing Christ's Love in Worship, Fellowship and Service

April 2026

***St. Matthew by the Lake
Lutheran Church
3966 U.S. Hwy 641 N.
Benton, KY. 42025
270-527-1856
Pastor Colleen Winkler***

*Sunday
Morning Worship
9:30 Indoor and
livestreamed*

*Email:
stmatthewbythelakechurch
@gmail.com*

*Website:
www.stmatthewbythelake
.org
Or try
[https://stmatthewbylake.
org](https://stmatthewbylake.org)*

*Check us out on
Facebook*



Good Friday Service

April 3rd

7:00 PM

Easter Service
Sunday, April 5th
9:30 a.m.

March 23, 2026

Members and friends of St. Matthew by the Lake,

April is almost here and I see signs of spring everywhere. Some flowers have already bloomed and some are just beginning to bloom. Various trees are blooming and others are beginning to display bits of green from their branches. Spring shows up each year and this year is no exception. This is in spite of the variations in temperatures from the high 80s to the low 30s.

Sometimes I feel like the world we live in and the news we hear is a little like the various temperatures we have been experiencing. Things keep changing more than just a few degrees and sometimes it depends on which news source one consults.

Just today I read about a plane crashing into a fire truck at an airport. The first news source said the plane was going around 25 mph and the pilots were killed instantly. This didn't make sense. Another news source stated the plane was going 130 mph which would explain the death of the pilots and the extensive damage to the nose of the plane shown in the photos.

The Good news is that God, shows up and is present despite the various versions of stories we hear on the news. Like the signs of spring, we can have confidence that God through Christ Jesus will always show up in all of our circumstances. Unlike the flowers that bloomed early and were damaged by the extremely cold temperatures, Jesus is not affected by the bad news we hear in the world nor does our Jesus change or vary like the temperatures we have experienced this spring. Our God is reliable and we can count on our God.

In God's amazing Grace,

Pastor Colleen

Annual Congregational Meeting-

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on April 19th after the service. This is an opportunity to hear reports from the past year and provide input for the coming year. Please plan to attend. All 2025 reports should be emailed to the office by March 31st.

Delegates for Synod Assembly - This year the Annual Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly is a Virtual Assembly. The theme is 'Living in Harmony'. The assembly is June 6th from 8:30am to 12pm. We are looking for 2 volunteers, preferably one female and one male to represent St. Matthew by the Lake. Please contact our council president Cheryl Edwards or Pastor Colleen if you are interested or want more information about this opportunity.

Thank You

"To our St. Matthew by the Lake Church Family, thank you so much for cards, visits, and flowers (they lasted a long time!); and most especially for your prayers. Lucy is recovering well from her hip replacement surgery on Jan. 27th. Discharge from rehab was delayed by a severe bronchitis, but finally home on March 6th.

Lynn and the newly adopted cats, Ben and Jerry, are delighted to have "Mommy" home, and we are all adjusting well together. Home Health is working with Lucy on further recovery, and we hope to see you in church by Easter Sunday."
(from Lucy and Lynn Young)

W E L I F T U P I N P R A Y E R ,

John & Jean F., Darlene T., Sara D., Lucy & Lynn Y., Connie. Cal & Jan H., Travis L., LeeAnn W, Pam S, Eileen R, Trinity/HOPE Feeding Program, Seamans Institute in Paducah, The Kings Embrace,

Carolyn H.-former member

Steven- grandson of Steve & Lee Ann Verzi

Megan –granddaughter of Pat Iseminger

Becky Koch Iceman – former wife of one of our former Pastors

Gerry- father of Pam Scalf

Bob - father of Penny Wood

Family and friends of Barbara Boer

Family and friends of Brent Haas

Family and friends of Carin Nelson

Family and friends of Ruth Johnson



(Yard Sale & Bake Sale) June 5th and 6th



WOW can you believe it's right around the corner! Last year this was such a success, we want to do it again! Thank you to everyone who has been bringing in your gently used or new items and **please** continue to do so, we need more goodies. We have briefly started organizing and pricing to help keep up with it, however starting Thursday, April 2nd at 10:00 we will be working consistently on Thursdays at 10:00 AM feel free to help out, and again BRING GENTLY USED OR NEW ITEMS TO SELL. Remember no large appliances, or old TV's with the big backs to them.

Remember this is our biggest fund-raising event for our monthly missions and items needed for the church.

Dates to remember that were discussed are:

May 31st bring items from the basement/garage to the church building.

Tuesday, June 2nd all in workday to organize and price.

June 4th Bake day with Linda Ward

June 5th Sale day

June 6th Sale day and clean up.

There will be a signup sheets for volunteers. It takes many hands to make this so successful!

Watch for more details about times, sign up sheets, etc.



ATTENTION – ALL BAKERS!



Rolling Out Pie Crusts

May 13th - Women of the ELCA meeting at 11:00 am. ALL Ladies of the church are invited. During our gathering in May after our brief meeting we are celebrating a few birthdays. Hope to see you then. We will also be “Rolling Out Pie Crusts” in preparation for pie making on Thursday, June 4. No experience needed. So bring your rolling pin and join the fun!

JUNE 4TH, 2026

We will be making pies from 8:00 till 12 noon on Thursday, June 4th. It’s always a fun time, we have multiple tasks available- mixers, timers and clean up. No experience needed. The more, the merrier.

Also, be thinking about all the wonderful and delicious baked goods you would like to make and bring to the Bazaar Bake Sale, on Friday and Saturday, June 5th & 6th. Last year our Bazaar Bake Sale raised \$1000. Thanks to all the delicious baked goods; Cookies, Breads, Candies, Cakes, Pies, etc. Since we are having the Bazaar in June, let’s think of some Springtime desserts to add. Many people in the area look forward to this event. Soon you will see signup sheets.

Linda Ward

**** New email addresses:**

**Vern & Dorothy - dak51046@gmail.com

**Pat Iseminger – patti009@icloud.com



Fellowship Board

Thank you Gary and Sadie for hosting the fabulous St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Celebration! Everyone had a wonderful time and they of course they did a great job! Thank you again for your generosity and hospitality.



Following Easter morning Worship Service Celebration there will be an Easter Brunch for everyone to enjoy. We have a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend and for a few food items the board would like help with. The board is providing 2 Hams, raisin sauce, rolls, butter a Watergate salad, fruit, punch, some cookies, and some deviled eggs. Our fellowship hall will be transformed into a lovely festive dining hall.



Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, June 28th
Worship in the Park and Church Picnic at Mike Miller Park
(*watch for details*)



****Coffee Reception Groups —*
There are still open spaces on the sign-up sheets.



13 ladies attend our meeting in March as always it's great to get together. Linda Ward read a devotional "The Un Attended Garden", learning the power of saying No. It touched all of us in one way or another. 8 ladies from our church attended the St. Paul's Women's Pray Service it was a lovely time. Motion was made to donate \$100.00 to Pastor for the bereavement books she purchased called "Tear Soup". Each month we donate \$100.00 toward our Missions and Ministry board to use toward their discretion.

Our next meeting is May 13th at 11:00am, ALL Ladies of the church are invited. During our gathering in May after our brief meeting we are celebrating a couple of special ladies, Sharon Johnson and Dorothy Thompson both are having a milestone birthday and would love to get a card from you. No gifts necessary.

After the birthday celebration Linda Ward is asking for some ladies to help roll out pie crusts in preparation for pie baking on June 4th for the church bazaar bake sale. So bring your rolling pin and join the fun! Hope to see you then.



Mission and Ministry

The funds from the Country Breakfast for the month of April will be going to the Merryman House. The breakfast will be April 11th from 7:00 – 9:00 am.



ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving

Our Mission focus during Lent is ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving. Join our congregation on the journey to improve world hunger. ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving is an opportunity for all of us to come together to ease hunger and poverty. We will be collecting monetary contributions during the next 40 days. Contributions can be made to St. Matthew by the Lake with your check designated for ELCA World Hunger, or you can donate directly to ELCA. You can also designate domestic or international relief. We will be joining other churches during Lent for this worthy mission. Take all the pennies and dimes you use for candy or coffee and place them in a jar designated to feed less fortunate. Please find ways to help.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, April 3 at 7:00pm



Easter Service

April 5

9:30 am

April 5th Easter Readings

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

April 12th Readings

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 19th Readings

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

April 26th Readings

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

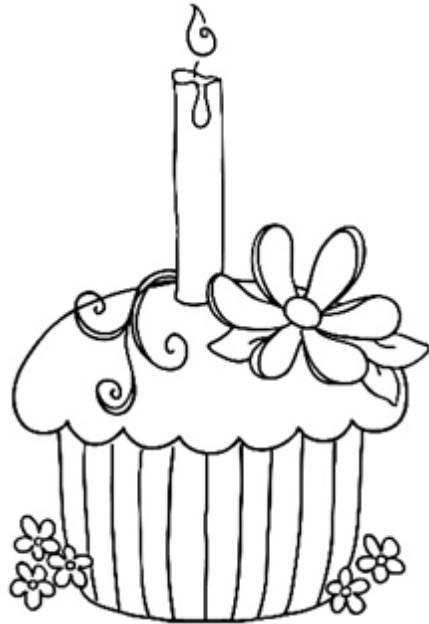


Apr. 2 Lucy & Lynn Young
Apr. 9 David and Pastor Colleen
April 15 Cynthia & Jim Rogers
April 25 Francis Pearsall & Janet Roy



Happy Birthday

Apr 2 Lee Ann Wilson
Apr 2 Juan Nelson
Apr 3 Heidi Busch
Apr 3 Andrew Berton
Apr 15 John Hudak
Apr 20 Jean Fuller
April 22 John Fuller
April 23 Jack Duffy



April Reception Committee

Sharon Johnson, Carolyn Traum, Kim Siwarski, Kent & Cheryl Edwards

APRIL- WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

IN PERSON & LIVE STREAM SERVICE/OR RECORDED

USHER

April 5 – Alan & Darla Berton
Apr 12 – Mike Ward
April 19 - Vern & Dorothy Thompson
April 26 – Bob & Lori Kuta

LAY READER

April 5 – Carolyn Traum
April 12 – Linda Ward
April 19 – Lee Ann Verzi
April 26 – Lori Kuta

LITURGIST

April 5 – Heidi Busch
April 12 – Tom Kind
April 19 – N/A
April 26 - Kent Edwards

COMMUNION SET UP

April 5 – Karl Naggatz
April 12 – Debbie Schoo
April 19 – Rita Vied
April 26 – Sharon Johnson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

April 5 – Lee Ann Verzi & Lori Kuta
April 12 – Debbie Schoo & Dianne Martinek
April 19 – Rita Vied & Darla Berton
April 26 – Sharon Johnson & Cathy Boer

ALTAR GUILD: Sharon Johnson

GREETERS:

April 5 – Preston & Ellen Higgs
April 12 – Frank & Rita Vied
April 19 – Steve & Lee Ann Verzi
April 26 – Debbie Schoo & Lori Kuta

SOUND

April 5 Andrew Berton
April 12 – Karl Naggatz
April 19 – Karl Naggatz
April 26 – Kent Edwards

Good Friday April 3rd

Pianist/Organist: Suzann Cass
Usher: Bob & Lori Kuta
Lay Reader: Heidi Busch
Greeters: Steve & Lee Ann Verzi
Sound: Kent Edwards



April

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 11am Card Ministry 12pm Prayer Shawl & Crafts	2 6:30 Choir	3 7 pm Good Friday Service	4 10am Decorate Church
5 9:30 EASTER Worship 10:30 Brunch/ Birthday	6 Office Closed	7	8 5:30 Acoustic Practice 6:30pm Choir Practice	9	10	11 7- 9 am Country Breakfast
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Pastor is on vacation April 7-13. </div>						
12 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee hour	13 2 pm Mission & Ministry 6:30pm Worship & Music hybrid	14 6:30pm Zoom Council Mtg	15 5:30 Acoustic Practice 6:30 pm Choir Practice	16	17	18
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Pastor on vacation </div>						
19 9:30 Acoustic Service 10:30 Coffee hour **Annual Mtg	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22 6:30 pm Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee hour	27	28	29 6:30 Choir Practice	30		