

# ST. MATTHEW MATTERS



**July/August**

**ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
11213 Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503

**228-864-6264**

**E-Mail Address: [m1919@bellsouth.net](mailto:m1919@bellsouth.net)**

**Web Page: [stmatthewgulfport.tripod.com](http://stmatthewgulfport.tripod.com)**

**Sunday School 9:00 a.m.**

**Worship 10:00 a.m.**

## Message from Congregational President

Dear Friends in Christ,

My hope is that everyone is enjoying the summer months, even with the extreme heat we are having so early in the summer. This is an opportunity to have family picnics, enjoy the evenings outside with longer daylight and maybe a much-needed vacation.

Our 2024 Building Fund Campaign continues to grow with donations that have achieved 66% of our goal of \$15,000 dollars. We are continuing to work on Phase 1 that is planned to be completed by mid-August. Phase 2 will be primarily focused on our Sanctuary. There has been several of our members that have requested a communion rail, so we are looking at options that will include the communion rail. Once we have more information available, we will review with our congregation.

Our Congregation has surely been blessed with the number of Pastor's that have supported our Sunday Worship Service. As a reminder, President Johnson will be leading our Sunday Worship Service on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. I have July and August completed with Pastor's for each of those Sunday's and soon will be working on September.

The Adult Bible class that started on June 9<sup>th</sup> is being attended by several. We are studying the Gospel and the importance of keeping it front and center in all we do as a church. We are looking at how Scriptures defines the Gospel we are to proclaim, we are seeing how the apostles proclaimed it in the Book of Acts, and we are discussing about the church's ongoing task of spreading the Good News. I would ask you to prayerfully consider joining us on Sunday morning.

Psalm 118 vs. 24 we read, "This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it." Each day is a rich and precious gift from God, with new grace and new opportunities.

I want to "Thank" each of you for your continued support of our Congregation.

May God continue to guide us.

Yours in Christ,

Tim

# Stewardship

## *The Rewards of Godliness*

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

### **What does God say about all these commandments?**

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:5–6)

### **What does this mean?**

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Eph. 6:1–3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life'" (Matt. 19:28–29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.

Stewardship Chair  
Donald Shotzberger

---

## **St. Matthew Quilters**

### Quilting group continues to grow

Our group has a new member, Maggie Dawson. Also, Deborah Dodge will join us again as often as she can. So our group of 6 has grown to 15 (16 when Deborah joins us!) We usually take the months of June and July off while still quilting from home. Some of our new members did not want to take the time off so Judy Parker offered to be at the church on Thursdays so anyone who wants to come can.

We have quite a group now, but still would be glad to have anyone who is interested to join us. We have a few who have never sewn before whom are doing quite well. So if you would like to learn, please join us. Our group began in October of 2013 and reached the milestone of 1,000 quilts which we celebrated during St. Matthew's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We had a reception after church with a theme of 100 x 10! Some of the nurses from the oncology unit were in attendance. With 1,861 quilts as of our last blessing, we are quickly reaching another big milestone of 2,000.

For those of you who do not know, our lap quilts are given to the Memorial Hospital Oncology Unit for the cancer patients. Just a little something to keep their bodies warm during their treatment and hopefully their heart.



**LET US PRAY. . .**

for those on the  
St. Matthew prayer list,

for our members who are confined to their homes  
and, if possible, go by to visit them:

**Donna Johnston  
Rosa O'Bannon  
Don Burnett**

and for those  
in the  
Armed Forces,  
Fire and Police Departments

O Father, whose care reaches all parts of the earth,  
we humbly ask you graciously to behold  
and bless those in the military; those who  
fight fires; and those who serve in law  
enforcement. Defend them from all  
dangers of soul and body and grant that  
*both* they and we, drawing nearer to  
you, may be bound to your love.  
In Jesus' name. Amen



*To those celebrating  
we wish you a  
Blessed and Happy Birthday  
July*

6	Adam Alvin Cooper
10	Gloria Bradley
14	Leah Evans
15	Julie Umphenour
16	Beth Kernion
	Robert Evans
18	Elizabeth Rehmann
26	Rev. Adam Cooper
28	William Umphenour
29	Maegan Cooper
	Tammy McKenna

*August*

1	Carolyn Peterman
3	Steve Blahnik
10	Alice Lonhair
20	Denise Neely
26	Rex Chastain
29	Charles Myers
30	Michael Slade Lennox Myers Baron Myers

*Blessed and Happy Anniversary  
July*

3	Bill and Denise Neely
29	Keith and Debbie East

*August*

14	Rex and Paula Chastain
22	Rev. Adam and Linette Cooper
26	David and Beth Kernion

*(If your birthday or anniversary date does not appear  
above or is incorrect, please e-mail the church or call  
the church office, 864-6264, and give us the information  
so our files can be updated.)*

**CHECK OUT  
ST. MATTHEW'S WEB PAGE**

**[STMATTHEWGULFPORT.TRIPOD.COM](http://STMATTHEWGULFPORT.TRIPOD.COM)**

## *For Your Information*

**FOR THOSE NEWER TO THE CHURCH:** Thank you for being with us today! Please consider filling out the Connection Card in your bulletin, which can be placed in the offering plate during the offering or simply given to an usher or to the pastor. There is also information about the church on the table in the narthex.

**2024 BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN** St. Matthew is having a Building Fund Campaign to support the interior remodeling of our Church Building. The funds will be used primarily to replace carpet with new flooring, paint interior walls as needed, and replace any light fixtures that maybe needed. Your support of this initiative is appreciated as we continue to modernize our facility. All contributions should be marked for 2024 Building Fund.

**REFRESHMENTS** Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments after Sunday Church Service. The sign-up sheet is located on the table in the entry hallway.

**CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS:** The item for July is canned fruit. The item for August is cash for perishables. Your donations are appreciated and may be placed in the narthex.

**LAWN FUND** The table with sale items is for the Lawn Fund. If you bring any items, please have sale price on the item.

**GIRL SCOUTS** will meet at the church every other Friday from 5:30 to 7:15 pm. Please contact Cheryl Boatner if you know of someone that is interested.

The **CONTAINERS** for medicine bottles, eyeglasses, and Mardi Gras beads are on the table in the first hall pass the foyer. These items will be donated to charity.

# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i>  Pastor Weier	8	9  LWML Meeting 10:00 a.m.	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i>  Council Meeting  Pastor Linck	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i>  Pastor Johnson	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i>  Pastor Linck	29	30	31			

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 <i>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i>  Pastor DeSanto	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i>  Pastor Weier	12	13  LWML Meeting 10:00 a.m.	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i>  Pastor Linck  Council Meeting	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i>  Pastor DeSanto	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.