

ST. MATTHEW MATTERS



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Message from Congregational President

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month's newsletter is focused on change. Webster's dictionary defines change as "to undergo transformation, transition, or substitution". Change is sometimes challenging when we are unsure of what could be the results of the change.

In Romans 12:2, the Lord directs us: "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."

One recent change at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, is that we will move our Worship Service on June 2nd to start at 10:00 AM, and on June 9th, starting at 9:00 AM, we will begin a new Adult Bible Class. The Bible study goes over an understanding how Scripture defines the Gospel, how the apostles proclaimed it in the Book of Acts and how continuing this proclamation is the church's ongoing task.

Our remodeling project continues with plans to start installing the new flooring on June 8th. We will start in the fellowship room and work our way into the main lobby area. We will also be replacing the baseboards as we complete the flooring in the areas mentioned.

I want to "Thank" you for the support of the changes mentioned. Your input is valued and appreciated.

Update on Calling of a Pastor: The survey was sent back to the District on May 23, 2024. Every effort will be made to keep this moving along. Thank you to all that filled out the survey. Your input is very important to this process.

May God continue to guide our Congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Tim

Stewardship

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let’s explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

Stewardship Chair
Donald Shotzberger

St. Matthew Quilters

We quilters have some good news to share. We have several ladies who have joined our group: Janet Rutledge, Patricia Everett, Cathy Morelli, and Cyndy Morrissey. What a grand sight to see with all of the machines stitching away! That brings our total members to 13 with Linette Cooper being an honorary member! We also have Mary Baker from Bethel Lutheran who occasionally sends 4 or 5 quilts.

Our production should increase and we are getting very close to 2,000 quilts! We should reach that milestone by the end of the year.

We are blessed with our members and again I’ll say that we would welcome anyone who would like to join us. We meet on Thursdays from 10:00 to 12:30 or 1:00. We are getting ready for our summer break. We **do not** meet in June or July. But we continue to make quilts at home.



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*

June	
1	Melinda Cooper Pamela Blahnik
6	Jack Perino
11	Elizabeth Noble
12	Don Nelson
15	Laura Chastain
16	Ginny Hermetz Jacob Myers Donna Rominger
21	Cyndy Morrissey

Blessed and Happy Anniversary

14	Robert and Donna Rominger
16	Steven and Deborah Dodge
28	Adam and Melinda Cooper John and Cathy Mason

*(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

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME CHANGE At the Voter's meeting on Sunday, May 5, 2024, it was approved to move our current Worship start time from **10:45 AM** to **10:00 AM**. Sunday School will also move from **9:30 AM** to **9:00 AM**. The new Sunday School and Worship Service start times will begin on **next Sunday, June 2, 2024**.

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.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY On Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 9:00 AM, we will begin a new Adult Bible Study with Julie Umphenour leading the study. *"The Bible study goes over understanding how Scripture defines the Gospel, how the apostles proclaimed it in the Book of Acts and how continuing this proclamation is the church's ongoing task"*.

LWML will meet on June 9 after church. Please get refreshments and come to the meeting room. Discussion will be on changing the second Tuesday to the format previously used (Bible Study lesson out of LWML Quarterly led by a member, refreshments, meeting if needed, and fellowship).

The Bible Study led by Pastor Cooper will continue and on a different day. This will be discussed at the June 11 Apostle Creed Lesson 6.

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 June is tomato products. 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.

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Second Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Pastor Linck	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <i>Third Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> LWML Meeting Pastor Weier	10	11 Bible Study 1:00 p.m.	12	13	14	15
16 <i>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Pastor Cooper	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> Pastor Truax	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)</i> <i>5th Sunday Potluck</i> Pastor Cooper						

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