

## Contents

This Week's Readings

## Rector's Ramblings

Merry Christmas! I can say that one more time as today is the last of the Twelve Days of Christmas. I hope you have received your 12 pipers piping, or at least 5 golden rings.

While I could keep this light with Christmas greetings and quotes, I do think it necessary to update you on important changes in our Parish life.

The first of these is the transition of organists. Heidi Brooks has served faithfully for the past several years in this position. Her ministry among us has been tremendous and has blessed our worship together. However, at this time, it has become necessary for her to step aside to focus on her three adorable children and their life of worship as a family. She, Justin, and the children are not leaving St. Matthew's, but changing roles. Please thank her for her leadership and ministry when you see her on Sunday.

Fr. Joe Dunlap will be taking over the organ bench beginning this week. This is a homecoming for Fr. Joe as he was confirmed and sent to seminary from this Parish. Please make Fr. Joe welcome when you see him Sunday.

Additionally, and by no means the least news of the week, Christ the King has informed Bishop Daniel, our Mission Leadership Team, and me, that by a unanimous vote, their MLT has rejected the Memorandum of Understanding to officially form the Parish of McLean County and the formation of a common mission strategy. There were many reasons for this,

## The Good News

January 5, 2018



Dear Parish Family,

You are too kind, and we are too loved. Amy, Liam, Sarah and I thank you for your generous Christmas gift. We are truly touched, and humbled, by your generosity and love. It is a joy to serve as your priest and clergy family. Every one of you is a blessing to us and have our love.

May God bless each of you, and our common work, in 2018.  
Fr. Dave, Amy, Sarah, and Liam

### Theology Uncorked

We next meet in the Rector's Study on 14 January following Evensong. Our topic: The Baptism of Christ.

See Joe Norton if you have any questions.

### Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall on 13 January at 8:30 AM.

Men's Breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall on 20 January at 8AM.

### De-Greening of the Church

Will take place following the 10AM service this Sunday. Please plan on helping the Altar Guild with this work.

### Time to Update the Directory

In early 2018, we need to publish a new Congregational Directory, and so it is time to gather updates and new information. We will leave 1 copy of the old directory out for you to examine - if your information is incomplete, inaccurate, or missing we ask that you fill out the reporting sheets provided. If you have a photo (.img format) to include, send it

but they have chosen, at this time, to walk apart from working together.

While disappointing to Bishop Daniel, me, and our MLT, this was not a surprising decision. The past several months have been consumed with CTK negotiating various details of the agreement, and never settling on common ground.

I am personally very grateful to our MLT and to each of you for the willingness to give this a chance and for being open to doing our part for the Diocesan Vision that our Synod unanimously supports. So while there is disappointment that no agreement could be reached due to CTK's rejection, there are many positives that St. Matthew's can take away from this experience.

What does this mean for St. Matthew's? First and foremost it means that we continue to do what we are doing. As St. Matthew's is the only organized Incorporated Eucharistic Community in McLean County with regularly settled clergy. We are by default the Parish Church of McLean County. Thus, to us falls the honor of being the standard bearer for the mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield in our community. In fact, the Bishop has already assured me that his, and his staff's, support and energy for mission in McLean County will be solely directed toward St. Matthew's and assisting us to discern exactly the mission to which we are called.

To this end, I am calling for the creation of an ad hoc "Parish Mission Council" whose portfolio it will be to work with the Diocesan Mission Developer and the Mission Leadership Team to discern that mission. If you have a passion for this work, please let me know.

to the Office (office@stmattsblm.org) and if you want to have a photo taken at no charge, see Gary Ploense.

## **The Daily Devotional Reading**

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

## **Serving Schedule**

**7-January**

**7:30 AM**

**Greeter: Ray Durham**

**Lector: Mona Johnstone**

**E.M.: Chris Bennett**

**10:00 AM**

**Acolyte: Sarah Halt & Shelley Brenneman Carter**

**Crucifer: Christian Pitts**

**Thurifer: Liam Halt**

**Lector: Brad Bauman**

**E.M.:**

**Tuesday Counter: Gary Ploense**

**Coffee Hour: White Family**

**14-January**

**7:30**

**Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson**

**Lector: Chris Bennett**

**E.M.: Bill Johns**

**10:00**

**Acolyte: Liam Halt**

**Lector: Ann Sokan**

**E.M.:**

**Tuesday Counter: Pam Laws**

**Coffee Hour: Baughan Family**

## **Annual Meeting**

In accordance with the canons Sunday, January 21st, 2018 the Eucharistic Community of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will hold it's Annual Meeting. That day we will have only one morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. Following worship, all are invited to meet for a simple Coffee Hour - hosted by the current MLT and the meeting.

Annual meeting includes presentation of the 2018 Budget, Election of 3 MLT (Mission Leadership Team) members and one lay delegate to Synod, along with distribution for the annual Book of

Again, while disappointed that no agreement could be reached, I am very excited about our future at St. Matthew's, and through this process have personally been graced with a renewed energy and passion for mission development, or bluntly, the ministry of evangelism.

In Christ's love,

Dave Halt, Rector  
309-660-8515

## Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of  
Springfield  
Rector's Blog

## Reports.

Jim Cooper, Gary Ploense, and Kathryn Morris have announced their intention to run for MLT, which fills the three openings. However, any member in good standing is invited to stand for election. Anyone interested in running, contact Wardens Shelley Brenneman Carter or Roy Laws for more information AND please provide a short biography to the office by January 7th, to be printed for congregational preparation. All annual reports must be printed in the official book of reports, so please provide your reports to the office (office@stmattsblm.org) by no later than **January 7**.

## Outreach Opportunities

### ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

In January and February of the new year, let's help The Salvation Army collect nonperishable food items to help needy people get through the winter. Here are suggestions:

- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Canned soups
- Peanut butter
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Macaroni & cheese boxes
- Box dinners
- Any nonperishable food items

We will continue to collect and deliver gently used coats and other winter items to The Salvation Army through January. Thank you all so very much for your continuing generosity.

The Outreach Committee

## St. Matthew's Schedule for the week of January 7th

*Coffee Hour follows 10:00 a.m. worship in the Parish hall*

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday - 7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.- Quilters

Wednesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.-Light supper for participants

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Adult Formation

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer and breakfast

Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Saturday - 8:30 a.m. - Women's Breakfast

*Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.*

*If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.*

## Readings for January 7, 2018

## Old Testament

### Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### Psalm 29

#### *Afferte Domino*

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.  
3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.  
4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.  
5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.  
7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.  
9 And in the temple of the Lord \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"  
10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.  
11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

### Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and

prophesied- altogether there were about twelve of them.

### The Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries January 7-13**

#### Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

Mona Johnstone  
Stephen Kohlhasse

### **Collect for January 7th The Baptism of our Lord**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

### **Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

